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**SC Court of Appeals**

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

---

Appeal from Hampton County

Honorable Carmen T. Mullen, Circuit Court Judge

---

THE STATE,

RESPONDENT,

V.

TIFFANY REBECCA OWENS,

APPELLANT

APPELLATE CASE NO. 2024-000085

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RECORD ON APPEAL

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**TESTIMONY**

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**THE FOLLOWING EXHIBITS ARE ON FILE WITH THIS COURT:  
DEFENSE EXHIBIT #1 (VIDEO), DEFENSE EXHIBIT #2 (BODY CAM VIDEO),  
DEFENSE EXHIBIT #4 (PHOTOGRAPHS (3)), DEFENSE EXHIBIT #5  
(STATEMENTS, PHOTOS), STATE’S EXHIBIT #7 (911 DISK), STATE’S EXHIBIT #8  
(VIDEO DISK), STATE’S EXHIBIT #9 (BODY CAM), AND STATE’S EXHIBIT #38  
(GOOGLE MAP).**



1 or reputation, then she would be warranted in  
2 construing her actions more harshly, and acting  
3 upon hostile appearances more readily than she  
4 would have been entitled to do a person of good  
5 character and reputation.

6 Further, you may consider the victim's  
7 temper at the time of the fatal encounter. Now,  
8 there may be evidence of prior difficulties  
9 between the parties. You may consider these  
10 prior difficulties for the purpose of  
11 determining who was the aggressor. There may  
12 evidence about bad blood, or ill feelings,  
13 between the parties in this case.

14 If there is bad blood, or ill feelings,  
15 between the parties, and there have been  
16 threats between them, that would not give either  
17 of them, in itself, the right to injure or  
18 physically harm the other. If there are ill  
19 feelings or bad blood between the parties, and  
20 they have that information, they have the right  
21 to judge the other person's conduct more harshly  
22 than otherwise.

23 If there are threats of harm, or ill  
24 feelings, or bad blood, the conduct is to be  
25 judged closely, and the other person may judge

1 more harshly, in determining whether there is a  
2 necessity to act for that person's safety, or  
3 the safety of another. It is for you the jury  
4 to decide whether the Defendant's fear of  
5 immediate danger of death, or serious bodily  
6 injury, to herself or a third party, was  
7 reasonable, and would have been felt by an  
8 ordinary person in the same situation.

9 Now, in this case, the Defendant has also  
10 raised the defense of accident. Harm to  
11 another, including death, is excusable on the  
12 ground of accident, if the harm was caused by  
13 the unintentional, and lawful act, the Defendant  
14 exercised in due care. For the defense of  
15 accident to apply, you must find that the act of  
16 the Defendant that caused the harm was  
17 accidental, and not intentional, and the act was  
18 lawful, and the act was not careless, negligent,  
19 or reckless.

20 If you find the defense of accident  
21 applies, you must find the Defendant not guilty.  
22 However, if the State has proven beyond a  
23 reasonable doubt, that any of the three elements  
24 of defensive accident do not apply, then the  
25 Defendant is not entitled to the defense. A

1 Defendant engaged in unlawful conduct, including  
2 the unlawful possession of a weapon, is entitled  
3 to claim the defense of accident, unless the  
4 State has proven beyond a reasonable doubt, that  
5 any unlawful conduct was not merely incidental  
6 to, but was the direct and foreseeable cause of  
7 the victim's harm.

8 A Defendant exercising due care, who  
9 accidentally harms another, while acting in  
10 self-defense, is acting lawfully. Therefore, a  
11 Defendant can be acting lawfully, even if they  
12 are in unlawful possession of a weapon, or if  
13 you find she was entitled to arm herself in  
14 self-defense, and the victim was shot by  
15 accident, by the unintentional discharge of the  
16 weapon.

17 Madam Foreperson, ladies and gentlemen of  
18 the jury, when you retire to begin your  
19 deliberations in this case today, I wish to  
20 express that you are mindful of the importance  
21 of your responsibility here today. You're not  
22 called upon very often to serve as jurors, and  
23 the proper performance of that duty requires  
24 each of you to reach the height of freeing your  
25 mind of all improper influences.

1 Ladies and gentlemen, so please don't  
2 forget that I'm trying to tell you how I think  
3 you should decide this case, and I've already  
4 told you the laws in the State of South  
5 Carolina, state that you, the jury, are the sole  
6 judge of all questions of facts.

7 It would be highly improper of me to  
8 influence you in your performance of that duty,  
9 but ladies and gentlemen, as the presiding  
10 officer of this court, I am vitally concerned  
11 that whatever verdict you reach will be the  
12 result of you going back into your jury room,  
13 and confining your consideration to the evidence  
14 and the law that you've heard here in this  
15 courtroom, playing it fairly and impartially, as  
16 I have every confidence you will.

17 Madam Foreperson, I remind you, your  
18 verdict must be unanimous. It must be the  
19 verdict of all 12 jurors, and to that end,  
20 ladies and gentlemen, my Law Clerk's prepared a  
21 verdict form on which there are 4 questions.

22 The verdict form begins by having the case  
23 captioned. It's the State of South Carolina v.  
24 Tiffany Rebecca Owens, and the first question  
25 says, "As to indictment number," and it says the

1 indictment number, "the charge of murder of  
2 Tijuanna Demetrius Johnson, we the jury,  
3 unanimously find the Defendant, Tiffany Rebecca  
4 Owens," there is a line, for guilty, or not  
5 guilty. You're gonna check whichever one  
6 applies.

7 It then states that if you answer guilty,  
8 you are to skip question number 2, and question  
9 number 3, and go directly to question number 4.  
10 If you choose not guilty, Madam Foreperson, you  
11 must then consider whether the Defendant is  
12 guilty, or not guilty, of voluntary  
13 manslaughter, which is question number 2, and so  
14 if you found her not guilty of murder, you would  
15 then answer question number 2.

16 As to that question, if you find the  
17 Defendant guilty of that charge, then you would  
18 immediately just go over to question number 4,  
19 again, and answer that question.

20 However, if you find the Defendant not  
21 guilty of voluntary manslaughter, you then must  
22 consider the third question, was whether or not  
23 the Defendant is guilty of involuntary  
24 manslaughter, and, again, it will have a space  
25 for you to say guilty, and not guilty.

1           It also states that regardless of whichever  
2 you choose on those 2, you do not need to go on  
3 to answer question number 4. Simply follow the  
4 directions on whichever you choose, and then it  
5 will tell you what questions you still need to  
6 answer.

7           On the back, Madam Foreperson, it says,  
8 "That I certify this is the unanimous decision  
9 of the jury." That means it's the decision of  
10 all 12 jurors, and there is a line for you to  
11 sign your name, and a place for you to date  
12 this.

13           When the jury has reached a unanimous  
14 verdict, I need you to knock on the door, and we  
15 are going to accept you back into the courtroom  
16 to accept your verdict.

17           For a few housekeeping matters, just to let  
18 you know, while you've seen my court reporter  
19 taking down everything during the trial of this  
20 case, everything that's been said, there is no  
21 written transcript, or printed transcript, of  
22 this proceeding.

23           If you want to hear a certain testimony  
24 played back, what I can do is, bring you back  
25 into the courtroom, and I can play you the audio

1 tape of that witness's testimony. I just need  
2 you to know, that if we do that, I am required  
3 to play the entire witness's testimony, in other  
4 words, the direct exam, the cross exam, any  
5 redirect, any recross, all right?

6 Additionally, there have been videos  
7 presented to you in this case. If you want to  
8 see the videos played back, I just need you to  
9 let me know what you want to see, the shorter  
10 version, or the long version, exactly what you'd  
11 want, and I will bring you back into the  
12 courtroom to show those for you with all of us  
13 present, all right?

14 Madam foreperson, I will also tell you that  
15 all of the evidence that has been introduced  
16 into the trial of this case will be back in the  
17 jury room for you. I'm sure you'll have gloves  
18 back there as well. If there is something that  
19 you are looking for that is not back there with  
20 you, you are not entitled to it.

21 You are only entitled to what was entered  
22 into evidence. Sometimes in a trial, we have  
23 what are called demonstrative exhibits, where  
24 they're just trying to show you something.  
25 Those aren't in evidence, and you are not

1 entitled to those, all right.

2 So, ladies and gentlemen, with that said,  
3 for the very last time, I'm gonna tell you to go  
4 back to your jury room, and I'm gonna tell you  
5 not to begin discussing this case. If there's  
6 something further on the law that the lawyers  
7 want me to charge you, I'm gonna bring you back  
8 out here, and charge you further.

9 If not, we are gonna send to you, the  
10 verdict form, which will be on top, and then my  
11 exact charge on the law, which defines  
12 everything I just read to you, and there are  
13 captions, so you can find whatever portions you  
14 need, and the evidence, and that will be your  
15 signal to begin your deliberations, and then, of  
16 course, we will wait on you to hear if there's  
17 anything you need, or if you've reached a  
18 verdict.

19 All right, so, again, do not begin your  
20 deliberations until we've sent back with you,  
21 the verdict form, the charge on the law, and all  
22 the evidence that's entered in this case. Okay,  
23 and then at that point, when we send it all back  
24 to you, I will bring the two alternates that are  
25 left, back out at that point, okay?

1           Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your  
2 attention and your patience. We'll be back with  
3 you very shortly, all right? Thank you.

4           (Jury exits the courtroom.)

5           THE COURT: All right, any exceptions or  
6 objections from the State?

7           MR. EVANS: Judge, I think on page 10, in  
8 your self-defense charge, the sentence beginning  
9 at the bottom with, all the other, and I think  
10 you omitted the word, reasonable. I may have  
11 misheard it, but it didn't strike me until I  
12 read it on my digital copy as we went through,  
13 but that would be my only...

14          THE COURT: Where it says, if you have a  
15 reasonable doubt?

16          MR. EVANS: Yes, ma'am. On the other hand,  
17 if you have no reasonable doubt, I believe I  
18 heard you say, "If you have no doubt".

19          THE COURT: Okay, I don't think it matters,  
20 because I think we all know the standard is  
21 reasonable doubt, but I --

22          MR. EVANS: Yes, ma'am. I understand that,  
23 and I never comment on the charge. The charge  
24 that is written is exemplary.

25          THE COURT: All right, Mr. Kuhn.

1 MR. KUHN: No objections, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Let's go ahead with the  
3 evidence.

4 (Recess.)

5 \*\*

6 **EXCUSING THE ALTERNATE JURORS**

7 THE COURT: Hello, welcome back, you'll  
8 just right where you are. You don't need to do  
9 anymore, You're good. Right here. You're fine.  
10 At this point, I didn't lose any other jurors,  
11 so I'm gonna go ahead and release you.

12 I want you to know that you are permitted  
13 to discuss this case, if you choose to, at this  
14 point. Sometimes the attorneys, or  
15 investigators, or someone, may want to ask your  
16 thoughts. You're not required to talk to  
17 anyone, or tell anyone anything, if you have no  
18 interest in discussing it, just say, "No, thank  
19 you, I would not like to talk about it", and you  
20 are permitted to leave.

21 The only thing that I do ask, is that if  
22 you have become friends with these jurors, I  
23 have no idea how long they're gonna deliberate,  
24 and I just want to make sure you don't speak  
25 with them before they've reached a verdict.

1 All right, so in other words, if they were  
2 to go overnight or something, I just want to  
3 make sure you don't talk to them, until a  
4 verdict has come in. All right.

5 Additionally, you all have more than earned  
6 your exemption for the next 3 years. If you  
7 need a work excuse, go down to the clerk of  
8 court's office, and just tell them you need a  
9 work excuse for Monday through Thursday, and  
10 we'll make sure you get it, all right. Thank  
11 you both so much. We appreciate it. You're  
12 excused. Okay, we'll be at ease in this case  
13 until we hear back from the jury, if you'all  
14 will stay somewhat close, okay, and I understand  
15 that Mr. LaFontaine has arrived, and I'm gonna  
16 take about 10 minutes, or so, before we go  
17 forward.

18 I don't know where the solicitor is on  
19 that, but I'm gonna take about 10 minutes, and  
20 we'll go ahead and conduct that hearing. All  
21 right, thank you. You can go.

22 (Recess)

23

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**READING OF THE VERDICT**

THE COURT: It is my understanding the jury has reached a verdict. I just want to -- I just want everyone in the courtroom, that regardless of what the verdict is, I need to make sure that you can contain yourselves. Obviously, I don't know what it is, but I want to make sure that there are no outbursts.

If you believe you can't contain yourself, regardless of what happens, I'm gonna invite you to excuse yourself from the courtroom right now. If for any reason, you have an outburst, we have to take you into custody, I hate having to do that, but we've got to keep up what with decorum, and, again, I just need to make sure you keep yourself about you, okay. All right, let's bring the jury in.

(Jury enters the courtroom.)

THE COURT: Madam Foreperson, I understand the jury has reached a verdict?

THE FOREPERSON: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Can you please hand it to the Bailiff? All right, if you'll please stand, ma'am.

In the case of South Carolina vs. Tiffany

1 Rebecca Owens, as to the first question, well,  
2 there wasn't a checkmark on it, but as to the  
3 first question, it's Indictment Number  
4 2021GS2500181, the charge of murder, we the jury  
5 unanimously find the Defendant, and the jury did  
6 not indicate, either, guilty, or not guilty, on  
7 the first one.

8 The second question, as to the charge of  
9 involuntary manslaughter of Tijuanna Demetrius  
10 Johnson, we the jury unanimously find the  
11 Defendant, Tiffany Rebecca Owens, guilty.

12 Then it goes on to question number 4, to  
13 indictment number 2022GS2500346, the charge of  
14 possession of a weapon during a violent crime,  
15 we the jury unanimously find the Defendant,  
16 Tiffany Rebecca Owens, guilty. You may be  
17 seated.

18 Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, what I am  
19 going to do is, I am going to call your jury  
20 number, and I need you to wave to me, so I know  
21 who I'm I am addressing, and I am going to ask  
22 you a few questions. I'm gonna ask you, "Is  
23 this your verdict?", yes or no, and, "Is this  
24 still your verdict?", yes or no, all right?

25 So and if I understand your verdict, it's

1 going to read you find the Defendant is guilty  
2 of voluntary manslaughter and possession of a  
3 weapon during the commission of a violent crime.  
4 That's what I understand your verdict form to  
5 read.

6 So with that said, juror number 272.  
7 Ma'am, is this your verdict?

8 JUROR 272: Yes, ma'am.

9 THE COURT: And I need you to speak up for  
10 the record.

11 JUROR 272: Yes, ma'am.

12 THE COURT: And is it still your verdict?

13 JUROR 272: Yes, ma'am.

14 THE COURT: Thank you. Juror number 256.  
15 Sir, is this your verdict?

16 JUROR 256: Yes, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Is it still your verdict?

18 JUROR 256: Yes, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Thank you, sir. Juror number  
20 209. Ma'am, is this your verdict?

21 JUROR 209: Yes, ma'am.

22 THE COURT: Is it still your verdict?

23 JUROR 209: Yes, ma'am.

24 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am. Juror number  
25 107. Ma'am, is this your verdict?

1 JUROR 107: Yes.

2 THE COURT: Is it still your verdict?

3 JUROR 107: Yes.

4 THE COURT: Thank you. Juror number 36.

5 JUROR 36: Yes, ma'am.

6 THE COURT: Sir, is this your verdict?

7 JUROR 36: Yes, ma'am.

8 THE COURT: Is this still your verdict?

9 JUROR 36: Yes, ma'am.

10 THE COURT: Thank you, sir. Juror number

11 69. Ma'am, is this your verdict?

12 JUROR 69: Yes, ma'am.

13 THE COURT: Thank you. Juror number 6.

14 Ma'am, is this your verdict?

15 JUROR 6: Yes, ma'am.

16 THE COURT: Is this still your verdict?

17 JUROR 6: Yes, ma'am.

18 THE COURT: Thank you. Juror number 55.

19 Sir, this is your verdict?

20 JUROR 55: Yes, ma'am.

21 THE COURT: Is it still your verdict?

22 JUROR 55: Yes, ma'am.

23 THE COURT: Thank you, sir. Juror number

24 306.

25 JUROR 306: Yes.

1 THE COURT: Ma'am, is this your verdict?  
2 JUROR 306: Yes.  
3 THE COURT: Is it still your verdict?  
4 JUROR 306: Yes, ma'am.  
5 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am. Juror number  
6 249. Is this your verdict?  
7 JUROR 249: Yes, ma'am.  
8 THE COURT: Is it still your verdict?  
9 JUROR 249: Yes, ma'am.  
10 THE COURT: Thank you. Juror number 219.  
11 Ma'am, is this your verdict?  
12 JUROR 219: Yes, ma'am.  
13 THE COURT: Is it still your verdict?  
14 JUROR 219: Yes, ma'am.  
15 THE COURT: Thank you. And juror number  
16 115. Sir, is this your verdict?  
17 JUROR 115: Yes, ma'am.  
18 THE COURT: Is it still your verdict?  
19 JUROR 115: Yes, ma'am.  
20 THE COURT: Thank you. Is there anything  
21 further required of this jury at this time from  
22 the State?  
23 MR. EVANS: Not from the State, Your Honor.  
24 THE COURT: From the defense?  
25 MR. KUHN: No, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: All right, thank you. Ladies  
2 and gentlemen, at this time I get to excuse you,  
3 and I think you have resolved this matter for  
4 the County, and we appreciate that.

5 At this time, what I'm gonna have to do is,  
6 I'm going to sentence Ms. Owens. You're  
7 permitted to stay here and watch that, if you  
8 would like to, but, of course, you're not  
9 required to.

10 So when I finish my comments to you, I'm  
11 gonna invite you to leave and go, or you can  
12 stay in your seat and watch that. Take a few  
13 minutes and get your things together. This  
14 should take maybe about ten minutes or so before  
15 I even sentence her.

16 Also, ladies and gentlemen, at this time  
17 you are permitted to discuss this case. There's  
18 nothing wrong with going home and telling people  
19 what you've been doing up here, although you are  
20 not required to talk about the case. Sometimes  
21 the attorneys or investigators or somebody want  
22 to know what your thoughts were, and that's  
23 permissible, but, of course, you're not required  
24 to talk about it.

25 So if you don't wish to speak with someone,

1 and they ask you a question, you are welcome to  
2 say, "No, thank you, I don't want to speak." If  
3 for any reason anyone should insist, you need to  
4 call the Clerk of Court's Office, tell Ms.  
5 Nettles, and I will take care of that, all  
6 right?

7 You'all are all set for the next three  
8 years. We truly appreciate it. I can tell you  
9 that they will have work excuses for you  
10 downstairs, if you need a note for what you were  
11 doing in the courtroom, all right?

12 So with that, ladies and gentlemen, now is  
13 the time I'm going to either advise you, if you  
14 would like to leave, you are welcome to, but if  
15 you'd like to stay for the sentencing, you are  
16 also welcome to stay.

17 So it's completely up to you, you just need  
18 to make the decision now, okay? Thank you.

19 (Jurors exit the courtroom.)

20

\*\*

21

**SENTENCING HEARING**

22 THE COURT: All right, I'll hear from the  
23 State first.

24 MR. EVANS: Thank you, Your Honor. I don't  
25 have much to add, just to note the sentencing

1 range.

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 Mr. Kuhn?

4 MR. EVANS: Judge, I'm not going to get  
5 into a long argument about the sentencing. I  
6 will ask, I believe there are members of the  
7 victim's family who do wish to address the  
8 Court.

9 Would you like them to stay where they are,  
10 or come to the podium?

11 THE COURT: Actually, we are fine to have  
12 them stay where they are, I just need to them to  
13 stand, identify themselves and come near you.

14 And please give me your name first for the  
15 record, their relationship to the deceased in  
16 this case, and I just want to caution you to  
17 make sure you direct your comment to me, okay?  
18 Thank you.

19 What's your name, ma'am?

20 MS. JOHNSON: Sandy Johnson.

21 THE COURT: Ms. Johnson, how are you  
22 related to the deceased?

23 MS. JOHNSON: That was my baby sister.

24 THE COURT: All right, ma'am, what would  
25 you like to tell me?

1 MS. JOHNAON: I have something that I wrote  
2 down.

3 THE COURT: Please.

4 MS. JOHNSON: Your Honor, we've heard so  
5 many lies from the beginning during court here.  
6 We heard her say she didn't mean to do it in any  
7 way, shape or form. She made excuses for her  
8 actions, and turning around everything that  
9 happened that day to my sister Tijuana Johnson.  
10 And I heard her say that she didn't mean to do  
11 it, she didn't want to do it.

12 Why'd you do it? And these are all my  
13 points. And after looking at the video I  
14 remember this late part, when she came out with  
15 her groceries, she went walking straight to her  
16 car. She didn't go there looking for a fight on  
17 that day, or an altercation, she went to buy  
18 groceries.

19 Tiajuana Johnson, my sister, was a  
20 beautiful soul. I love my sister. Even the  
21 officers, if you watch the video, when I went to  
22 get her car keys, and he said, "That didn't  
23 happen that day." Her children are suffering,  
24 they still suffer. They weren't able to speak  
25 on their mother's behalf. Her children have no

1 mother because of Tiffany Owens' decision and  
2 actions on that day. Instead of a birthday  
3 party, we had to spend our time in the hospital  
4 praying and waiting to see whether my sister was  
5 gonna make it to see another day.

6 Your Honor, we ask you today for justice.

7 THE COURT: Thank you. Yes, sir, your  
8 name?

9 MR. FLUDD: My name is Mr. Fludd, and  
10 Tijuana Johnson was my youngest sister. I'm the  
11 oldest of five.

12 COURT REPORTER: Sir, could you spell your  
13 last name?

14 MR. FLUDD: F-L-U-D-D.

15 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

16 MR. FLUDD: I know I, as a young man, I do  
17 know both sides of the law. All I can say is I  
18 hope the Judge will give me the maximum  
19 sentence.

20 I hope he or she will do that. And I  
21 didn't care, or I didn't know to think about the  
22 person that I hurt. I didn't know -- I wasn't  
23 old enough to consider their family, you know,  
24 being mad at me, or whatever.

25 I'm not mad at the young lady that killed

1 my sister, because I've been there where she's  
2 at today. I'm gonna let God judge her, and you  
3 sentence her. All I ask is that she regrets  
4 taking my sister's life and taking my nephew's  
5 mother. You know, my sister's never gonna come  
6 back. I don't care if you give her 100 years,  
7 or you give her one day, my sister's never  
8 coming back, and I understand that.

9 All I ask is that she regret what she had  
10 done, and I'll let you be the decider on the  
11 sentence today, and that's all I've got.

12 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

13 MR. EVANS: That's it for the State, Your  
14 Honor.

15 THE COURT: Anything further from the  
16 State?

17 MR. EVANS: No, ma'am.

18 THE COURT: All right. Anything, Mr. Kuhn?

19 MR. KUHN: I believe Tiffany's mother would  
20 like to address the Court.

21 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am?

22 MS. MUSSER: Thank you, I'm Tiffany's  
23 momma.

24 THE COURT: Yes.

25 MS. MUSSER: I know for a fact that day

1 that my child did not go looking for trouble.  
2 She'd been in an accident. She wasn't gone ten  
3 minutes before she called me.

4 Now, she didn't like Tiffany, and she  
5 didn't like my oldest daughter, Anna has been  
6 through hell with her.

7 This child would stop my child in the road  
8 in a car, get out. Threw a brick at Tiffany's  
9 car one day as she was coming through. That  
10 day, she had already told somebody she was going  
11 over there to fight Tiffany. And I'm just mad,  
12 because they are lying for her.

13 They know who she was. That child went  
14 there that day to bother my child for nothing.  
15 She was -- she didn't have ten minutes, she  
16 didn't go to fight and kill nobody, and I knew  
17 that.

18 I, I still haven't gotten over it. There's  
19 no way somebody -- my child would take some  
20 other child's life, and I feel good about it.  
21 I'm not happy about that at all. It took a toll  
22 on my whole family, but I love my babies, and I  
23 teach my kids right, and I tell them that if  
24 they're wrong, they're wrong, but to sit there  
25 and tell those lies, it's nothing but lies.

1 Everyone was hot.

2 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

3 MR. EDWARD: Good afternoon.

4 THE COURT: Good afternoon, sir.

5 MR. EDWARD: This family -- I am part of  
6 this family. As a clergy man, as a man of God,  
7 Tiffany Owens is my nephew's child, and I know  
8 her son, who is a great young man. He's 15 --  
9 he's 16-years-old, he's just like my son, and I  
10 helped his grandmother even take care of him.

11 I'm a cancer survivor, a pancreatic cancer  
12 survivor, so I thank God for a second chance.  
13 We're here today knowing why everyone's here  
14 today.

15 It is so hard it happened the way it did,  
16 but I feel that there's got to be some grace and  
17 some mercy here. Justice is what the Judge has  
18 to do according to the law, but I'm asking for  
19 everyone to live together in harmony and in  
20 love.

21 She regrets what she's done, and we can't  
22 change that, and we all have fall short. I just  
23 ask that when we leave here, we try to live in  
24 harmony and peace, because that's what God  
25 wants.

1           She's gonna do what she has to do, and I'll  
2           be here to support her family, and if you need  
3           me, I'll support you too. I'm about peace, and  
4           we need peace, and we need love and to move on.  
5           It is time for healing. It's time for love, and  
6           it's time for peace.

7           And I pray, Your Honor, that as you give  
8           your sentence, that you have some grace and  
9           mercy according to the love and kindness and  
10          love, and -- because I'm just terrified,  
11          honestly.

12          As a pastor, I hear this all the time, and  
13          it's my hometown. Because it's not my first  
14          time speaking on behalf of someone who did  
15          something wrong, but that doesn't define who she  
16          is.

17          She just made a mistake, and we all have  
18          done that, so that's all, and let's move on, and  
19          make this better and move forward, okay? That's  
20          my prayer. Thank you, Your Honor.

21          THE COURT: Can you put the name on the  
22          record, please?

23          MR. EDWARD: Oh, I'm sorry, my name is John  
24          Edward.

25          THE COURT: Thank you, sir, I appreciate

1           it.

2           MR. EDWARD:    You're welcome.

3           THE COURT:    I appreciate it.

4           MR. EDWARD:    You're welcome.

5           MR. KUHN:      Your Honor, that's it.

6           Tiffany Owens is 35-year-old, has 3  
7 children that depend on her. She has absolutely  
8 no record whatsoever. She was incarcerated  
9 until approximately 7/28, following the date of  
10 that incident.

11          THE COURT:    Uh-huh.

12          MR. KUHN:    And she's been on an ankle  
13 monitor -- house arrest with an ankle monitor.

14          THE COURT:    Okay. If you and your client  
15 will rise. Indictment 2021-GS-25-00181, for  
16 voluntary manslaughter, the sentence of the  
17 Court is she be committed to the Department of  
18 Corrections for a period of 20 years.

19          Indictment 2022-GS-25-00346 for possession  
20 of a weapon during the commission of a violent  
21 crime, the sentence is five years. They will  
22 run concurrent to each other, and there will be  
23 credit for the jail time, again, the house  
24 arrest on the ankle monitor.

25          Good luck to Ms. Owens, good luck to the

1 family.

2 MR. KUHN: Thank you, Your Honor. May it  
3 please the Court, Your Honor, my motion to  
4 dismiss under South Carolina Code of Laws. Also  
5 a motion for a new trial on that same ground, as  
6 well as reconsideration, particularly on the  
7 charge of voluntary manslaughter.

8 THE COURT: Thank you. I respectfully,  
9 based on my rulings will respectfully deny your  
10 motion to a new trial motion.

11 MR. KUHN: Thank you, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: You're welcome.

13 \*\*

14 (At 4:18 p.m. the trial was concluded.)

15 \*\*

16 **END OF VOLUME III**

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

\*\*\*

I, Kymberlee M. Williams, Certified Shorthand Reporter/Registered Professional Reporter for the 14<sup>th</sup> Circuit of the State of South Carolina do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, accurate and complete transcript of the proceedings held in this case, relative to appeal, in the General Sessions Court for Beaufort County, South Carolina on the 11th Day of January 2024.

I do further certify that I am neither of kin, counsel, nor interest to any party hereto.

This, the 9th day of July, 2024.



-----  
Kymberlee M. Williams, CSR/RPR

WITNESSES

Chauncey Solomon, Estill Police Dept.

DOCKET NO. 2021GS2500181

The State of South Carolina  
County of Hampton

529  
After being fully advised as to my legal rights, I hereby waive presentment to the Grand Jury.

Defendant

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

November Term 2022

I  
hereby appear in my own proper person and plead guilty to the within indictment or to

THE STATE

vs.

Tiffany Rebecca Owens

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

2021A2520200037

Indictment For

Murder

SC Code: 16-3-10

CDR Code: 0116

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

**TRUE BILL**

Defendant

Witness:

C.C.C. PLS. and G.S.

Foreperson of Grand Jury

Date: 11/03/22 *Bretting Her*

VERDICT

*Guilty of lesser  
included offense of  
Voluntary Manslaughter*

*Guilty*

Foreperson of Petit Jury

Date:

INDICT

*April Deloach  
11-24*

*[Signature]*

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF HAMPTON )

INDICTMENT  
2021GS2500181

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on November 3, 2022, the Grand Jurors of Hampton County present upon their oath:

**Murder**

That in Hampton County, South Carolina, on or about May 29, 2021, the Defendant, Tiffany Rebecca Owens, did, with malice aforethought, kill Tijuana Demetrius Johnson and Tijuana Demetrius Johnson did die as a proximate result of Tiffany Rebecca Owens's actions, to wit: The Defendant shot the victim in the chest with a handgun, all in violation of Section 16-3-10, et al. of the Codes of Law of South Carolina.

TRUE BILL

Against the peace and dignity of the State, and contrary to the statute in such case made and provided.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Solicitor

After being fully advised as to my legal rights, I hereby waive presentment to the Grand Jury.

WITNESSES

Chauncey Solomon, Estill Police Dept.

DOCKET NO. 2022GS2500346

The State of South Carolina  
County of Hampton

Defendant

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

November Term 2022

I hereby appear in my own proper person and plead guilty to the within indictment or to

THE STATE

vs.

Tiffany Rebecca Owens

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

2021A2520200038

Indictment For

Possession of Weapon During  
Violent Crime

SC Code: 16-23-490

CDR Code: 0549

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

TRUE BILL

Defendant

Foreperson of Grand Jury

Date: 11/03/2022 Bratton/Kir

VERDICT

Guilty

Witness:

April A. DeLoach  
1-11-24

C.C.C. PLS. and G.S.

Foreperson of Petit Jury

Date:

INDICT

*[Handwritten signature]*

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF HAMPTON )

INDICTMENT  
2022GS2500346

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on November 3, 2022, the Grand Jurors of Hampton County present upon their oath:

**Possession of Weapon During Violent Crime**

That in Hampton County, South Carolina, on or about May 29, 2021, the Defendant, Tiffany Rebecca Owens, did possess a firearm, visibly displayed what appeared to be a firearm, or visibly displayed a knife during the commission of a violent crime and Tiffany Rebecca Owens was convicted of committing or attempting to commit a violent crime as defined in Section 16-1-60, all in violation of Section 16-23-490, et al. of the Codes of Law of South Carolina.

TRUE BILL

Against the peace and dignity of the State, and contrary to the statute in such case made and provided.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Solicitor

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

COUNTY OF HAMPTON

STATE

VS.

INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2021GS2500181

Tiffany Rebecca Owens

A/W#: 2021A2520200037

AKA:

Date of Offense: 05/29/2021

Race: Black Sex: Female Age: 35

S.C. Code §: 16-3-10

DOB: [REDACTED] SS#: [REDACTED]

CDR Code #: 0116

Address: [REDACTED]

City, State, Zip: [REDACTED]

DL#\* [REDACTED] SID# [REDACTED]

SENTENCE SHEET

\*CDL Yes  No  CMV Yes  No  Hazmat Yes  No

In disposition of the above indictment comes now the Defendant who was  CONVICTED OF or  PLEADS

TO: Voluntary Manslaughter

In violation of § 16-3-50 of the S.C. Code of Laws, bearing CDR Code # 0217

NON-VIOLENT  VIOLENT  SERIOUS  MOST SERIOUS  Mandatory GPS  § 17-25-45  
(CSC w/minor 1<sup>st</sup> or CSC w/minor 3<sup>rd</sup>)

The charge is:  As indicted,  Lesser included Offense,  Defendant Waives Presentment to Grand Jury.            (def.'s initials)

The plea is:  Without Negotiations or Recommendation,  Negotiated Sentence,  Recommendation by the State.

ATTEST:

Reed A Evans 79925  
Solicitor SC Bar # Defendant Attorney for Defendant SC Bar #

WHEREFORE, the Defendant is committed to the  State Department of Correction  County Detention Center,

for a determinate term of 20 days/months/0 years/Time Served  Youthful Offender Act not to exceed        years

and/or to pay a fine of \$       ; provided that upon the service of        days/months/years/Time Served and or payment of \$       ; plus costs and assessments as applicable\*; the balance is suspended with probation for       

months/years and subject to South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services standard conditions of probation, which are incorporated by reference.

The sentence shall run  CONCURRENT or  CONSECUTIVE to sentence on:       

The Defendant is to be given credit for time served pursuant to S.C. Code § 24-13-40 to be calculated and applied by SCDOC.        days/months Jail not ankle monitor with house arrest.

To include time spent on monitored house arrest prior to trial and sentencing.  
 The Defendant Shall be Released from County Detention Center.

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 922 and § 16-25-30 it is unlawful for a person convicted of a violation of § ~~16-25-20~~ or § 16-25-65 (Domestic Violence) to ship, transport, possess, or receive a firearm or ammunition.        AM/PM

JAN 11 2024

MYLINDA D NETTLES  
CLERK OF COURT  
HAMPTON COUNTY, SC

STATE

TIFFANY REBECCA OWENS

INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2021GS2500181

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

PTUP after \_\_\_\_\_ months/years

And Other Terms Listed Below:

- Substance Abuse Counseling
- Completion of GED
- Random Drug/Alcohol Testing
- Attend Voc. Rehab. Or Job Corp
- No Contact with Victim
- Domestic Violence Intervention Program
- Mental Health Counseling
- May serve W/E beginning: \_\_\_\_\_
- Sex Offender Registry pursuant to S.C. Code § 23-3-430
- Public Service Employment \_\_\_\_\_ days/hours
- Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect pursuant to S.C. Code § 17-25-135.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

RESTITUTION:  Deferred  Def. Waives Hearing  Ordered

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ plus 20% fee: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Terms: \_\_\_\_\_  Set by SCDPPPS

Recipient: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Fine:

Fine may be pd. in equal consecutive weekly/monthly pmts. of	\$ _____	Beginning	_____	\$ _____
§14-1-206 (Assessments 107.5%)				\$ _____
§14-1-211 (A)(1)(Conv. Surcharge)				\$100 \$ 100
§14-1-211 (A)(2)(DUI Surcharge)				\$100 \$ _____
§56-5-2995 (DUI Assessment)				\$12 \$ _____
§56-1-286 (DUI Breath Test)				\$25 \$ _____
§14-1-212 (Law Enforce. Funding)				\$25 \$ 25
§14-1-213 (Drug Court Surcharge)				\$150 \$ _____
§34-11-70(b)and(c), and 34-11-90(c)and(d) (Admin Fraud Check Court Costs)				\$41 \$ _____
§50-21-114 (BUI Breath Test Fee)				\$50 \$ _____
§56-5-2942(J) (Vehicle Assessment)				\$40/ea \$ _____
3% to County (if paid in installments)				TBD \$ 3.75
<input type="checkbox"/> Appointed PD or appointed other counsel, Proviso requires \$500 be paid to Clerk during probation and shall be collected before any other fees				\$500 \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> § 17-3-30(B) Unpaid Application Fee to be paid to the Public Defender Fund				TBD \$ _____
<b>TOTAL</b>				\$ 128.75

Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk:  
Court Reporter:

*MyLinda D Nettles*  
*Kymberlee Williams*

Presiding Judge:  
Judge Code:  
Sentence Date:

*[Signature]*  
2142  
1-11-24

FILED  
AM/PM

JAN 11 2024

MYLINDA D NETTLES  
CLERK OF COURT  
HAMPTON COUNTY, SC

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

COUNTY OF HAMPTON

STATE

INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2022GS2500346

VS.

Tiffany Rebecca Owens

AW#: 2021A2520200038

AKA:

Date of Offense: 5/29/2021

Race: Black Sex: Female Age: 35

S.C. Code §: 16-23-490

DOB: [REDACTED] SS#: [REDACTED]

CDR Code #: 0549

Address: [REDACTED]

City, State, Zip: [REDACTED]

DL#\* [REDACTED] SID# [REDACTED]

SENTENCE SHEET

\*CDL Yes  No  CMV Yes  No  Hazmat Yes  No

In disposition of the above indictment comes now the Defendant who was  CONVICTED OF or  PLEADS

TO: Possession of a Weapon During Commission of a Violent Crime

In violation of § 16-23-490 of the S.C. Code of Laws, bearing CDR Code # 0549

NON-VIOLENT  VIOLENT  SERIOUS  MOST SERIOUS  Mandatory GPS  § 17-25-45  
(CSC w/minor 1<sup>st</sup> or CSC w/minor 3<sup>rd</sup>)

The charge is:  As indicted,  Lesser Included Offense,  Defendant Waives Presentment to Grand Jury. \_\_\_\_\_ (def.'s initials)

The plea is:  Without Negotiations or Recommendation,  Negotiated Sentence,  Recommendation by the State.

ATTEST:

Reed Owens 79925  
Solicitor SC Bar # Defendant Attorney for Defendant SC Bar #

WHEREFORE, the Defendant is committed to the  State Department of Correction  County Detention Center,

for a determinate term of 5 days/months/years/Time Served  Youthful Offender Act not to exceed \_\_\_\_\_ years

and/or to pay a fine of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, provided that upon the service of \_\_\_\_\_ days/months/years/Time Served and or payment

of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, plus costs and assessments as applicable\*; the balance is suspended with probation for \_\_\_\_\_

months/years and subject to South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services standard conditions of probation, which are incorporated by reference.

The sentence shall run

CONCURRENT or  CONSECUTIVE to sentence on: \_\_\_\_\_

The Defendant is to be given credit for time served pursuant to S.C. Code § 24-13-40 to be calculated and applied by SCDOC. \_\_\_\_\_ days/months 101 & house arrest w/ ankle monitor

To include time spent on monitored house arrest prior to trial and sentencing.

The Defendant Shall be Released from County Detention Center.

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 922 and § 16-25-30 it is unlawful for a person convicted of a violation of § ~~16-25-30~~ or § 16-25-65 (Domestic Violence) to ship, transport, possess, or receive a firearm or ammunition.

\_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM

JAN 11 2024

MYLINDA D NETTLES  
CLERK OF COURT  
HAMPTON COUNTY, SC

STATE

TIFFANY REBECCA OWENS

INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2022GS2500346

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

PTUP after \_\_\_\_\_ months/years

And Other Terms Listed Below:

- Substance Abuse Counseling
- Completion of GED
- Random Drug/Alcohol Testing
- Attend Voc. Rehab. Or Job Corp
- No Contact with Victim
- Domestic Violence Intervention Program
- Mental Health Counseling
- May serve W/E beginning: \_\_\_\_\_
- Sex Offender Registry pursuant to S.C. Code § 23-3-430
- Public Service Employment \_\_\_\_\_ days/hours
- Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect pursuant to S.C. Code § 17-25-135.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

RESTITUTION:  Deferred  Def. Waives Hearing  Ordered

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ plus 20% fee: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Terms: \_\_\_\_\_  Set by SCDPPPS

Recipient: \_\_\_\_\_

*Fine:		\$ _____
Fine may be pd. in equal consecutive weekly/monthly prmts. of	\$ _____	Beginning _____
§14-1-206 (Assessments 107.5%)		\$ _____
§14-1-211 (A)(1)(Conv. Surcharge)	\$100	\$ 100
§14-1-211 (A)(2)(DUI Surcharge)	\$100	\$ _____
§56-5-2995 (DUI Assessment)	\$12	\$ _____
§56-1-286 (DUI Breath Test)	\$25	\$ _____
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§56-5-2942(J) (Vehicle Assessment)	\$40/ea	\$ _____
3% to County (if paid in installments)	TBD	\$ 3.75
<input type="checkbox"/> Appointed PD or appointed other counsel, Proviso requires \$500 be paid to Clerk during probation and shall be collected before any other fees	\$500	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> § 17-3-30(B) Unpaid Application Fee to be paid to the Public Defender Fund	TBD	\$ _____
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 128.75</b>

*[Signature]*

Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk: MyLinda D Nettles  
 Court Reporter: Kymberly Williams

Presiding Judge: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Judge Code: 2142  
 Sentence Date: 1-11-24

FILED  
AM/PM

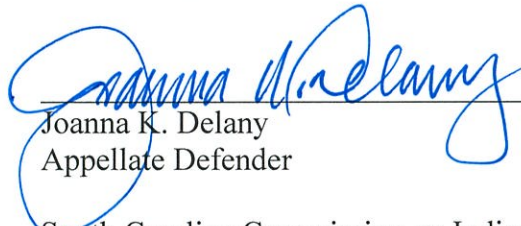
JAN 11 2024

MYLINDA D NETTLES  
CLERK OF COURT  
HAMPTON COUNTY, SC

**CERTIFICATE OF COUNSEL FOR APPELLANT**

Counsel for appellant certifies that this Record on Appeal contains all material proposed to be included by any of the parties and not any other material and that this Record on Appeal complies to the best of my ability with the April 15, 2014 order from the South Carolina Supreme Court entitled "Revised Order Concerning Personal Identifying Information and Other Sensitive Information in Appellate Court Filings."

Respectfully Submitted,



---

Joanna K. Delany  
Appellate Defender

South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense  
Division of Appellate Defense  
PO Box 11589  
Columbia, SC 29211-1589

ATTORNEY FOR APPELLANT

**RECEIVED**  
**Jul 10 2025**  
**SC Court of Appeals**

This 10th day of July, 2025.

**RECEIVED**

**Jul 10 2025**

**SC Court of Appeals**

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Appeal from Hampton County

Honorable Carmen T. Mullen, Circuit Court Judge

\_\_\_\_\_  
THE STATE,

RESPONDENT,

V.

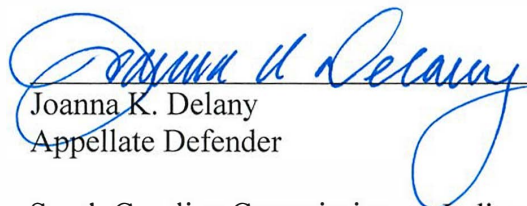
TIFFANY REBECCA OWENS,

APPELLANT

APPELLATE CASE NO. 2024-000085

\_\_\_\_\_  
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE  
\_\_\_\_\_

Pursuant to Rule 262(a)(3) and Rule 262(c)(3), SCACR, the undersigned hereby certifies a true copy of the Record on Appeal in the above-referenced case has been served upon Brian H. Gibbs, Esquire, at the primary e-mail address listed in the Attorney Information System (AIS), this 10th day of July, 2025.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joanna K. Delany  
Appellate Defender

South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense  
Division of Appellate Defense  
PO Box 11589  
Columbia, SC 29211-1589

ATTORNEY FOR APPELLANT