



ARREST WARRANT

2023A2610200171

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[X] County/ [ ] Municipality of

Horry

THE STATE 2023003568  
against

Samantha Gwen Watts

Address: 3779 Green Sea Rd  
Green Sea, SC 29546

Phone: SSN: [REDACTED]  
Sex: F Race: W Height: 5 7 Weight: 250

State: SC DL#: [REDACTED]

DOB: 12/6/1982 Agency ORI #: SC0260400

Prosecuting Agency: Horry County Police Department

Prosecuting Officer: James I Fogle - S00179

Offense: Murder / Murder

Offense Code: 0116

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-03-0010

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the  
[ ] County/ [ ] Municipality of

The accused is to be arrested and brought before me to be dealt with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to defendant Samantha Watts on 1/20/23

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions  
PO Box 677  
1301 2nd Avenue  
Conway, SC 29528

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
[X] County/ [ ] Municipality of )  
Horry )

Personally appeared before me the affiant James I Fogle who being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Samantha Gwen Watts did within this county and state on or about 1/8/2023 violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of [X] County/ [ ] Municipality of Horry) in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Murder / Murder

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:

Between the dates of January 8th and 9th, 2023, at 3779 Green Sea Rd. in the Green Sea section of Horry County, the defendant, Samantha Watts, along with a co-defendant did with malice aforethought cause the death of the victim, Cory Adam Soles. Specifically, the defendant was present and aided and abetted her co-defendant while the victim was struck with a blunt object multiple times causing his death. This is known through surveillance video and physical and forensic evidence. In doing so, the defendant did violate SC Code of Laws 16-3-10. Murder. Case # 2023-003568 R/O Det. Fogle #461 HCPD

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
[X] County/ [ ] Municipality of )

Horry

Affiant's Address 2560 North Main Street

Conway, SC 29526-

Affiant's Telephone

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 1/8/2023 defendant Samantha Gwen Watts

did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of [X] County/ [ ] Municipality of Horry) as set forth below.

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Murder / Murder

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as soon thereafter as is practicable

Sworn to and subscribed before me on 1/20/2023

Signature of Issuing Judge (L.S.)  
William N. Hutson  
Judge Code: 7371

Judge's Address 4150 J. Reuben Long Avenue

Conway, SC 29526-

Judge's Telephone (843)915-5145

Issuing Court: [X] Magistrate [ ] Municipal [ ] Circuit

ORIGINAL

Form Approved by  
S.C. Attorney General  
April 21, 2003  
SCCA 518

AFFIDAVIT

RECEIVED

JUL 25 2025

SC Court of Appeals

CERTIFIED COPY  
RENEE N. LEVINS  
CLERK OF COURT  
HORRY COUNTY, SC

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF HORRY )  
)

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS  
OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
-VS- )

CERTIFICATE OF REPRESENTATION  
(APPOINTING AS COUNSEL)

SAMANTHA WATTS

DEFENDANT

RECEIVED

SCOTT GRAUSTEIN

JUL 25 2025

RENEE N. ELVIS  
CLERK OF COURT  
HORRY COUNTY, SC

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HORRY COUNTY

FILE NO: 26A23-00000523

TO: Clerk of Court of General Sessions of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit  
Office of the Solicitor  
Appointed Counsel  
Defendant

This certifies that the above captioned Defendant is eligible for the services of the Public Defender, such determination having been made on, 31st day of January, 2023, regarding the charge(s) of:

2023A2610200171 Murder / Murder

2023A2610400020 Accessory / Accessory after the fact to Felony A, B, C or Murder

2023A2610700029 Drugs / MDP, Narcotic drugs in Sch. I(b) & (c), LSD, and Sched. II -  
1st offense

2023A2610700030 Drugs / Trafficking in meth. or cocaine base - 10 g or more, but less  
than 28 g - 1st offense

2023A2610700031 Drugs / MDP, Narcotic drugs in Sch. I(b) & (c), LSD, and Sched. II -  
1st offense

2023A2610700032 Drugs / MDP, Narcotic drugs in Sch. I(b) & (c), LSD, and Sched. II -  
1st offense

2023A2610700033 Drugs / Trafficking in meth. or cocaine base - 28 g or more, but less  
than 100 g - 1st offense

2023A2610200106 Obstructing / Obstructing justice

The Defendant's Counsel is **Scott Graustein**. The office of the Public Defender requests on the Defendant's behalf any and all evidence in the possession of you and or your agents pursuant to S.C. Criminal Practice Rule 5, and Brady v. Maryland 373 U.S. 383 (1963). The formal Motion for Discovery is attached.

CERTIFIED COPY  
RENEE N. ELVIS  
CLERK OF COURT  
HORRY COUNTY, SC

RONALD W. HAZZARD  
FIFTEENTH CIRCUIT  
PUBLIC DEFENDER

CONWAY, SC

DATED: February 17, 2023

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CLERK OF COURT  
HORRY COUNTY, SC

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CLERK OF COURT  
HORRY COUNTY, SC

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)  
COUNTY OF HORRY )  
)

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSION  
OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)  
)  
-VS- )  
)

NOTICE AND MOTION FOR PRODUCTION  
OF SPECIFIC EVIDENCE AND  
DISCLOSURE OF WITNESSES

RECEIVED

SAMANTHA WATTS

DEFENDANT )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

JUL 25 2025

SC Court of Appeals

FILE NO: 26A23-0000

RENEE N. ELYS  
CLERK OF COURT  
HORRY COUNTY, SC

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HORRY COUNTY

TO: SOLICITOR FOR THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that unless the prosecution responds to the Defendant's request for disclosure within 30 days, or within such time as may be ordered by the Court, Counsel for the Defendant will move this Court for an Order compelling that the State:

1. Make available for Defendant any and all written and oral statements by the Defendant which are, or may come to be, in the possession of the State.
2. Make available for purposes of inspection, and copying, any and all police reports relating to the investigation and circumstances surrounding the crime which the Defendant is charged with, including any and all statements taken from witnesses and the Defendant.
3. Make available to the Defendant all tangible objects obtained during the investigation of this case, including, but not limited to:
  - (a) All tangible objects obtained from the scene of the crime; and
  - (b) All tangible objects obtained from the State's witnesses in this case
  - (c) All tangible objects the State intends to introduce into evidence at Trial which are relevant to the offense charged.
4. Make available any witnesses known to the State who have knowledge of facts which might be favorable to the Defendant.
5. Make available any promises made or actions taken by the State which caused or might have caused any witnesses for the State to testify on behalf of the State.
6. Make available any inconsistent statements made by witnesses for the State or any statements made by witnesses for the State which tend to exculpate the Defendants or to negate participation by the Defendants in the alleged crime.
7. Make available to the Defendant all results of laboratory tests, scientific tests, or physical examinations conducted in connection with this case, including but not limited to:
  - (a) Analysis of handwriting
  - (b) Photographs secured of the scene of the crime
  - (c) Comparison of fingerprints
  - (d) DNA analysis
8. Make available any facts which tend to exculpate the Defendant.

9. Make available any and all scientific or medical, psychiatric, legal or other information, reports or records which might tend to reflect on the credibility or competence of any of prospective witnesses for the State.

10. Make available to the Defendant the names and addresses of all persons who have knowledge of this case or who have been interviewed by the investigating officers in connection with this case.

11. Make available to the Defendant, the SLED, FBI, and local arrest and conviction records of all persons, including the Defendant, named in connection with this proceeding.

12. Make any chemist, analyst, and all persons within the chain of custody appear in Court for the purpose of personally testifying. Attorney for the Defense thus objects to the introduction of any chemist's or analyst's report pursuant to Rule 6, S.C. Rules of Criminal Procedure.

13. Make available to the Defendant all video and audio recordings and/or notarized affidavits made pursuant to South Carolina Code § 56-5-2953 and any other applicable South Carolina Statute or regulation, including but not limited to:

- (a) Police and booking reports;
- (b) Police logs;
- (c) Alcohol influence reports;
- (d) Accident reports
- (e) Reports dealing with defendant's refusal to submit to a blood or urine sample;
- (f) Notes taken from any recording by Law Enforcement regarding conversations with potential prosecution witnesses
- (g) Any notes taken by Law Enforcement with regards to this case which the officer intends to rely on, or make use of, at trial.
- (h) The names of the officers or other witnesses who were with the Defendant within one hour of the arrest who had the opportunity to observe the appearance and behavior of the Defendant, to include the identity of any officer present at the scene of arrest.
- (i) The time and place where the Defendant was given the Miranda warning and the name of the officer who advised him/her of the same.
- (j) Any reports made by any laboratory or hospital concerning any examination made of any physical (urine, blood, etc.), photographic, or written evidence related to the Defendant's case.
- (k) The records of analysis and the results of any chemical, urine, or breathalyzer tests administered to the Defendant.

14. Make available to the Defendant following information regarding the person(s) who administered the Defendant's chemical/breathalyzer tests:

- (a) The person's name and the name of his/her employer;
- (b) The date of his/her original certification to give chemical/breathalyzer tests and the grade he/she received on the exam;
- (c) The date of his/her most recent certification to give said tests; And his/her compliance with statutes and regulations providing for standards of training for person(s) administering such tests.

15. If the Defendant's blood alcohol concentration was determined on the basis of a test involving the use of any machine, provide the following information:

- (a) The type of machine used and the make, model, and serial number of particular machine;

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HORRY COUNTY  
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CLERK OF COURT  
HORRY COUNTY, SC

- (b) The manufacturer and the date of manufacture of the machine;
- (c) The owner's manual and the instruction manual;
- (d) The software program used in said machine;
- (e) The date of purchase by the agency owning the machine;
- (f) The location of machine;
- (g) The number of prior tests conducted on the machine;
- (h) All maintenance information for the last two years, including all repairs done and all calibrations made on the machine;
- (i) The results of all tests performed in the thirty (30) days prior to the date of the Defendant's arrests, including any tests in which the machine malfunctioned;
- (j) Any checklist to be used by the operator of the machine, either before, during, or after the admission of a test.

This information is requested pursuant to Rule 5 of the South Carolina Rules of Criminal Procedure. This information is further requested pursuant to Brady vs Maryland, 373 U.S. 383, 10 L. Ed. 2d 215, 83 S. Ct. 1194 (1963), U.S. vs Agurs, 427 U.S. 97, 49 L Ed 2nd 342, 96 S. Ct. 2392 1976, State vs Mixon, 274 S.E. 2nd 406 (1981), City of Rock Hill vs Suchenski, 374 S.C. 12, 646 S.E.2d 879 (2007). Further this information is requested on the grounds that it is essential to insure the Defendant's right to a fair trial, right to confrontation of witnesses, right to effective Counsel and due process of law guaranteed by the South Carolina Constitution and the United States Constitution.

**ADDITIONALLY, DEFENDANT REQUESTS A SPEEDY TRIAL:**

The Defendant requests and asserts his / her right to a speedy trial in General Sessions Court in this County pursuant to the 6th Amendment to the United States Constitution, as well as Article I, Section 14 of the South Carolina Constitution, and under relevant case law.

WHEREFORE, Defendant prays:

- (a) That the Solicitor be Ordered to produce all information described herein and allow the Defendant the right to examine, inspect, copy and photograph, such materials and information at a specific time and place to be fixed by the Court.
- (b) That the information be provided no later than 30 days from the date of this request, as reflected by the Clerk of Court's time-stamp appearing on the face of this Document.
- (c) That the Court enter an Order requiring the Solicitor's Office to make continuing disclosure of all matters requested herein up to and during the Trial of the charges against the Defendant.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

RONALD W. HAZZARD  
FIFTEENTH CIRCUIT  
PUBLIC DEFENDER

CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA  
DATED: February 17, 2023

Horry County, SC  
 CLERK OF COURT  
 RENEE N. ELVIS  
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 CLERK OF COURT  
 Horry County, SC

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF HORRY )

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )

-VS-

SAMANTHA WATTS

DEFENDANT )

\_\_\_\_\_ )

RULE 203 (B) (iv)  
WRITTEN EXPLANATION OF  
BASIS FOR APPEAL

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JUL 25 2025

SC Court of Appeals

PERSONALLY appeared before me Scott Graustein, who being duly sworn,  
deposes and says :

1. I represented the above named defendant before the Honorable Michael Nettles. Defendant's guilty pleas was qualified on July 10, 2025; Defendant was sentenced on July 14, 2025; Defendant's Motion to Reconsider her sentence was denied on July 17, 2025.
2. Co-defendant of this Defendant was sentenced in a separate sentencing hearing immediately prior to the Defendant being sentenced.
3. The Defendant believes that non-testimonial remarks made during mitigation provided during co-defendant's sentencing hearing improperly influenced the sentencing judge in handing down Defendant's sentence.

Sworn to and Subscribed before me

21 day of July, 2025

[Signature]  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission expires: 03/03/2030

[Signature]

Signature of Attorney for Defendant

SCOTT A. GRAUSTEIN

Print name of Attorney for Defendant

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CLERK OF COURT  
HORRY COUNTY, SC