

FORM 1

NOTICE OF APPEAL IN A CIVIL CASE

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

In The Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM YORK COUNTY

Court of Common Pleas

G.D. Morgan Jr., Circuit Court Judge

Case No. 2025-CP-46-01222

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SC Court of Appeals

Brenda Burris, Landlord of 821 Blackmon Street Respondent,

V.

Tonya R. Blake, Individually and as Personal Representative. Appellant
of the Estate of Reco Miller

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Tonya R. Blake appeals the order of the Honorable G.D. Morgan Jr. dated August 12, 2025. Appellant received written notice of this order on August 13, 2025.

September 9, 2025

I, Tonya R. Blake, appeal this action, see exhibit (A), because of ineffective counsel, and it is not factual. I stayed at 821 Blackmon Street for 2 1/2 years, not several years. See exhibit (B). Check paid to Brenda Burris. The smoke alarms were not present at the home when I moved in in October 2019. I asked Brenda repeatedly over and over to install detectors because my husband and I couldn't climb high due to health problems. On August 30, 2020 I gave Brenda Burris a letter asking her for smoke detectors at Jim & Nick's at a dinner see exhibit (C). Exhibit (D) picture of Brenda Burris, her sister Judy Minter, and me at Jim & Nick's. Brenda always said she would install the smoke detectors, but never did. Brenda texted my phone stating she was going to bring fire alarms, but she told the courts she never knew she didn't have the fire alarms at 821 Blackmon Street. This is why I am asking for the text messages from T-Mobile see exhibit (E) the subpoena and (F) letter from T-Mobile. The text messages will prove Brenda did know 821 Blackmon did not have smoke detectors, along with the letter written to Brenda on August 30, 2020, exhibit (C). Who moved the smoke detectors out? Brenda was the only one who had access to her property. I wasn't a Section 8 Recipient, so there was no one to check behind Brenda, who allowed my disabled husband, son, and me to move into a home with dangerous levels of black mold and rats. See exhibit (G), black mold report, and (H), Brenda admits to knowing about rats in a text message and has done nothing. Exhibit (I) items purchased by me for rat problems. She never installed

smoke alarms. This is why I wasn't able to save my husband during the fire at 821 Blackmon Street on April 26,2022. When I woke up the bed was on fire . The only thing I could see was the bottom of the bed . The fire had gone on for too long. There was nothing to alert me that the fire was occurring. All the above violate the Landlord-Tenant Act.

I hired Lawyer Taylor Grooms in 2023. I told him all the above in the first paragraph, which I just explained to you all. He said okay, and he would represent me. Lawyer Grooms stated he was going to tell the judge that I repeatedly asked Brenda for smoke detectors at the Motion to Dismiss hearing, but he said nothing about none of that. Lawyer Grooms did not defend me at all, telling me my letter to Brenda, see exhibit (D), had to be an email the day before the hearing and told me I was'nt allowed to speak at the hearing. I asked Lawyer Grooms to get a subpoena for T-Mobile for phone records before the hearing, see responses in exhibits (J) and (K). Lawyer Grooms went into the courtroom at the Motion to Dismiss hearing, calling himself a dead horse, see meaning exhibit(L) to Honorable Judge Morgan when he approached the judge. I was there, saw and heard everything. See court transcript on Motion to Dismiss Hearing August 12,2025 . I asked for a transcript copy on August 28,2025, and sent another email to the courts asking for it again, but I haven't received a copy of the transcript yet. See exhibits (M)and (N). Lawyer Grooms drops the case after the hearing, see exhibit (O) and comes back and ask me for 250 dollars to write my appeal. See exhibit (P). Knowing he didn't represent me like he should have, and admitted he was a dead horse. Why would I pay him anything to write an appeal after leaving me holding the bag? All the above facts and documentation I just stated and presented are reasons why I am asking this court to grant an appeal due to the fact that counsel was ineffective.



S/Tonya R. Blake

Tonya Blake

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