



Probate Court of Oconee County, S.C.

April 1, 2024

Danny Singleton, Judge

South Carolina Court of Appeals
1220 Senate St.
Columbia, SC 29201

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Sep 17 2025
APR 05 2024
SC Court of Appeals
SC Court of Appeals

Re: Dorothy Pierce, Appellant
Case # 2021-001552 (ready for Consideration) and 2024-000455 (Notice of Appeal)

Dear Honorable Court,

The Oconee County Probate Court is asking if there is any procedure to request that the above cases be expedited or add the two case together. Both cases are connected to the same Estate Matter of Doyle Pierce, Probate Case Number 2020-ES-37-00532.

The reason for this request is based on the extraordinary circumstances involving this case and other underlying issues.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please accept my apologies if this request is not proper or not in proper form.

Respectfully submitted,

Danny Singleton, Judge of Probate

OCONEE PROBATE COURT
'24 APR 1 PM 1:15:08



Probate Court of Oconee County

Danny Singleton, Judge
PO Box 471 / 415 S. Pine St.
Walhalla, SC 29691

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SC Court of Appeals

South Carolina Court of Appeals
1220 Senate St.
Columbia, SC 29201

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SC Court of Appeals

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF OCONEE
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
C.A. NO.: 2024-CP-37-00080

DOROTHY PIERCE,
PLAINTIFF,

VS.

DANNY SINGLETON,
DEFENDANT.

D E P O S I T I O N

DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2024
TIME: 2:04 P.M.
LOCATION: SOUTH CAROLINA CIRCUIT COURT 10
TRANSCRIBER: PAM GRAY

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APPEARANCES :

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MERRELL AND MCDUFF
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SENECA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29678

REPRESENTING THE DEFENDANT

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(NONE MARKED)

(THIS TRANSCRIPT MAY CONTAIN QUOTED MATERIAL. SUCH MATERIAL IS REPRODUCED AS READ OR QUOTED BY THE SPEAKER.)

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 THE COURT: First matter of today is *Pierce versus*
3 *Singleton* appeal. Mr. McDuff, I don't think you're part of
4 this appeal; are you?

5 MR. MCDUFF: I think I am listed as part of the appeal.
6 Is this on the Motion to Recuse?

7 THE COURT: Well, we're gonna find that out. Y'all come
8 around. Come around. I'm gonna go over it, y'all. I'm
9 gonna clarify things, okay? So have a seat for me. Have a
10 seat for me, please. All right. Ms. Pierce, at -- in 2023
11 you filed a motion. You filed an appeal of an order that was
12 removing you as the PR?

13 MS. PIERCE: That's right. I filed an appeal.

14 THE COURT: Ma'am?

15 MS. PIERCE: Yes. I filed an appeal to the order to
16 remove me.

17 THE COURT: And has that -- I haven't seen -- do any of
18 the attorneys know, has an order been issued on that appeal?

19 MS. PIERCE: No.

20 MR. MCDUFF: No, Judge. There has not been anything.

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 MR. MCDUFF: It's in front of the Court of Appeals now.

23 THE COURT: It's in front of the Court of Appeals?

24 MR. MCDUFF: Yes, it's at the briefing stage -- initial
25 briefing stage in the Court of Appeals.

1 THE COURT: Okay. So that's not before me.

2 MR. MCDUFF: It shouldn't be before you.

3 THE COURT: Sure. If it's in front of Court of Appeals,
4 it shouldn't be for me.

5 MR. LOGAN: Yep.

6 THE COURT: Okay. So the current motion -- or current
7 appeal then, from you, Dorothy Pierce, is the motion for the
8 probate court to recuse himself, which was denied.

9 MS. PIERCE: Yes.

10 THE COURT: Okay. Guys, take a minute to look at -- do
11 you have code section 61 -- 62-1-308, in front of you.

12 MS. PIERCE: Not in front of me.

13 THE COURT: Okay. Well, this is -- this code section
14 basically says -- in the cases I've read, says the standard
15 appellate procedures are governed by the statute, which is
16 this statute, 62-1-308. Under Subsection A, this is a person
17 interested in a final order, sentence, or decree of a Probate
18 Court may appeal, etc, etc. Now the refusal of the Probate
19 Court to recuse himself is not a final order. It is a
20 interlocutory order, which is not appeal.

21 So there's no appeal before This Court presently on that
22 issue, okay? So you all have to go down and finish up with
23 the Probate Court, and then at the end of that, if you wish
24 to appeal, you can. I'll be glad to hear from you on it, and
25 I'd be glad to hear from you guys on it. But an

1 interlocutory order denying -- only denying the recusal
2 motion from all respects that I've been able to see is an
3 interlocutory matter. It's not appeal. Do you have any
4 dispute of that? If you do stand up, tell me about it,
5 please.

6 MS. PIERCE: Your Honor, this case is ongoing.

7 THE COURT: Ma'am?

8 MS. PIERCE: This case has been ongoing. And the
9 persistence of Judge Singleton continuing to be on this case
10 is actually constantly violating my due process right. And
11 he's putting my inheritance nearly in danger because of his
12 personal bias to the extent that since October 11th Judge
13 Singleton has been vindictive in every possible way,
14 including attacking my family, and my family members. And
15 also the appeal that I filed last time he brought an appeal
16 brief and defended his position. (Indiscernible)

17 THE COURT: That's why it's for court appeals now,
18 right?

19 MS. PIERCE: That is also -- that issue is also one of
20 the reasons for him to recuse himself. He cannot be
21 interfering in the appeal process and then we said we were
22 going to wait until the final (indiscernible).

23 THE COURT: But -- but do you have any authority in what
24 I've seen, quite frankly, is that a Motion to Recuse your --
25 Motion to Recuse somebody is denied -- is not a final order.

1 It's not immediately appealable and therefore what's called
2 interlocutory, meaning you can't bring an appeal from it now,
3 you got to wait till later when there's a final order from
4 the Probate Court. I don't have jurisdiction over it.

5 MS. PIERCE: I will -- I will heed to your advice then.

6 THE COURT: Okay. Does anybody dispute that from the
7 other side?

8 MR. MCDUFF: No, Judge. And I know Mr. Logan has
9 limited representation of the probate court. I don't think
10 he's involved in this. I've been involved in the Probate
11 Court matter since 2020, and so I'm going to stand up here
12 and address The Court. There are two things. I think you
13 pointed them out, Judge. Number one ---

14 THE COURT: Who do you represent?

15 MR. MCDUFF: I represent the heirs of the estate in the
16 proceeding of the Probate Court. So -- and to me, this has
17 been -- I mean, we'll talk about these issues I think a
18 little bit later on today in our other motions that are
19 coming up. But two things. You pointed out, 61 -- 62-1-308,
20 which is the appellate procedure for probate. Those
21 requirements have not been met. And the (indiscernible) case
22 -- and (indiscernible) case says it's gone.

23 THE COURT: Well, they're not right to be made yet. I
24 mean, this is an interlocutory case. I mean matter -- I mean
25 it's not even appealable.

1 MR. MCDUFF: I agree. And I think the Supreme Court and
2 the Court of Appeals been clear that only final orders of
3 probate courts are reviewable on appeal.

4 THE COURT: Well, the statute says that.

5 MR. MCDUFF: It's premature.

6 THE COURT: So I'm going send this back down for -- to
7 be finished up. Then you can appeal it later, if that's what
8 you want to do, but it's interlocutory, meaning you can't
9 appeal it right now.

10 MS. PIERCE: Okay.

11 THE COURT: So it's without prejudice to you. Next
12 motion that we have is a Motion for Summary Judgment by
13 Mr. Logan.

14 MR. LOGAN: That's correct, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: I've got a lot of paper, and I'm just
16 calling these in order in which they appeared on the
17 document.

18 MR. LOGAN: If this is the case that bears 00080, that's
19 the one I'm on and the next one as well. Your Honor, we
20 filed a motion for summary judgement based on the fact that
21 the -- and the authority that was attached to that motion,
22 that this motion is -- should be -- should be granted based
23 upon the grounds of immunity -- judicial immunity. And we
24 have asserted that in the motion that we have filed, and we
25 have attached the recent ora for the magistrate judge, and we

1 have referred to the authority that that is in our brief
2 dealing with immunity and the recent cases on that. One of
3 which was granted by and affirmed by -- excuse me. I thought
4 we were going for another motion beforehand.

5 THE COURT: Let me ask you this right quick, or anyone.
6 I'm looking at the first one -- first matter I looked at -- I
7 took up with this appeal, and that's case number 2024-00155.
8 This case is registered as 2024-00080; is that correct?

9 MS. PIERCE: Yes.

10 MR. LOGAN: That's the one that I'm involved in.

11 THE COURT: And you filed -- and you filed a summons and
12 complaint; is that correct?

13 MS. PIERCE: That's right.

14 THE COURT: Do you have a copy of the summons complaint,
15 or do you have an extra copy, Ms. Pierce? I don't have it in
16 front of me. I have your filings.

17 MR. LOGAN: Filing has been a little ---

18 THE COURT: I tell you what, after the hearing, just
19 give it to me whenever. That'd be fine.

20 MS. PIERCE: I do have it.

21 THE COURT: Okay. That'd be fine.

22 MR. LOGAN: But (indiscernible), we have filed a Motion
23 for Summary Judgment, based upon judicial immunity. We've
24 cited the authorities in there, and we ask that the case be
25 dismissed with prejudice.

1 THE COURT: And the case is brought in against the ---

2 MR. LOGAN: It is Dorothy Pierce versus Judge Singleton,
3 Danny Singleton.

4 THE COURT: And it's in his official capacity; is that
5 the case?

6 MR. LOGAN: She does not apparently designate, but the
7 allegations are all related to his actions as a probate
8 judge.

9 THE COURT: Okay. And it's absolute immunity?

10 MR. LOGAN: Yes, sir. That's my contention, absolute
11 judicial immunity.

12 THE COURT: Do you have cases that say that?

13 MR. LOGAN: They're cited in -- they're cited in my
14 brief. I can send them up to you. I don't have copies with
15 me right now.

16 THE COURT: I've got a lot of paperwork up here, and I
17 tell you, I've been trying to get through it.

18 MR. LOGAN: I will have them sent up to you later
19 tomorrow.

20 THE COURT: Fine. Ms. Pierce?

21 MS. PIERCE: Your Honor.

22 MR. LOGAN: Oh, can I say one other thing?

23 THE COURT: Yeah. Excuse me. I'm sorry.

24 MR. LOGAN: She filed today or yesterday a memorandum.

25 We only found out that she had filed it because we look at --

1 I have a paralegal look on the public records. Her filings
2 -- recent filings were never served on us, so I have not had
3 a chance to study her memorandum.

4 THE COURT: Well, once you have it -- have you read it?

5 MR. LOGAN: No, sir. I just got it. It's a 34-page
6 memorandum.

7 THE COURT: If you think you need some time to respond,
8 let me know, okay? And let her know.

9 MR. LOGAN: I know I will need time to respond if it
10 goes any further.

11 THE COURT: Now, going back to the original issue,
12 Ms. Pierce, do you dispute that there's absolute immunity for
13 judicial?

14 MS. PIERCE: Before I go there, can I make some
15 corrections on the record?

16 THE COURT: Ma'am?

17 MS. PIERCE: Before I go to that, can I make some
18 correction on the record?

19 THE COURT: About?

20 MS. PIERCE: About serving him the memorandum on
21 September 6th instead of yesterday.

22 THE COURT: Okay. I'm not all that concerned about
23 that. That's not a big issue.

24 MS. PIERCE: Your Honor, whatever Counsel is stating
25 here is a misrepresentation of facts. Because clearly I have

1 brought the suit against Judge Singleton in his individual
2 capacity because several actions that he took in the Probate
3 Court were outside his jurisdiction. And some of his actions
4 are not protected by immunity. I also sued him personally
5 for all the actions that he took when he did not have any
6 jurisdiction at all.

7 First of all, Your Honor, the estate of (indiscernible)
8 has been with the Court of Appeals, and I have included the
9 evidence in my memo. It has been in the Court of Appeals, in
10 its entirety, concerning the validity of the will since 2021.
11 And by the time Judge Singleton forced -- I'm -- I'm not
12 saying started or initiative. He literally forced the
13 settlement and acted as a mediator, and he did not have any
14 jurisdiction at all.

15 First of all, to start having mediation for matters that
16 are already before the Court of Appeals, even when I -- I
17 indicated ---

18 THE COURT: Are you saying there's two appeals in front
19 of the Court of Appeals?

20 MS. PIERCE: Yes. The first appeal was there in 2021
21 about the validity of the will and also about my appointment
22 as personal representative. (Indiscernible) And then, so the
23 problem ---

24 THE COURT: What's the status of that appeal? Has that
25 been briefed?

1 MS. PIERCE: That appeal has been finalized. It's
2 waiting its decision.

3 THE COURT: It's waiting -- it got argued in front of
4 the Court of Appeals?

5 MS. PIERCE: I don't think the argument is going to take
6 place, but the Court of Appeals is going to let us know if we
7 need to argue it, or they're just going to finalize the
8 matter without an argument.

9 THE COURT: All right. Then the other appeal is your
10 removal as the PR?

11 MS. PIERCE: It's about that invalidation of the will.

12 THE COURT: Well, that's the first appeal.

13 MS. PIERCE: That -- they're both. The invalidation of
14 the will also removed me as personal representative. But
15 when I appealed it, (indiscernible) was paid. And then when
16 Judge Rice came in, Judge Rice -- there was a motion that was
17 filed by the -- one of the heirs to appoint a special
18 administrator.

19 And of course, Judge Rice went into a full blown hearing
20 to determine if I had preserved the estate. And thank God
21 there was not a nail that was missing on the estate. There
22 was -- I had paid all the taxes, and I did everything
23 accordingly. But Judge Rice still -- she didn't have
24 jurisdiction. But then she decided to appoint a special
25 administrator ---

1 THE COURT: So going back to my original question, the
2 matters before the Court of Appeals presently are what?

3 MS. PIERCE: Presently there are two matters. One, the
4 matter that distributed -- that invalidated the will, and
5 also removed me as the personal representative, taking away
6 all the jurisdiction of the Probate Court. And then the
7 matter where the Probate Court decided to initiate and force
8 the settlement and signed it without our signatures. Stated
9 that it was in an open court.

10 Yet the judge clearly states in the transcript that it
11 was not an open court. And that order came here -- that
12 appeal came here because the assets were distributed, and the
13 order is written in a way that the assets get distributed
14 before the debt got paid. And then -- so a lot of illegality
15 with that order written in the (indiscernible).

16 I decided to try to talk to the (indiscernible) so that
17 we can fix things. But we cannot come to any agreement with
18 our estate. So -- and then Judge Singleton made me sign a
19 personal representative affidavit that states that I cannot
20 distribute.

21 THE COURT: Okay. Hang on. We don't need the argument
22 to fax that kind of. I just want to know what's up in front
23 of the Court of Appeals. Okay. So going back to your case
24 that you brought in Circuit Court against Mr. Singleton --
25 Judge Singleton. Do you have any cases that you've alleged

1 or that you've briefed that refute ---

2 MS. PIERCE: I have.

3 THE COURT: Let me finish, please. That refute that
4 there is absolute immunity?

5 MS. PIERCE: One hundred percent. I have brought
6 forward several cases from the Supreme Court -- from South
7 Carolina Supreme Court too, in a 57-page memorandum that
8 states clearly the actions of a judge will be evidence
9 (indiscernible) and absolute immunity only happens when the
10 judge has acted within his jurisdiction. And certain actions
11 of Judge Singleton did not even fall within his jurisdiction
12 completely. So when you read my -- my brief, you're going to
13 realize that you need to deny that Motion for Summary
14 Judgment. And the other thing that I wanted to add, Your
15 Honor, Judge Singleton ---

16 THE COURT: Well, hang on. Let's keep it all in order,
17 please. I will never keep up with it, okay?

18 MS. PIERCE: Okay. All right.

19 THE COURT: No. It's all right. Now, going back, do
20 you agree, or would you -- would you agree that if Judge
21 Singleton was to act within the scope of his duties as
22 Probate Court, he has absolute immunity?

23 MS. PIERCE: If he was but he's not -- he was not.

24 THE COURT: Tell me how he was not.

25 MS. PIERCE: Okay. First of all, there was an appeal

1 pending. There was an appeal pending. He signed several
2 orders in regards to most of the matters that are already in
3 front of an appeal. He -- that was judicial overreach. He
4 never had jurisdictions do that. Secondly, second thing that
5 he did was administrative. First of all, the judge was
6 forcing me to pay taxes on -- as the heir of the estate. He
7 sent me 223 emails, and most of these emails were just
8 harassment. Harassment. He -- retaliation.

9 And by the way, the judge also lied on several facts.
10 Before you, Your Honor, you have an action that the judge
11 sent a letter to the Supreme Court, to the Court of Appeals.
12 He sent a letter asking the Court of Appeals to expedite the
13 two appeals (indiscernible). He went -- a judge has already
14 ---

15 THE COURT: All right. Now we're not talking about the
16 appeals right now, okay, because I don't have anything about
17 those. But I'm going back to motion that is currently before
18 me for summary judgment, okay? And let's just keep in order,
19 because I can -- it's the only way I can do it.

20 MS. PIERCE: Okay. So -- and then the judge also --
21 according to 622-1308K, a judge cannot have any -- in any way
22 interfere with an appeal. On December 6th ---

23 THE COURT: That's the appeal through summary judgment?
24 Are you saying his actions doing that, makes him liable
25 somehow?

1 MS. PIERCE: I'm saying that all of those actions that
2 he did prejudiced me in several ways, and they were outside
3 his jurisdiction as a judge. He was not supposed to do those
4 things. But when you look at my memorandum, I have listed
5 everything. And I have evidence to back each one. I have
6 listed the evidence that clearly states that he acted outside
7 the jurisdiction. And I know this is a very short time to
8 argue everything that I have here, but I trust that, Your
9 Honor, you're going to review all the evidence that I have
10 filed, and if you need -- if you're giving him some more time
11 to file something, I will need some more.

12 THE COURT: I will tell you this, if you file it and it
13 is relevant, I will. If it's not relevant, I won't.

14 MS. PIERCE: Of course.

15 THE COURT: Do you have your -- your memorandum? I
16 don't know if I have it. If you don't, make sure that we
17 have a copy before you go.

18 MS. PIERCE: You do.

19 THE COURT: All right. Any response? Are you finished
20 on the Motion for Summary Judgment?

21 MS. PIERCE: I wanted to add one more thing.

22 THE COURT: Ma'am?

23 MS. PIERCE: I wanted to add one more thing. They -- in
24 front of me here I have stated, also, in my memorandum that
25 the summary judgment request is premature because we have a

1 pending Discovery request that I sent them.

2 THE COURT: You have a pending ---

3 MS. PIERCE: Discovery request that I sent them on
4 August 13th. But, Your Honor, today -- no, yesterday I
5 received their denial. You know, like Defendant's responses
6 to Plaintiff's request for admission. And they denied
7 everything. But the fraud in the denial is what I want to
8 talk about. And if Your Honor wants to ---

9 THE COURT: What does that have to do with the Motion
10 for Summary Judgment?

11 MS. PIERCE: Because first of all, we need to finalize
12 Discovery. We need to finalize Discovery. They already have
13 shown ---

14 THE COURT: You're saying it's premature.

15 MS. PIERCE: Yes.

16 THE COURT: Okay.

17 MS. PIERCE: They have already shown (indiscernible),
18 and I have included evidence of whatever they have already
19 denied. And I've included evidence. Simple questions --
20 simple things that are really very, very accurate. And he
21 has denied them. Can I approach?

22 THE COURT: At the end of the hearing, please.

23 MS. PIERCE: Okay.

24 THE COURT: I have -- my law clerk just pointed out what
25 -- I'm looking at this now, okay?

1 MS. PIERCE: All right.

2 THE COURT: All right. Anything further on the Motion
3 for Summary Judgment?

4 MS. PIERCE: I would like ---

5 THE COURT: From your side?

6 MR. LOGAN: Thank you, Your Honor. I would first state
7 that -- not sure that I have heard everything correctly that
8 she has said, but that's kind of irrelevant to my point here.
9 I filed a Motion for Summary Judgment. In it, I referred to
10 a case that she had filed earlier in the Federal Court --
11 District Court, which resulted in an order from judgment --

12 I mean a Conditional Order by Judge McConnell, and then
13 an order confirming his ruling by the District Court judge on
14 very similar facts. And I've attached that to our Motion for
15 Summary Judgment. It's this memorandum -- she is apparently
16 opposed to serving things through email. So we did not know
17 that she had filed a memorandum, nor the other stuff, until
18 earlier this week.

19 I think within the last day or two, my paralegal working
20 on this case just went online and found it. And we have not
21 had an opportunity to refute her memorandum or any of these
22 allegations that she is asserting. But my point is they
23 don't change the judicial immunity that is the subject of
24 this Motion for Summary Judgment, very similar to the
25 arguments that she advanced in the federal court case. And

1 we're entitled, in my judgment, to the same relief that The
2 Court gave my client in the federal court case in this case.
3 She wants two bites of the apple on the same case, and it's
4 not proper.

5 THE COURT: Thank you. All right. I'll get your
6 memorandum and make sure -- how many -- how many days you
7 think you need to respond?

8 MR. LOGAN: Well, she says it's 34 or 40 pages. I don't
9 know how much it is to be honest with you.

10 THE COURT: She said 67.

11 MR. LOGAN: I didn't have time to count the pages before
12 I came up here.

13 THE COURT: You're a big boy. You've been reading a
14 while.

15 MR. LOGAN: If you give me two weeks, I'll be glad
16 to ---

17 THE COURT: I'll give you two weeks. For the record,
18 from that, you've got to file and serve papers.

19 MS. PIERCE: I did.

20 THE COURT: I'm not saying you did. I'm just saying
21 from the record. And there's other things today that are
22 requested, but they weren't filed and served, and so you got
23 to do that. It's just rules. I didn't make them up, okay?
24 All right. That is under advisement.

25

1 (THERE BEING NOTHING FURTHER, THIS HEARING CONCLUDED AT
2 2:27 P.M.)
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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, Pam Gray, a court-approved transcriber, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, accurate and complete Transcript of Record of the proceedings had and evidence introduced in the hearing of the captioned case, relative to appeal, in the Circuit Court for Oconee County, South Carolina, on the 12th day of September, 2024.

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

April 3, 2025

Pam Gray

Pam Gray
Certified Transcriber

Sep 17 2025

SC Court of Appeals

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
 COUNTY OF OCONEE)
 DOROTHY PIERCE,)
 APPELANT,)
 vs.)
 DONNA MOORE,)
 GREGORY ALLEN PIERCE,)
 JARED ADAM PIERCE,)
 RESPONDENTS.)

FILED OCONEE COUNTY, SC
 MELISSA C. BURTON
 CLERK OF COURT

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
 2023-CP-37-00794

2023 DEC 16 P 3:29

RETURN TO APPEAL
 OCONEE PROBATE COURT
 2020-ES-37-00532

In return by Danny Singleton, Judge of Probate, County of Oconee, State of South Carolina, to the Court of Common Pleas on Notice of Appeal filed by the Appellant, Dorothy Pierce on November 29, 2023. Notice of Appeal was filed with the Oconee County Clerk of Court and was received by Judge Singleton on November 29, 2023.

I. BACKGROUND

The decedent, Doyle Elton pierce died, testate (originally) on September 14, 2020. After a court hearing to Determine Validity of Will, an Order was issued on August 18, 2021 stating that the Will was invalid. It was based mostly on expert testimony of the decedent’s signature on the Will. The case then became Intestate. The Appellant filed an appeal to the Circuit Court. The appeal was denied. The appellant then filed the appeal to the SC Court of Appeals and that appeal is still pending. This hearing was heard by former Associate Judge Ashley Rice. Mrs. Pierce was ultimately removed as the Personal

Representative and Adam Lee, Esquire was appointed as Special Administrator of the Estate. Mr. Lee, knowing that there were no liquid assets to the Estate, attempted to improve the value of the property to maximize its value. Part of the removal of the Personal Representative was that Mrs. Pierce also failed to pay the property tax as PR. Mr. Lee's firm paid the taxes. He attempted to have potential heirs to work together and repair in what he called extreme damage due to neglect of the property and damage caused by a severe tornado. Mr. Lee agreed to waive his attorney fees, however, he did request reimbursement for monies paid out to the estate.

During early July, 2023, I took over this case being that Associate Judge Rice is no longer employed in the Probate Court. Mr. Lee requested a conference hearing to request guidance and instructions from the court concerning the status of the property among other things. Mr. Lee stated he was having a difficult time in communicating with Mrs. Pierce and she would not work with the Special Administrator in attempting to maintain the property. This ordered that the Special Administrator does not have the authority to sell Estate Assets due to the pending appeal filed by the Respondent Dorothy Pierce. However, given that the Estate has no funds to utilize in potentially safeguarding the Estate assets, this court Ordered that all Respondents shall be provided access to all of the Estate assets and Estate real property to take action necessary to safeguard and salvage the Estate assets upon the condition that no Estate assets are to be removed from the property without court approval. The Respondents were also ordered not to enter a warehouse on the property that had Mrs. Pierce personal property and machinery equipment without Mrs. Pierce being present. This Order was necessitated due to Mrs. Pierce not working /communicating with the other parties.

As to the allegation that “Judge Singleton grew up together and was childhood friends with the Plaintiff’s husband’s children, Donna Moore, Gregory and Jared Adam Pierce”, I have absolutely no idea where this comes from. To my knowledge, on October 7, 2023 is the first time I have ever met any of the litigants. I have no knowledge of the people’s age, but I assumed they were several years older than I am. I have no knowledge of any childhood relationship with any party. I have never heard that before other than Mrs. Pierce’s allegation in an email. I absolutely do not know where this came from or how she fabricated this statement. It is simply not true.

Mrs. Pierce claims the court retaliated against her for filing an appeal. No retaliation has ever taken place against her or anyone else that has appeared before me in probate court or in the past, in the municipal court. In an email correspondence with Mrs. Pierce and other interested persons in this case, I indicated to Mrs. Pierce that her fiancé would no longer be allowed in the probate court or the lobby because of the following;

As to third party retaliation, her fiancé was in our lobby waiting on documents to be clocked. One of our Associate Judges was in the lobby speaking with another individual about a separate probate matter. I could see him interjecting himself in the other conversation but could not hear. Judge Erin Green returned in to the office and asked who he was. Once she knew who he was, she stated that he began to interrupt the conversation with the other party telling the person not listen to them (the court), to come outside and speak to my fiancé; referring to Mrs. Pierce, she knows everything about probate.

I did email Mrs. Pierce and advised her that he would no longer be able to be here at probate concerning this matter anymore. I advised that he could not give legal advice to other and he encourage others to come outside to her vehicle to seek legal advice. This has nothing to do with the Pierce Estate. His actions were improper. (Email correspondence will be attached)

Mrs. Pierce stated that the court threatened to kick her out of her home. This never happened. She was told the Special Administrator, at the time, has authority over the Estate.

Mrs. Pierce states that the court repeatedly mentioned "when the Appellant's Appeal is Denied". This was never stated. All proceedings were recorded electronically.

As to the alleged abuse of discretion in holding the Appellant in Contempt of Court. The court recording will show that the contempt was proper. She also states that the court violated Canon 3(b) 14. No facts were investigated by this court. A court does have the authority and right to encourage parties to settle their disputes. This court did encourage the parties to settle this dispute. It is this court's belief that direct contempt of court is not appealable, however, this court does not have the authority to bar someone from filing an appeal.

Mrs. Pierce states that the court did not have the authority to remove her as Personal Representative. This court removed her because of her violation of Fiduciary responsibilities. She alleged that all proceedings were illegal, if this was the case, then the appointment of her as personal representative would have been improper also and would make this complaint mute.

As to the alleged violation of this court stopping the auction of the property under the family agreement, Mrs. Pierce was removed as the Personal Representative, therefore, she no longer had the authority to act as an agent/representative of the Estate.

Appellant states she did nothing to be removed. She states she did not violate the terms of the family agreement to warrant her removal. Mrs. Pierce was advised that if she violated the terms, she would be removed. She violated the terms and was removed. An email correspondence between this Court, Mrs. Pierce and other interested parties shows that she indicates and acknowledged that she violated the

agreement (attached). At first, she claims that the agreement was illegal in itself but now argues that she should not have been removed from the alleged illegal agreement.

Mrs. Pierce stated that the court did not have the authority to amend the October 12, 2023 order. The Court realized an error in which item number 13 should be removed. It was proper and it was to the benefit of Mrs. Pierce that it be removed.

Mrs. Pierce states in the appeal that the court did not have jurisdiction to Order her to withdraw her appeal. She is absolutely correct, this court does not have that authority. This court never ordered her to withdraw her appeal. This was in the agreement under Rule 43 (k) in which all parties agreed and it was placed on the court record. She violated her own agreement.

Mrs. Pierce appears to be in violation of SC Code 62-01-0308 concerning transcripts of the probate court proceedings. This court takes notice that Mrs. Pierce requested a thumb drive from this court that contains all recordings of the proceedings. Mrs. Pierce has not requested any transcript from this court nor has she contacted a court reporter to have the proceedings transcribed. As of the date of this Return to Appeal, no court reporter has requested any recordings from this court to transcribe. Therefore, should a transcript appear in the circuit court, a true recording was not directly given to a court reporter from this court.

Respectfully submitted,



Danny Singleton, Judge of Probate
Oconee County, SC

December 6, 2023

Walhalla, South Carolina

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
COUNTY OF OCONEE
MELISSA C. BURTON
CLERK OF COURT
TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

2024 SEP -5 P 3: 25

DOROTHY PIERCE,
Plaintiff,

V.

DANNY SINGLETON
Defendant.

CASE NO. 2024-CP-3700080

RECEIVED
Sep 17 2025
SC Court of Appeals


PROOF OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this September, 2024, copies of the following Documents were delivered defendant's counsel of record by electronic means to Jim Logan:

logan@loganandjolly.com and hard copy mailed to: 1805 N Boulevard, Anderson, SC. 29621.

1. Plaintiff's Opposition To Defendant's Motion For Summary Judgment And Request For Sanctions Against Defendant
2. Motion For Sanctions Against Defendant Danny Singleton For Violations Of S.C. Code Ann. § 62-1-308(K), South Carolina Judicial Conduct Canons, Obstruction Of Justice, And Judicial Misconduct.
3. Plaintiff's Opposition To Defendant's Motion To Quash Deposition Subpoena, Request To Compel Full Discovery Responses, And Motion For Sanctions Against Defendant's Attorney, James W. Logan Jr.

Dated this September 5, 2024



 DOROTHY PIERCE -Plaintiff (Pro se)
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Telephone:864-324-3247
 Email: dorothypierce84@gmail.com

