

The Supreme Court of South Carolina

Jean Watkins, as Personal Representative of the Estate of
Mildred Watkins, Plaintiff,

v.

Countrywood Nursing Center, LLC, Sterling Healthcare,
Inc., Guardian Resources, LLC, Robert W. Hagan,
LaDonna Hagan, Chadwick S. Hagan, and Brooke Hagan
McGee, Defendants.

Appellate Case No. 2025-001718

ORDER

Pursuant to Rule 244, SCACR, the Court will answer the following questions certified to this Court by order of the Honorable Sherri A. Lydon, United States District Court Judge for the District of South Carolina:

1. In an action to pierce the corporate veil, can defendants who were not parties to the underlying suit defend against liability on the grounds that they were not liable for the underlying claims? In other words, does South Carolina follow the rule outlined in *Minton v. Cavaney*?
2. Does the answer change where the underlying judgment resulted from default or from sanctions striking the corporate defendant's answer?

The parties shall proceed to serve and file briefs as provided by Rule 244(d), SCACR. The parties are reminded Rule 244, SCACR, does not provide for the filing of initial briefs; therefore, only final briefs should be filed in this matter.



FOR THE COURT C.J.

Columbia, South Carolina
September 23, 2025

cc:

Graham L. Newman

Jennifer Randolph Purdy

Cheryl D. Shoun

Max John Mazurek

Rhett Douglas Ricard

The Honorable Sherri A. Lydon

Amanda D. Hilley