

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In the Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM THE LAURENS COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

The Honorable Donald B. Hocker

Appellate Case No. 2024-002104

RECEIVED
Oct 13 2025
SC Court of Appeals

Wayne J. Rogers, ...Appellant,

v.

Tomika Craig and Arthur Rogers, ...Respondents.

RECORD ON APPEAL

(signature page to follow)

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October 13, 2025

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
	)	EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF LAURENS	)	
	)	
	)	CONSENT ORDER
Arthur J. Rogers,	)	
	)	2022-CP-30-00208
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
vs.	)	
Tomika Craig and Arthur Rogers,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	
	)	

WHEREAS, on or about March 18, 2022, this action was instituted by Plaintiff against Defendants;

WHEREAS, Defendants were served with the Summons and Complaint on or about March 25, 2022;

WHEREAS, Defendants timely filed and served their Answer and Counterclaim;

WHEREAS, Plaintiff on April 25, 2022 filed and served his Motion to Strike from the Defendants' pleadings the affirmative defense and/or counterclaim based on the SC Frivolous Claims Act now known as the South Carolina Frivolous Civil Proceedings Sanction Act (§15-36-10 of the 1976 South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended); and

WHEREAS, Plaintiff and Defendants have now resolved the issue raised by the subject Motion as below outlined.

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of Thomas J. Thompson, Attorney for the Plaintiff with the consent of Clayton L. Jennings, Attorney for the Defendants,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED as follows:

1. Plaintiff's Counterclaim based on the provisions of the South Carolina Frivolous Civil Proceedings Sanction Act (§15-36-10 et. seq of the 1976 South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended) is struck from the Defendants' pleadings, provided; however, notwithstanding the foregoing: Defendants' right to proceed under said Act is preserved as provided by §15-36-10(C)(1) et. seq of the 1976 South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended.
2. Plaintiff's responsive pleadings, if any, shall be served and filed within fifteen (15) days of the date of this Order. Rule 12(a) SCRCF

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

SIGNATURE ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

EUGENE C. GRIFFITH, JR.
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

June _____, 2022
Newberry, South Carolina

I SO MOVE:

s/Thomas J. Thompson
Thomas J. Thompson, Attorney for Plaintiff

I CONSENT:

s/Clayton L. Jennings
Clayton L. Jennings, Attorney for Defendants



Laurens Common Pleas

Case Caption: Wayne J Rogers VS Tomika Craig , defendant, et al
Case Number: 2022CP3000208
Type: Order/Consent Order

It is so ordered

Eugene C. Griffith, Jr. 2154

Electronically signed on 2022-06-10 13:29:37 page 3 of 3

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
	)	
COUNTY OF LAURENS	)	C.A. No. 2022CP3000208
Wayne J. Rogers,	)	
	)	
Plaintiffs,	)	
	)	ORDER
vs.	)	
	)	
Tomika Craig and Arthur Rogers,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	
	)	
	)	

This matter was initiated by the plaintiff, Wayne J. Rogers (“Plaintiff”) upon the filing of a Summons and Complaint seeking a declaratory judgment setting aside a deed from Plaintiff to his two children, Tomika Craig and Arthur Rogers (“Defendants”) based on allegations that the subject deed was the result of a false and fraudulent forgery of Plaintiff’s signature as grantor. Defendants denied any allegations of forgery and asserted a counterclaim against Plaintiff for breach of the general warranty provided in the deed.

A non-jury trial was conducted by the undersigned in the Court of Common Pleas for Laurens County commencing on October 15, 2024. After careful consideration of the testimony and evidence presented, the arguments of counsel, and the common and statutory law of the State of South Carolina, I find and conclude as follows:

1. The deed in question is from Plaintiff, as grantor, to Defendants, as grantees, and recorded on February 7, 2022 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Laurens County, South Carolina in Deed Book D 1630 at Page 86 (the “Deed”).

2. The Deed conveyed title to real property located in Laurens County and known as Lot 24, Westcliff Estates, on a plat prepared by Applewhite & Applewhite, recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Laurens County in Plat Book 50 at Page 222 (the "Property"). The Property has a street address of 449 Westcliff Drive, Laurens, South Carolina.

3. Plaintiff called Jonathan Williams and Janice Rogers, who testified that they were present at the home of Plaintiff at 108 Holland Hill Road in Laurens on January 22, 2022, the date of execution shown on the Deed. Jonathan Williams testified that he never left home on that day, that no other person appeared at the home of Plaintiff on that day, and that Plaintiff did not sign the deed on that day. Janice Rogers, the wife of Plaintiff, testified that she did not believe that Plaintiff signed the Deed.

4. Plaintiff also testified and admitted that he suffered from dementia as a result of Alzheimer's Disease and that he also suffered from Parkinson's Disease. The inconsistent responses and demeanor of Plaintiff indicated that his memory was no longer reliable.

5. In contrast, Defendants presented testimony from Gary L. Williams, a long-time, respected attorney in the community of Laurens. Attorney Williams testified that he prepared the Deed, that he traveled to the home of Plaintiff on January 22, 2022, that he explained the Deed to Plaintiff in his living room, and that he recorded the Deed in the Office of the Register of Deeds. He identified Plaintiff in the courtroom and confirmed that Plaintiff signed the Deed in his presence as grantor. Attorney Williams acknowledged receipt of \$265.00 for his legal services related to preparation and execution of the Deed, and Defendants admitted a copy of the paid receipt for such services. In addition, Attorney Williams confirmed that the Deed was a valid deed in compliance with all applicable statutes of the South Carolina Code of Laws and that the Deed was successfully recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Laurens County.

6. Defendant Tomika Craig provided additional testimony explaining that her father, Plaintiff, had contacted her prior to execution of the Deed and explained that he wanted to give the Property to Defendants, his only children. She then asked Attorney Williams to prepare the Deed and to travel to Plaintiff's home for the execution of the Deed because Plaintiff was suffering from Parkinson's Disease. Tomika Craig also presented evidence to the Court that Plaintiff transferred to her title to the mobile home located on the Property.

7. I find that the Deed was duly recorded and valid on its face. "Where a deed is valid and regular on its face, it is presumed to be valid in all respects." Davis v. Monteith, 289 S.C. 176, 182, 345 S.E. 2d 724, 727 (1986), citing Avant v. Johnson, 231 S.C. 119, 97 S.E.2d 396 (1957).

8. Plaintiff has not met its burden to set aside the Deed based on fraud or forgery. Instead, I find that the testimony and evidence at trial demonstrated clear and convincing evidence that Plaintiff signed the Deed. The Court notes that Plaintiff sought to set aside the Deed on the sole basis of a fraudulent forgery of Plaintiff's signature on the Deed, and there was no allegation in the Complaint that Plaintiff lacked mental capacity at the time of execution or that the Deed was the result of undue influence or coercion.

9. Nevertheless, considering all the circumstances related to this familial dispute, the Court declines to award Defendants their costs and attorney's fees for the breach of warranty provided by Plaintiff in the Deed.

Accordingly, it is hereby **ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** that the Deed from Wayne J. Rogers to Tomika Craig and Arthur Rogers, recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Laurens County, South Carolina in Deed Book D 1630 at Page 86, is valid.



Laurens Common Pleas

Case Caption: Wayne J Rogers VS Tomika Craig , defendant, et al

Case Number: 2022CP3000208

Type: Order/Other

Circuit Court Judge

s/Donald B. Hocker, Judge Code 2167

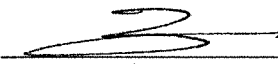
Electronically signed on 2024-11-13 10:15:00 page 4 of 4

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	
	)	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
COUNTY OF LAURENS	)	
	)	
Wayne J. Rogers,	)	SUMMONS
	)	2022-CP-30-
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	NON-JURY
	)	
Tomika Craig and Arthur Rogers,	)	
	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	
_____	)	

TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is hereby served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer upon the subscriber at his office, Townsend Building, 210 West Laurens Street, Laurens, South Carolina, within thirty (30) days after the service hereof; and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

TOWNSEND & THOMPSON
Registered Limited Liability Partnership
Attorneys for the Plaintiff



Thomas J. Thompson
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Laurens, South Carolina
March 14, 2022

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	
	)	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
COUNTY OF LAURENS	)	
	)	
Wayne J. Rogers,	)	COMPLAINT
	)	2022-CP-30-
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	NON-JURY
	)	
Tomika Craig and Arthur Rogers,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	
	)	

Plaintiff, above-named, will respectfully show unto the Court:

1. Plaintiff and Defendants are citizens and residents of the County of Laurens, State of South Carolina and have resided in said County and State for a number of years prior to the institution of the within action.
2. Plaintiff now is and ever since March 2, 2001, has been the owner in fee and in possession and entitled to the possession of real property located in the County of Laurens, State of South Carolina and described as follows:

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land, with the improvements thereon, situate, lying and being on S. C. Highway 14, Northwest of the City of Laurens, in the County of Laurens, State of South Carolina, being shown and designated as Lot 24, Westcliff Estates, on a plat prepared by Applewhite & Applewhite, recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Laurens County in Plat Book 50 at Page 222.

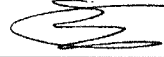
Bearing Tax Map No. 323-00-00-058

3. That Defendants claim and pretend to have some right or interest in said property adverse Plaintiff, but said claim is false and fraudulent and is based on a certain false and forged deed, purporting to convey said real property to Defendants; that said deed was recorded in the Office of Clerk of Court for Laurens County, South Carolina in Book D 1630 at Pages 86 – 87, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof and designated as Exhibit 1.
4. That Plaintiff did not at any time make, sign or acknowledge said alleged deed, or any deed, conveying said real property to said Defendants or to any other person or persons; that Plaintiff did not authorize any person or persons so to do; and that said alleged deed is false, fraudulent and forged. That said deed and the claim to said real property by Defendants tend to cloud the title of Plaintiff to

said real property and the premises and to impair the market value thereof.

5. Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to §15-53-10 of the 1976 South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended and seeks a declaratory judgment wherein Defendants be adjudged to have no right, title, or interest in or to said real property and/or the premises; that Exhibit 1 be surrendered and the Clerk of Court be ordered to remove the same of record; and Plaintiff seeks such other and further relief as may be just and proper under the circumstances.

TOWNSEND & THOMPSON
Registered Limited Liability Partnership
Attorneys for the Plaintiff



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Fax: 864-984-8000

Laurens, South Carolina
March 17, 2022

LAURENS CO ASSESSORS OFFICE
TMS:
323-00-00-058 PORTION

2022001125
DEED
RECORDING FEES \$15.00
STATE TAX \$0.00
COUNTY TAX \$0.00
PRESENTED & RECORDED:
02-04-2022 10:05 AM
K MICHELLE SIMMONS
CLERK OF COURT
LAURENS COUNTY, SC
BY: CLERK 1 CLERK
BK: D 1630
PG: 86 - 87

WARRANTY DEED

The State of South Carolina,
COUNTY OF LAURENS
No Title Examination

PLEASE DO NOT PUBLISH IN THE NEWSPAPER

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, THAT, I, WAYNE J. ROGERS, in the State
aforesaid,

for and in consideration of the sum of Fifteen and 00/100 (\$15.00)-----
DOLLARS, and love and affection to me in hand paid at and before the sealing of these presents, in
the State aforesaid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained, sold and
released, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell and release unto **TOMIKA CRAIG AND
ARTHUR ROGERS**, their heirs and assigns, forever, the following described property, to wit:

~~All~~ that certain piece, parcel or lot of land, with the improvements thereon, situate, lying and being on
S.C. Highway 14, Northwest of the City of Laurens, in the County of Laurens, State of South
Carolina, being shown and designated as Lot 24, Westcliff Estates, on a plat prepared by Applewhite
& Applewhite, recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Laurens County in Plat Book 50 at
Page 222.

This being the same property conveyed to Grantor herein, Wayne J. Rogers recorded in Laurens
County Clerk of Court RMC Deed Book 533 at Page 242.

TMS: 323-00-00-058.

Grantee's Address: 110 East Hampton Street, Laurens, South Carolina 29360.

Together with all and singular the rights, members, hereditaments and appurtenances to the said
premises belonging, or in anywise incident or appertaining.

To have and to hold, all and singular, the said Premises before mentioned unto **TOMIKA CRAIG
AND ARTHUR ROGERS**, their heirs and assigns, forever.

And, I do hereby bind My Heirs, Executors, Personal Representative and Administrators, to warrant
and forever defend, all and singular, the said Premises unto **TOMIKA CRAIG AND ARTHUR
ROGERS**, their Heirs and Assigns, against me and my Heirs and any person or persons whomsoever lawfully
claiming or to claim the same, or any part thereof.

02/07/2022
DATE

1630
BOOK

86
PAGE

James A. Coleman
AUDITOR

EXHIBIT 1

ELECTRONICALLY FILED - 2022 Mar 18 9:28 AM - LAURENS - COMMON PLEAS - CASE#2022CP3000208

WITNESS his hand and seal this 22nd day of January 2022.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of:

Lorlyn Smith Johnson Wayne J. Rogers
Mary L. Williams WAYNE J. ROGERS

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

COUNTY OF LAURENS)

I, Gary L. Williams, Notary Public for South Carolina,
do hereby certify that WAYNE J. ROGERS personally appeared before me this day and
acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument and also made oath that the witness(es)
herein are not a party to or beneficiary of this transaction.

Witness my hand and seal this the 22nd day of January 2022.

Mary L. Williams (SEAL)
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: 6/9/30
(Affix Seal)

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
	)	
COUNTY OF LAURENS	)	C.A. No. 2022CP3000208
Wayne J. Rogers,	)	
	)	
Plaintiffs,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	ANSWER AND COUNTERCLAIMS
	)	OF DEFENDANTS
Tomika Craig and Arthur Rogers,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	
	)	
	)	

Defendants, Tomika Craig and Arthur Rogers (“Defendants”), answering the Complaint of Wayne J. Rogers (“Plaintiff”) and counterclaiming against Plaintiff, would respectfully show the Court as follows:

**FOR A FIRST DEFENSE
(Specific Denial)**

1. Each and every allegation not otherwise admitted, modified or explained is denied and strict proof is demanded thereof.
2. Defendants admit the allegations of Paragraph 1.
3. Answering Paragraph 2, Defendants admit that Plaintiff was the owner of the subject real property described in Paragraph 2, but deny that Plaintiff is presently the owner of such real property and further allege that Plaintiff conveyed title to the real property to Plaintiffs by deed recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Laurens County, South Carolina in Deed Book D 1630 at Page 86 (hereinafter, the “Subject Deed”).

4. Answering Paragraph 3, Defendants admit to having right, title, and interest in and to the subject property but deny that such claim is false or fraudulent or based on a false or forged deed.

5. Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraphs 4 and 5.

**FOR AN AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
(Failure to State a Claim)**

6. Defendants reincorporate and reallege their responses as fully set forth above and incorporate them as fully and effectually as if repeated verbatim herein.

7. Plaintiffs' claims against Defendant fail to state a cause of action under which relief can be granted, and should therefore be dismissed pursuant to Rule 12(b)(6) of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure.

**FOR AN AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE AND BY WAY OF COUNTERCLAIM
(Breach of Warranty)**

8. Defendants reincorporate and reallege their responses as fully set forth above and incorporate them as fully and effectually as if repeated verbatim herein.

9. Plaintiff conveyed to Defendants all of Plaintiff's right, title, and interest in and to the subject real property shown as Lot 24, Westcliff Estates, on a plat recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Laurens County, South Carolina in Plat Book 50 at Page 222 (hereinafter, the "Subject Property").

10. The Subject Deed from Plaintiff to Defendants was recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Laurens County, South Carolina in Deed Book D 1630 at Page 86 and contains a general warranty from Plaintiff to Defendants whereby Plaintiff agreed to "warrant and forever defend, all and singular the said Premises unto Tomika Craig and Arthur Rogers, their

Heirs and Assigns, against me and my Heirs and any person whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim the same, or any part thereof.”

11. Plaintiffs’ claims against title to the Subject Property violate the warranty provided in the Subject Deed.

12. Defendants have incurred pecuniary damages as a result of defending their title to the Subject Property against Plaintiff.

13. Defendants are entitled to damages, including, without limitation, costs and attorney’s fees, resulting from their defense of title to the Subject Property.

**FOR AN AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE AND BY WAY OF COUNTERCLAIM
(Violation of the S.C. Frivolous Claims Act)**

14. Defendants reincorporate and reallege their responses as fully set forth above and incorporate them as fully and effectually as if repeated verbatim herein.

15. Plaintiff executed the Subject Deed in the presence of a licensed attorney and another witness.

16. Plaintiff delivered the Subject Deed to Defendants.

17. The Plaintiff has knowingly made false allegations in his Complaint, is pursuing his claims against Defendants in bad faith, and is pursuing claims and arguments against the Defendants which he knows to be frivolous.

18. Plaintiff’s Complaint contains arguments that:

(a) a reasonable attorney or person in the same circumstances would believe that under the facts, his claim was clearly not warranted under existing law and that a good faith or reasonable argument did not exist for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law;

(b) a reasonable attorney in the same circumstances would believe that his procurement, initiation, continuation of the civil suit was intended merely to harass or injure the other party; and

(c) a reasonable attorney or person in the same circumstances would believe that the case was frivolous as not reasonably founded in fact or was interposed merely for delay, or was merely brought for a purpose other than securing proper discovery, joinder of proposed parties, or adjudication of the claim or defense upon which the proceedings are based.

19. Plaintiff's Complaint constitutes a frivolous pleading under S.C. Code Ann. § 15-36-10, *et seq.*, and Defendants are therefore entitled to sanctions and the costs of the defense of this action.

WHEREFORE, Defendants pray for judgment as follows:

1. That the Complaint of the Plaintiffs be dismissed with prejudice;
2. For the attorney's fees and costs of defense in this action;
3. For damages resulting from the defense of claims against title to the Subject Property;
4. For a trial by court; and
5. For such further relief as the Court determines to be just and appropriate under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Clayton L. Jennings
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Attorney for Defendants

Greenville, South Carolina
April 11, 2022

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	
	)	
COUNTY OF LAURENS	)	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
	)	EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Wayne J. Rogers,	)	
	)	AMENDED REPLY
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	
	)	2022-CP-30-00208
Tomika Craig and Arthur Rogers,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	
_____	)	

Plaintiff, in replying to the Counterclaim of Defendants, would respectfully show unto the Court:

1. Plaintiff denies each and every allegation in said Counterclaim contained not hereinafter specifically admitted, qualified or explained.
2. Paragraph 9 of the Defendants' Counterclaim denies that he in any manner conveyed the subject property, or any real property, to the Defendants.
3. Plaintiff in connection with Paragraph 10 of the Counterclaim admits a deed is recorded in the Office of Clerk of Court for Laurens County, South Carolina in Deed Book D1630 at Page 86 and said deed contains a warranty clause; however, Plaintiff denies that he executed said deed or authorized anyone to execute same on his behalf.
4. Plaintiff denies the allegations setforth in Paragraphs 11, 12, and 13 of Defendants' Counterclaim and demands strict proof of the same.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff having fully responded to Defendants' Counterclaim, prays that same be dismissed and that he be awarded the relief sought in his Complaint, together with such other and further relief as may be just and proper under the circumstances.

TOWNSEND & THOMPSON
Registered Limited Liability Partnership
Attorneys for the Plaintiffs

s/Thomas J. Thompson
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Telephone: 864-984-6554
Fax: 864-984-8000

June 16, 2022
Laurens, South Carolina

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

)

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD

COUNTY OF LAURENS

)

CASE NO. 2022-CP-30-00208

October 15, 2024

BEFORE: The Honorable Judge Donald B. Hocker

Wayne J. Rogers,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Tomika Craig and Arthur Rogers,

Defendants.

APPEARANCES:

Thomas J. Thompson, Esq.
Attorney for the Plaintiff

Clayton L. Jennings, Esq.
Attorney for the Defendant

Official Court Reporter, Transcriber
Cynthia D. Weaver

I-N-D-E-X

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E-X-H-I-B-I-T-S

<u>NO.</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>ID</u>	<u>ADMIT</u>
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1 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Due to remote platform
2 interruption and audio interference throughout the
3 hearing, those instances are denoted with
4 (inaudible) in the transcript.)

5 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

6 THE COURT: -- this afternoon in the case of Wayne
7 J. Rogers v. Tamika Craig and Arthur Rogers, File Number
8 2022-CP-30-00208. Present representing the Plaintiff is Tom
9 Thompson. Clayton Jennings is present, representing the
10 Defendants. I have reviewed both the summons and complaint
11 and answer and unless there's anything we need to do prior
12 to taking testimony, I'm prepared to go ahead and start
13 hearing witnesses. Anything, Mr. Thompson?

14 MR. THOMPSON: May it please the Court?

15 I'd like for the witnesses to be sequestered.

16 THE COURT: Okay. You're moving for witnesses to
17 be sequestered; is that right? Okay.

18 Mr. Jennings, do you have any opposition to that?

19 MR. JENNINGS: Without objection, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Okay. All right. All right. Anybody
21 who's going to be or not -- if you're going to be the first
22 witness for the Plaintiff, certainly you can stay in, but
23 any other witnesses for the Plaintiff or the Defendants need
24 to -- and there's conference rooms outside. Mike, if you'll
25 show them where the rooms are, just need to be out there.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 MR. JENNINGS: Your Honor, does that include the
2 parties?

3 THE COURT: No, no. Parties can stay in. Okay.
4 Mr. Thompson, you ready to call your first
5 witness?

6 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir. I am.

7 THE COURT: Okay.

8 MR. THOMPSON: The Plaintiff calls Jonathan
9 Williams.

10 THE COURT: Okay. Come around, Mr. Williams.

11 JONATHAN WILLIAMS, after being duly sworn,
12 testified as follows:

13 THE COURT: Okay. You may proceed.

14 DIRECT EXAMINATION

15 BY MR. THOMPSON:

16 Q. Give us your full name, please?

17 A. Jonathan Jamal Williams.

18 Q. And what is your address, sir?

19 A. It's 108 Holland Hill.

20 Q. Is that in Laurens?

21 A. Yes, it is.

22 Q. Is that right until up here on 104th area?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. And how long have you been living in that
25 address?

JONATHAN WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. Over 20 years. 20 years.

2 Q. Around 20 years. And who is your mother?

3 A. Janice Rogers.

4 Q. Okay. And is your mother married to Wayne Rogers,
5 the Plaintiff?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. All right. You are not Wayne Rogers's biological
8 child; are you?

9 A. No. No, I'm not.

10 Q. You're -- you're his stepson, right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Your mother and Mr. Rogers, do you recall
13 approximately when they married? How many years ago?

14 A. I was a kid. I can't recall. I was a kid, like
15 five years old.

16 Q. Okay. And you're how old now?

17 A. 37.

18 Q. Okay. And you live -- continue to live with your
19 mother and stepfather at his address?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. And how far did you go in school?

22 A. 12th grade.

23 Q. 12th grade. Any military?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Are you currently employed?

JONATHAN WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Who is your employer?

3 A. Molouf. Molouf Furniture. It's right here past
4 the Waffle House, the old Michelin building.

5 Q. Okay. What exactly is your job? What do you do
6 at that location?

7 A. I'm a forklift driver. I -- I pick the furniture
8 that's --

9 THE COURT: Wait one a second, Mr. Williams.
10 We're not picking -- he's not picking him up?

11 THE REPORTER: Spell his employer.

12 THE COURT: Oh, spell the employer's name. Sorry.

13 THE WITNESS: M-O-L-O-U-F.

14 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

15 BY MR. THOMPSON:

16 Q. All right. And that employer, place of business
17 is in what community?

18 A. It's in Laurens.

19 Q. All right. And do you have a particular shift
20 that you work on?

21 A. Yes, first shift.

22 Q. Okay. Does that every from time to time?

23 A. No, 7:00 in the morning.

24 Q. Okay. All right. Now, when your mother and your
25 stepfather married, was your -- was your stepfather

JONATHAN WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 employed?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What line or type of business was he in?

4 A. He was in the mill work. The mill.

5 Q. Worked in a textile?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And is he still working in textile?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Is -- is your stepfather working at all?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Do you recall approximately how long it's been
12 since Mr. Rogers was employed?

13 A. Since 2018.

14 Q. Okay. 2018. Was his employer at that time Enoree
15 Mills?

16 A. Yes, it was.

17 Q. Okay. Now, Mr. Rogers, did he -- did he take up
18 any other type of employment after that, the job at the
19 mill, odd jobs or anything like that?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Okay. Does Mr. Rogers drive a motor vehicle?

22 A. No, he doesn't.

23 Q. Did he at one time have a driver's license to
24 operate a motor vehicle?

25 A. Yes.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 Q. Okay. What is your estimate as to how long it's
2 been since he'd been able to drive a motor vehicle?

3 A. Since 2018. Like --

4 Q. About the time he stopped working?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. Is Mr. Rogers left alone in the home there
7 on 108 Hunters Court?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Okay. Who is there as his caretaker, for lack of
10 a better word?

11 A. Me and my mother, Janice Rogers.

12 Q. Okay. Your mother and yourself?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Does anyone else live there?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Do you employ or engage any other third parties to
17 help with the care and daily needs of Mr. Rogers?

18 A. No.

19 Q. What type of tasks does your mother have to do
20 deal with as far as your father's -- your stepfather's
21 concern?

22 A. Basically, all his needs. Like --

23 THE COURT: Could you speak up just a little bit,
24 Mr. Williams, please, sir?

25 THE WITNESS: Basically, all his needs. Like, she

JONATHAN WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 gets him up, dresses him, she bathes him. She gets him
2 ready for the day. Make sure he's got his meals.

3 BY MR. THOMPSON:

4 Q. And does she transport him to where he needs to go
5 if --

6 A. And transport, yes.

7 Q. -- he needs to go somewhere?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Does -- does any other individual handle the
10 transportation needs of your stepfather?

11 A. No.

12 Q. You work one shift that you -- you -- that you --
13 your mother works a different shift, I believe, right?

14 A. She doesn't work anymore not as this date.

15 Q. She does not work anymore?

16 A. No.

17 Q. But she did work up until very recently; did she
18 not?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Well, let's go back a couple of years. Let's say,
21 back to 2020 coming forward. You were working then; were
22 you not?

23 A. On and off.

24 Q. Okay. And was your mother working full time then?

25 A. Yes.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 Q. Okay. How -- how was Mr. Rogers's situation
2 covered as far as having someone watching while your mother
3 was working?

4 A. I was there.

5 Q. And if you were not there, who was there?

6 A. She was.

7 Q. Okay. Do you recall leaving your stepfather alone
8 there for any appreciable length of time during the last
9 several years?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Okay. Now, the house that's up there, tell me a
12 little bit about it in terms of what -- what -- what do we
13 have there? How many bedrooms, baths? What all?

14 A. It's three bedrooms, two baths.

15 Q. Is there a living area?

16 A. A living room, yes, and a kitchen.

17 Q. Is that it?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. How would you characterize it in terms of large,
20 small, medium, what?

21 A. I'd say right at a small, but medium, you know.

22 Q. All right. Mr. Rogers to -- to ambulate or get
23 around, is he able to do that without any assistance?

24 A. No, he doesn't.

25 Q. What -- what -- what does he use, if anything to

1 maneuver?

2 A. He -- he has a wheelchair. He has a walker. Or
3 -- or speaking of anything as transporting in a car, my
4 mother takes him if he needs to drive in a car.

5 Q. So who handles the financial business of the
6 household there where you live with your stepfather and
7 mother?

8 A. Well, my -- my mother really take care of all the
9 finances, but they discuss on any big purchases or whatever.

10 Q. From time to time, do issues come up, family
11 issues that needs to be discussed?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. How is that handled generally?

14 A. Between them two; my mother and my stepfather.

15 Q. They -- are you saying they discuss those things?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Would it be common for -- for one to make a -- a
18 unilateral decision to do something without consulting the
19 other involving anything of any significance?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Okay. Now, did your grandmother at one time live
22 in Laurens County?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What -- what -- what is her name, again, please?

25 A. My grandmother?

JONATHAN WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. Erlene Williams.

3 Q. Okay. And you have an aunt that continues to live
4 there; do you not?

5 A. Yes, I do.

6 Q. And her name is?

7 A. Annette.

8 Q. Okay. When you and your mother moved to your
9 current address with your stepfather, where -- where were
10 your -- where was your grandmother and aunt living?

11 A. They were living on 252 at first until he bought
12 the property.

13 Q. Okay. What made you say that? When you say "he
14 bought the property," who -- who -- who bought what?

15 A. Well, my stepfather, Wayne, he bought the property
16 for my -- my aunt and my grandmother.

17 Q. Okay. And is that the Westcliff property?

18 A. Yes, it is.

19 Q. And that's the property we're in -- we're in court
20 today about?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So what -- what exactly does that property consist
23 of?

24 A. I want to say it's like 2 -- 2 or 3 acres --

25 Q. Yeah.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. -- with a mobile home on it.

2 Q. Okay. Okay. Was the purpose of purchasing that
3 to provide a home for your grandmother and aunt?

4 A. Yes, it was.

5 Q. Okay. Is your grandmother still living?

6 A. No.

7 Q. She died in 2013?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. Who -- who lives at that property now?

10 A. My aunt.

11 Q. Okay. Annette?

12 A. Annette, yes.

13 Q. Annette Williams, right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. She lives there. And did -- does she -- does she
16 pay rent?

17 A. She pay the utilities.

18 Q. Okay. All right. To -- to your knowledge, does
19 she have another place to live if she was not living there?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Now, do you -- are you familiar with the fact that
22 -- that -- that this case involves a -- a deed to a certain
23 property?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And that is the Westcliff property, right?

JONATHAN WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And have -- have you seen that deed other than in
3 my office?

4 A. No, I haven't.

5 MR. THOMPSON: We'd like to put the deed in for
6 identification purposes.

7 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Do you want to let
8 Mr. Jennings take a look at it?

9 MR. THOMPSON: Plaintiff's No. 1 for
10 identification purposes.

11 THE REPORTER: Okay.

12 MR. JENNINGS: No objection -- excuse me -- no
13 objection.

14 THE COURT: You want to go ahead and move it into
15 evidence, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Jennings has no objection?

16 MR. THOMPSON: We can make it Plaintiff's Exhibit
17 1.

18 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Plaintiff's 1 into
19 evidence.

20 (WHEREUPON, PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT NO. 1 ADMITTED
21 INTO EVIDENCE)

22 BY MR. THOMPSON:

23 Q. Okay. Mr. Williams, let me hand you Plaintiff's
24 Exhibit No. 1, and ask you to take a moment to look at it
25 for me, please. When you have had a sufficient time to

JONATHAN WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 review it just look up and let me know.

2 Let me -- let me ask you this: Is that the -- the
3 deed that you and I reviewed in my office --

4 A. Yes, it is.

5 Q. -- a couple of days ago?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Do you understand that to be the deed from
8 Mr. Wayne Rogers to his daughter, Tomika and his son,
9 Arthur?

10 A. That's what it's made out to be.

11 Q. I did not hear you.

12 A. That's what it's made out to be, it looks like it.

13 Q. Okay. And that's your understanding of what it
14 is?

15 A. Yeah, I understand.

16 Q. Let me have the exhibit back.

17 A. All right.

18 Q. Thank you. Did you play any part in having this
19 deed prepared, signed, or witnessed?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Did you have anything to do with it?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Okay. Let me hand it back to you. Let me hand
24 you Plaintiff's Exhibit back to you and ask you to look.
25 I'll do a little leading, if I get too far along you can

1 call my hand out.

2 Does it appear to be executed on January the 22nd,
3 2022?

4 A. Yes, it does.

5 Q. Okay. Do you have an independent recollection of
6 that particular day?

7 A. Yes, I do.

8 Q. Did you, at my request, refresh your memory on
9 that day sometime after the deed was signed and filed?

10 A. Yeah, I remember this day.

11 Q. Okay. What -- what -- why -- why do you remember
12 that day?

13 A. Well, this is the day after my cousin had died.
14 So it was a funeral on the 21st, so this is the next day.

15 Q. Okay. So on the 21st of January, 2022, your
16 cousin had a funeral?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. This was a Friday; is that not correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And the next day was on a Saturday?

21 A. Yes, it was.

22 Q. Now -- I'll take it back.

23 A. All right.

24 Q. On Saturday, the 22nd of January, 2022, where were
25 you that day?

JONATHAN WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. I was at home.

2 Q. That's the Holland Hill address?

3 A. Yes, correct.

4 Q. And were you alone?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Who was there?

7 A. My stepfather, Wayne, and my mother, Janice.

8 Q. Your mother --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- your stepfather, and you?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Were -- were you there the entire day?

13 A. Yeah. All day long, yeah.

14 Q. And did you leave for any moment in time?

15 A. No. It was -- it was cold out. I remember, like,

16 snow on the ground.

17 Q. Okay. Did you have visitors in the home that

18 particular day?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Okay. If someone had knocked on the door that day

21 or any day, and your stepfather was there, can he normally

22 open the door, how is that handled?

23 A. He really can't stand up like that. Like, I would

24 have to get the door or my mother. So, no, he would not

25 stand up and get the door by himself.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 Q. Okay. Now, could someone have been in the home on
2 the 22nd of January with your stepfather and you not have
3 known it?

4 A. No. Not at all.

5 Q. Why do you say that?

6 A. The home's not that big, like I mentioned before.
7 And my room was connected to the living room, which is --
8 the living room was connected to the front door. So I can
9 see -- if I open my door, I can see the whole living room.

10 Q. Okay. Now, I'll hand you Plaintiff's Exhibit No.
11 1 back again. If -- if -- if -- if -- there's a signature
12 purportedly of your stepfather. Are you familiar with your
13 stepfather's signature?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. It is from a layman's standpoint, is -- is -- is
16 that -- does that appear to be his or you're not sure, sir?

17 A. It's not his.

18 MR. JENNINGS: Your Honor, I'm going to object to
19 this witness's opinion about a signature of his stepfather.
20 There's no basis for his opinion.

21 THE COURT: You may want to lay a foundation,
22 Mr. Thompson, as far as his familiarity with his
23 stepfather's signature.

24 MR. THOMPSON: Okay.

25 THE COURT: You may want to lay a little

JONATHAN WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 foundation.

2 BY MR. THOMPSON:

3 Q. Okay. Let me have Plaintiff's Exhibit back.

4 You've lived with your stepfather a number of
5 years prior to this deed; is that not correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Does your stepfather maintain any type of bank
8 accounts or checking accounts?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay. Have you seen his signature on checks or
11 finance-related documents?

12 A. Yes. Numerous times.

13 Q. Okay. Have you seen his signature on perhaps
14 other documents?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Can you give us some examples of what you've seen?

17 A. I've seen him write checks. I've seen him sign
18 off on stuff I had for school. I mean, I've known him over
19 30 years.

20 Q. Okay. Anything else?

21 A. 30 years explains itself.

22 Q. And in January of 2022 was he capable of signing
23 documents?

24 A. Yeah. Yes, he's capable of signing. Yes.

25 Q. Okay. Are you aware of what health issues he may

1 have had?

2 A. Yes, I am.

3 Q. How are you knowledgeable as to the health issues?

4 A. Because I'm -- I'm in the home. I've been to --
5 to his doctor's visits. I mean, you want me to tell you,
6 like, what's his, you know, disease?

7 Q. Okay. In addition to his limitations in getting
8 around, walking, what -- what else are you -- are you aware
9 of?

10 A. He has Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's. So he
11 can't move around like that. He freezes up a lot.

12 Q. Going back to the signature, would it be fair to
13 say that what -- what you've seen of his handwriting had
14 been rather limited or would you say it's extensive?

15 A. It's been limited lately.

16 Q. Lately. But before 2022, did you see him sign
17 numerous things before 2022?

18 A. I'm going to say before 2018, I've seen him sign
19 numerous things, but after that, it's been limited.

20 Q. All right. So based on what you've seen on your
21 stepfather's signature, what is your belief about the
22 signature that appears on Plaintiff's Exhibit No. 1?

23 A. It's not his. That's what I believe.

24 Q. Okay. Now, do you know Mr. Gary Williams?

25 A. No, I don't.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 Q. Do you know a Roslyn Johnson?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Okay. How often did Tomika Craig, your
4 stepsister, visit in the home where you and your mother and
5 stepfather lived?

6 A. Two, three times.

7 Q. Pardon me?

8 A. Two or three times.

9 Q. Two or three times during what period?

10 A. When he got -- when he first got sick, so I would
11 say, like, 2020.

12 Q. What about your stepbrother, Arthur?

13 A. How many times?

14 Q. I mean, they -- they are frequent visitors?

15 A. No, no. No. They're not frequent. No.

16 Q. Did they make any contact -- contact with the home
17 by telephone or otherwise?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Do you or your mother try from time to time to --

20 A. My mother --

21 Q. -- get their help to help with their father?

22 A. Do me and my mother do?

23 Q. Are they requested to help with your father?

24 A. Oh, no. No, they're not. No.

25 Q. Do they help?

JONATHAN WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. No.

2 Q. The relationship between your stepfather and your
3 aunt, who live at Westcliff, how would you describe that
4 relationship?

5 A. Very good.

6 Q. And does your stepfather complain about having to
7 provide her with the residence?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Do you believe your stepfather would, without
10 consultation with your mother, sell or give away the
11 property where your aunt lives?

12 MR. JENNINGS: Object to what his -- the intention
13 or mindset or his speculation about his stepfather's
14 motivation.

15 THE COURT: Sustained. Just -- just testify as to
16 what you know and you can't speculate on things, okay?

17 THE WITNESS: I wouldn't believe he would do that,
18 no.

19 BY MR. THOMPSON:

20 Q. Is it your position that on January 22, 2022 that
21 no one came to your home on -- on 108 Hunters Court, right?

22 A. Yes. That's my recollection. Yes.

23 Q. No one was there?

24 A. No one.

25 MR. THOMPSON: All right. Answer any questions.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 Mr. Jennings may have.

2 THE COURT: Mr. Jennings, any cross-examination?

3 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you. Yes, Your Honor.

4 CROSS-EXAMINATION

5 BY MR. JENNINGS:

6 Q. Mr. Williams, how long did you say you've been
7 living on the property at 108 -- what's the street address
8 again?

9 A. It's 108 Holland Hill.

10 Q. Holland Hill. How long have you been living
11 there?

12 A. I've been there since I was five years old. So I
13 said over 20; it's been over 30.

14 Q. Okay. And you worked the first shift?

15 A. Yes, I do now, yes.

16 Q. And were you working first shift in 2022?

17 A. No, I wasn't.

18 Q. Okay. What were you doing in 2022?

19 A. Basically, just helping -- helping my mother with
20 him, with my father, yeah.

21 Q. So you were unemployed in 2022?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Did you have a lady friend living with you?

24 A. When?

25 Q. Did you have anyone living with you?

JONATHAN WILLIAMS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 A. In Holland Hill?

2 Q. A girlfriend, or?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Okay. When was the last time Mr. Wayne Rogers
5 could be left alone?

6 A. It had to be before 2018.

7 Q. And why do you say it had to be then?

8 A. Because that's when he -- had to -- when had to
9 quit his job and he got sick.

10 Q. Now, when did Mr. Wayne Rogers quit walking and
11 have to use a wheelchair?

12 A. 2018.

13 Q. He hasn't walked since 2018?

14 A. He uses a wheelchair. He has Parkinson's, so he
15 freezes a lot. He can walk.

16 Q. He can walk now?

17 A. He can walk, but he freezes and might fall. He's
18 had two hip surgeries.

19 Q. Okay. So in 2022, he could walk, right?

20 A. Not perfectly, no.

21 Q. Well, was he always in a wheelchair in 2022?

22 A. A walker, a wheelchair, something that helped him,
23 yeah. Yes.

24 Q. A cane?

25 A. Yes.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 Q. Okay. Now, your mother and Mr. Wayne Rogers
2 sometimes don't get along, do they?

3 A. Excuse me?

4 Q. Sometimes your mother and Mr. Wayne Rogers don't
5 get along; is that right?

6 A. Can you repeat that? They're not -- not getting
7 along?

8 Q. Do your mother and Mr. Rogers ever have arguments
9 or not have -- or do they have a -- like a lot of couples, a
10 less than perfect relationship?

11 A. Disagreements? Yes.

12 Q. They have disagreements over what?

13 A. Life. Married couples.

14 Q. Can you give me an example?

15 A. He might not like what she cooked that day, and he
16 wanted something else or something simple.

17 Q. Okay. Did you know that they almost divorced
18 around 20 years ago?

19 A. Yeah. Yes, I do remember that.

20 Q. Okay. Now, you say there was a funeral on January
21 21st, 2022?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Who's funeral?

24 A. My cousin. His name is Tye.

25 Q. Todd?

JONATHAN WILLIAMS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

- 1 A. Tye.
- 2 Q. Tye?
- 3 A. T-Y-E.
- 4 Q. Okay. What's his -- what was his last name?
- 5 A. Simpson.
- 6 Q. All right. Where was his funeral?
- 7 A. It was -- we had it in Ware Shoals.
- 8 Q. Okay. And so you remember everything about
- 9 January 22nd because you remember the funeral the day
- 10 before?
- 11 A. I didn't do nothing in the day after. So I was at
- 12 home. It's nothing --
- 13 Q. Why didn't you do anything on January 22nd?
- 14 A. It was cold outside.
- 15 Q. So are you saying when it's cold outside, you
- 16 never leave the house?
- 17 A. No, it was a cold day. I just stayed in the house
- 18 that day.
- 19 Q. And what did you do? You watched TV? Did you --
- 20 A. I watched TV, just hung out.
- 21 Q. And who was there with you?
- 22 A. Me, Wayne, and my mother.
- 23 Q. Okay. What'd you do on Saturday before that?
- 24 A. I have to recall.
- 25 Q. Remember the weather on Saturday?

JONATHAN WILLIAMS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 A. Not really.

2 Q. What about on Thursday, January 20th, what'd you
3 do?

4 A. Thursday?

5 Q. Yes, Thursday, January 20th, 2022, the day before
6 the funeral.

7 A. The day before the funeral, I was at home.

8 Q. All day?

9 A. All day.

10 Q. Why'd you stay inside all day on Thursday?

11 A. Because we was getting ready to go to the funeral
12 the next day, Thursday.

13 Q. So you don't -- you can't leave the house if
14 there's going to be a funeral?

15 A. I had nothing to do. It was family -- family --
16 family matters. My cousin had just died.

17 Q. You didn't go to any family gathering for your
18 cousin?

19 A. No.

20 Q. All right. Now, you see -- do you ever see your
21 mother taking your stepfather's blood pressure in the house?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. How often does she do that?

24 A. Three, four times a day.

25 Q. Okay. What time of day does she do it?

JONATHAN WILLIAMS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 A. Right when she wakes up, one at 11:30, one at
2 maybe 1:30 or 2:00, and then right before they go to bed.

3 Q. Okay. Does she always take blood pressure
4 readings in the afternoon?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Okay. You said you're familiar with Wayne
7 Rogers's health?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. All right. And -- and how many doctor's visits
10 have you attended with him?

11 A. Probably three, four. But I know the gist. I
12 know the gist of it.

13 Q. Okay. What have you learned in those doctors'
14 visits?

15 A. He has Parkinson's, and he has Alzheimer's.

16 Q. When was he diagnosed with Alzheimer's?

17 A. I want to say beginning or end of 2018, beginning
18 of 2019.

19 Q. Okay. And what medicine does he take for
20 Alzheimer's?

21 A. Is there -- is -- there's no cure for Alzheimer's.

22 Q. Does he take any pills for his Alzheimer's
23 treatment?

24 A. I know he takes carbidopa for his Parkinson's. I
25 know that much.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 Q. But you don't know if he takes anything for
2 Alzheimer's?

3 A. I don't -- I don't know if it's a medicine for
4 Alzheimer's.

5 Q. Okay. But you care for him, right?

6 A. Yes, yes.

7 Q. And you don't know -- who -- who gives him his
8 medicine?

9 A. Either me or my mother.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. I don't know what's it called for Alzheimer's, but
12 I know what I give him. Yes, that's what I'm saying.

13 Q. All right. Now, you are not a handwriting expert;
14 are you?

15 A. Never said I was.

16 Q. Was that a no?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Okay. What does Wayne Rogers's signature look
19 like?

20 A. Well, what are you comparing it to?

21 Q. I'm just asking if you can describe it for me. Is
22 it loopy? Is it scratchy? How would you describe his --
23 his signature?

24 A. He almost signed like a doctor. You know -- you
25 know how a doctor sign?

JONATHAN WILLIAMS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 Q. I don't. I'm sorry.

2 A. No, it's like stretchy, big. I could tell it any
3 day, though.

4 Q. Okay. And -- and you said you watch him sign
5 checks?

6 A. I said I've seen him sign checks. I don't just
7 regularly watching -- watching him sign checks, no.

8 Q. So, yeah -- so you have seen him. So you've
9 watched him sign checks?

10 A. Yes. Yes. If that's what you're asking, yes.

11 Q. You've watched him sign checks?

12 A. I said I seen, I didn't say I was just watching.

13 Q. You've seen him?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. You've observed him signing a check?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. On how many occasions?

18 A. Numerous of times.

19 Q. Would -- would that be more than 100 or less than
20 100?

21 A. Probably less than 100.

22 Q. Okay. And how was the signature on the deed that
23 Attorney Thompson showed you different from what you think
24 the normal signature of Wayne Rogers is?

25 A. It's got too much structure, you know? You know

JONATHAN WILLIAMS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 what I'm talking about? His handwriting is loose. That
2 handwriting it has structure. That's not his.

3 Q. When you say "structure," what do you mean?

4 A. It's formal. You can read it.

5 Q. Okay. You can see every letter in it?

6 A. Basically, yeah.

7 Q. Yeah. Let me show you that signature, if I could,
8 from Plaintiff's Exhibit No. 1. Do you see what is supposed
9 to be the signature of Wayne J. Rogers?

10 A. Yes, I've seen it.

11 Q. Can you read those letters in the last name?

12 A. Not in the last name, no.

13 Q. Now, there have been some times since 2018 when
14 Mr. Wayne Rogers had been alone in the home, right?

15 A. You said since 2018?

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. Not alone.

18 Q. Not alone?

19 A. Not alone.

20 Q. He's never been alone since 2018?

21 A. Not since he's been sick, no.

22 Q. Do you remember on January 22, 2022, when your
23 mother went to wash laundry?

24 A. She probably did, yeah.

25 Q. She did. And how long was she gone?

JONATHAN WILLIAMS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 A. Probably an hour and a half.

2 Q. Hour and a half? Do you know if that was the
3 morning or the afternoon?

4 A. It's always morning.

5 Q. Always morning? And where does she go to do that?

6 A. Right up the street past Li'l Cricket. It's the
7 little washing center right there.

8 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you. No further questions.

9 THE COURT: Any redirect, Mr. Thompson?

10 MR. THOMPSON: No, sir. Come down, please.

11 THE COURT: Okay. You can step down.

12 THE WITNESS: All right.

13 THE COURT: You're free to stay in the courtroom
14 or you're free to leave, either way.

15 MR. THOMPSON: I'd like for you to stay in the
16 courtroom, not go back.

17 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Next witness.

18 MR. THOMPSON: I call Mr. Rogers.

19 THE COURT: Okay. Does he need some assistance?
20 All right. All right.

21 MR. THOMPSON: Yeah.

22 THE COURT: Let's just -- yeah, park him right in
23 front of the witness stand. You just need to maneuver that
24 microphone a little bit.

25 WAYNE J. ROGERS, after being duly sworn,

WAYNE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 testified as follows:

2 THE COURT: Mr. Rogers, you're going to need to
3 speak up loud so we can all hear you, sir, okay?

4 MR. THOMPSON: Did you hear him?

5 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

6 MR. THOMPSON: Okay.

7 THE COURT: Okay. You may proceed.

8 DIRECT EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. THOMPSON:

10 Q. Can you hear me?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Okay. You'll need to speak up, like the Judge
13 just mentioned as loud as you can into that fuzzy little --
14 into that microphone.

15 Give us your full name.

16 A. Wayne J. Rogers.

17 Q. And, Mr. Rogers, what is your address?

18 A. 108 Holland Hill.

19 Q. Okay. Are you currently employed?

20 A. No.

21 Q. When you were employed, what type of work did you
22 do?

23 A. Textile.

24 Q. Okay. And do you recall who your last employer
25 was?

WAYNE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. Yes. Enoree Mills.

2 Q. Enoree Mills? Did you retire from Enoree Mills?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Was it a voluntary -- voluntary retirement or was
5 it basically on health issues?

6 A. Basically on health issues.

7 Q. And what do you believe the health issues were at
8 that time that required you to leave the workforce?

9 A. I had Parkinson's.

10 Q. And who is your -- who was your doctor then?

11 A. Dr. Hope.

12 Q. Hope? It's hard for me to hear you -- okay.

13 A. Hope.

14 Q. Okay. And -- and since leaving Enoree Mills in
15 2018, have you rejoined the workforce?

16 A. No.

17 Q. And basically, since you left the workforce up
18 until now, how do you spend your days and nights?

19 A. Watching the news.

20 Q. What?

21 A. Watching the news.

22 Q. Do you -- do you know?

23 A. Look at the TV.

24 THE COURT: He watches TV. Is that what you said?
25 You watch TV?

WAYNE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 MR. THOMPSON: Okay.

2 THE COURT: You can get a little closer to him if
3 you need to, Mr. Thompson.

4 BY MR. THOMPSON:

5 Q. Okay. So, basically, you spend your days and
6 night watching TV?

7 A. Right.

8 Q. That's all right. Do you -- do you require any
9 assistance to get dressed in the morning?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Who helps you with that?

12 A. My wife.

13 Q. Is her name Janice?

14 A. Janice.

15 Q. Okay. And you've been married to her how long?

16 A. About 30.

17 Q. Okay. Do you all get along on every issue?

18 A. Not every issue, but we get along.

19 Q. Okay. You have disputes from time to time?

20 A. No.

21 Q. You do?

22 A. No. I don't get pretty sad.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. No.

25 Q. Okay.

WAYNE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. I just walk off.

2 Q. Is your -- is your wife employed?

3 A. She was.

4 Q. Okay. That's right. And she recently stopped
5 working; is that correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. And your stepson, who does he live with?

8 A. He lives with me.

9 Q. And has he been living with you a substantial
10 period of time?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So it's you and your wife and your stepson --

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. -- at the Holland Hill address?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Does anyone else live there with you?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Do you have a daughter named Tomika Craig?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. Has she ever lived up there with you at
21 Holland Hill?

22 A. No.

23 Q. You have a son named Arthur Rogers. Does he live
24 there with you?

25 A. No.

WAYNE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 Q. Does he live down on Independence Avenue or do you
2 know?

3 A. I don't know.

4 Q. Okay. Did Arthur, at some point, live there with
5 you and your wife and stepson?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. He did. Would it be fair to say he hadn't lived
8 there since 2018?

9 A. That'd be fair to say.

10 Q. When was the last year he was there?

11 A. He in and out, I don't know.

12 Q. Okay. Does he visit with you?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. He does. Does Tomika Craig visit with you?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Now, does Arthur help with your medical needs and
17 transportation?

18 A. Transportation.

19 Q. He does?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. When is the last time he's helped you with that?

22 A. Been in months.

23 Q. Huh?

24 A. I can't tell the date.

25 Q. Can't tell the date. Has it been in the last

WAYNE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 30 days?

2 A. More than that.

3 Q. Like -- has it been over a year?

4 A. About a year.

5 Q. About a year. Okay. What about Tomika Craig?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Does she help you with your medical issues?

8 A. No.

9 Q. No. Okay. Now, you have a sister-in-law that
10 lives out on Westcliff Drive here in Laurens; is that
11 correct?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. Who -- who -- who owns that property and the
14 mobile home on that property? Who -- who is it owned by?

15 A. I thought I did for a while. I did.

16 Q. You did. Okay. Did you buy that property?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Do you remember about when you bought that
19 property?

20 A. No.

21 Q. You don't. Where did you get the money to buy
22 that property?

23 A. From work.

24 Q. Okay. Did you have some type of a savings
25 account?

WAYNE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. A 401(k).

2 Q. Okay. Did you cash out your 401(k) to buy that
3 property?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. Is there a loan on the property now?

6 A. Last time I checked, there wasn't no loan on it.

7 Q. There was not?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Do you know -- do you have a loan on that
10 property?

11 A. No.

12 Q. No. Okay. Who -- who do you want to be living
13 there?

14 A. My wife.

15 Q. You want your wife living there?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. At Westcliff.

18 A. Oh, no.

19 Q. Who -- who is supposed to be living at Westcliff
20 from your point of view?

21 A. Supposed to be?

22 Q. Yeah.

23 A. My wife.

24 Q. Okay. I thought your wife lived at Holland --
25 Holland Hill.

WAYNE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. We live up at Holland Hill. I thought you were
2 talking about the trailer.

3 Q. I am. I'm asking you, who is -- who do you want
4 to live at --

5 MR. JENNINGS: Your Honor, asked an answered.

6 THE COURT: Well, yeah. I'll -- I'll allow a
7 little bit more just because of his condition.

8 MR. THOMPSON: I'm not trying to confuse him.

9 THE COURT: You can proceed. You can proceed.

10 BY MR. THOMPSON:

11 Q. Let's start over for just a short period of time.

12 A. Okay. I got twisted up.

13 Q. The Westcliff property was bought by you, right?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. When you bought it, you were living in Holland
16 Hill, right?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. And who did you have move into Westcliff?

19 A. My mother-in-law.

20 Q. Anyone else?

21 A. Her daughter.

22 Q. Okay. Now, is the mother-in-law still living?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Your daughter -- your sister-in-law is, though?

25 A. Correct.

WAYNE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 Q. And where is -- where is -- who do you want to
2 live at Westcliff?

3 A. My sister-in-law.

4 Q. Okay. All right. Now, did you give away the
5 Westcliff property to Tomika Craig and --

6 A. No.

7 Q. -- wait, let me finish -- and Arthur Rogers? Did
8 you give that property to them?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Did -- did -- did Tomika Craig, or your son,
11 Arthur Rogers, ever tried to persuade you to give that
12 property to them?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Okay. Why wouldn't you give it to them? Is there
15 a reason why you would not?

16 A. Ain't no reason.

17 Q. Okay. All right. Do you -- do you -- do you
18 remember back when this deed issue came up back in January
19 of 2022?

20 A. I remember.

21 Q. You remember some of it?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this way, so it won't be so
24 leading, perhaps. Do you know Mr. Gary Williams, the
25 lawyer?

WAYNE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. I don't know him.

2 Q. You don't?

3 A. I mean, I met him --

4 Q. Where'd you meet him?

5 A. -- but I don't know him. At the -- and then I
6 always walk around on Sunday morning, and his office used to
7 be in that little building. That's how I noticed.

8 THE COURT: Mr. Rogers, can you speak up just a
9 little bit for us?

10 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. You told me that.

11 THE COURT: It's okay. Repeat that last answer
12 concerning Gary Williams.

13 THE WITNESS: I just see his -- his office when I
14 jog around the building up on West Main at church. He'd be
15 in the corner.

16 BY MR. THOMPSON:

17 Q. Okay. Let me see if I got it. You see -- you see
18 him outside of his building --

19 A. No, I don't see him outside his building. I
20 noticed he -- notice his building. It was like a body shop
21 or something.

22 Q. All right. Did Mr. Williams -- has he handled any
23 business for you?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Okay. Have you ever been to his office for any

WAYNE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 reason at all?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Do you know him when you see him?

4 A. No.

5 Q. You don't? Do you remember Tomika Craig and a --
6 and -- and a gentleman and another lady come to your house
7 in January of 2022 --

8 A. No, I don't.

9 Q. -- about this property at Westcliff?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Did anybody come that way to talk to you about it?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Okay. Did -- did you sign a deed, Plaintiff's No.
14 1, where the property in question was transferred Tomika and
15 Arthur?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Let me hand it to you before you answer. I'm
18 handing you Plaintiff's Exhibit 1 and show it to you. Can
19 you see where your name is typed? Where your name is typed
20 by a typewriter?

21 A. I see it.

22 Q. Is there a signature above the typed name?

23 A. Wayne J. Rogers.

24 Q. Okay. Did you -- is that your signature?

25 A. No.

WAYNE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 Q. If -- if you don't have your wife and stepson to
2 help you with your medical issues, who would -- who do you
3 have?

4 A. No one.

5 Q. Okay. When you and your wife had to make
6 decisions concerning matters involving your marriage, did
7 you have discussions or did you just make your decisions on
8 your own?

9 A. I had discussions.

10 Q. Okay. Did you -- did you normally keep your wife,
11 Janice Rogers, informed of what -- of your business affairs?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. Good. Who handles your bank account?

14 A. She do.

15 Q. Your wife?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Anyone else?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Had your son, Arthur Rogers, forged checks on your
20 checking account?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. How many times?

23 A. I don't know.

24 Q. Sir?

25 A. I don't know.

WAYNE ROGERS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 Q. Are you aware of the fact that your son, Arthur
2 Rogers, after being stopped by law enforcement, advised the
3 -- the officer that he was you, impersonating you?

4 MR. JENNINGS: Your Honor, I'm going to object to
5 any crimes more than ten years old in use.

6 MR. THOMPSON: I will withdraw that.

7 THE COURT: He's withdrawing the question.

8 BY MR. THOMPSON:

9 Q. Okay. All right. Did you ever have a meeting in
10 your house with Tomika, Gary Williams, and another lady
11 about signing the Westcliff property over to Tomika?

12 A. No. No.

13 MR. THOMPSON: Okay. Answer any questions --

14 THE COURT: Any cross-examination, Mr. Jennings?

15 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, sir.

16 CROSS-EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. JENNINGS:

18 Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Rogers. Can you hear me from
19 here?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. All right. And how is your memory?

22 A. It's not good.

23 Q. It's not good?

24 A. No.

25 Q. All right. Do you have Alzheimer's disease?

WAYNE ROGERS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. You do. All right. How long have you had it?

3 A. A couple of years. I don't know exactly. Couple
4 of years.

5 Q. Do you take medicine for it?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. You don't know if you were diagnosed before 2022
8 or after 2022?

9 A. I have no dates.

10 Q. Okay. All right.

11 THE COURT: What was his answer? I didn't hear
12 it.

13 MR. JENNINGS: I have no dates.

14 THE COURT: Oh, okay.

15 BY MR. JENNINGS:

16 Q. How long has Jonathan Williams lived in your home?

17 A. Ever since he's probably about seven, I guess.

18 Q. Has he moved out at times?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Is that a yes?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. In 2021, he moved to Sullivan Street;
23 didn't he?

24 A. I have no idea.

25 Q. Do you remember him moving out of your house

WAYNE ROGERS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 around the year 2021, three years ago? You don't know if he
2 did?

3 A. No, I don't know.

4 Q. You don't know?

5 A. Right.

6 Q. Okay. All right. And you said you lived at 449
7 Westcliff Drive for some time; is that right?

8 A. That's right.

9 Q. Do you know how long you lived there?

10 A. I never lived there. I'm fixing it up. It's like
11 everybody come by that property, they want it for some
12 reason.

13 Q. Okay. Now, could you help me understand -- you
14 know who Gary Williams is?

15 A. No, I don't.

16 Q. You don't know who Gary Williams is?

17 A. I do now.

18 Q. All right. Did you used to walk by his office?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. On Sunday mornings?

21 A. Some Sunday mornings, yeah.

22 Q. You would see him through the window?

23 A. I see his office.

24 Q. All right. But have you ever seen Gary Williams?
25 Didn't you just tell us that you have seen him before?

WAYNE ROGERS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 A. I've seen him.

2 Q. You have. Where have you seen him? Do you know?

3 A. I don't know. I mean, I don't go by his office or
4 something right now on dates. I don't -- I really don't
5 know.

6 Q. Have you ever spoken with Gary Williams?

7 A. No.

8 Q. You never said a word to him?

9 A. I don't know him that good.

10 Q. But have you ever spoken to him at all, said
11 hello? Has he ever spoken to you?

12 A. No.

13 Q. No?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Never?

16 A. Can't say never to everything.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. I don't know. I don't know.

19 Q. All right. Now --

20 A. All the time -- time -- time getting shorter.

21 Q. I'm sorry?

22 A. All the time, the time getting shorter, so dates,
23 stuff like that, I don't recall that, really.

24 Q. Okay. So you don't remember January 22nd, 2022?

25 A. Because I wasn't keeping dates, so.

WAYNE ROGERS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 Q. Right. Okay. Now, before this lawsuit started,
2 you had a great relationship with your daughter, Tomika
3 Craig, didn't you?

4 A. It was okay.

5 Q. It was okay? It was a healthy relationship?

6 A. No, it wasn't healthy, it was okay.

7 Q. Well, didn't she visit you and take you on the
8 walks?

9 A. No.

10 Q. She never went on walks with you?

11 A. No. She never brought me a baloney sandwich, man.
12 No.

13 Q. She bought you a baloney sandwich?

14 A. I said she never brought me nothing.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. Never gave me nothing.

17 Q. Did she ever walk with --

18 A. She's my daughter. That's -- that's about it.

19 Q. Did she ever walk with you?

20 A. No.

21 Q. No?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Never been on a walk with Tomika Craig?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Did she ever drive you around?

WAYNE ROGERS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 A. No.

2 Q. Now, did -- you would get in her car occasionally
3 and drive around, right?

4 A. I would drive around?

5 Q. Well, you'd -- she'd drive you around.

6 A. No.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. We live in Laurens. It ain't too much to go. Her
9 house is right behind my house.

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. So we don't walk anywhere.

12 Q. Well, now she would -- she would visit you at your
13 home, right?

14 A. A walk-through is a visit?

15 Q. Wouldn't she walk over from her house to your
16 house and -- and come to see you?

17 A. When they want something.

18 Q. Okay. So she did come to your house. Do you
19 remember when she stopped coming to your house? Was it when
20 you filed this lawsuit?

21 A. (No verbal response.)

22 Q. Did you understand my question?

23 A. I understood it.

24 Q. Did she quit coming to visit you after this
25 lawsuit began?

WAYNE ROGERS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 A. She'd come over to visit -- and the lawsuit, they
2 stopped coming.

3 Q. After the lawsuit, she stopped coming?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Okay. Now, how did you learn that this deed had
6 been signed and recorded? This deed to 449 Westcliff, lot
7 24 of Westcliff?

8 A. They were putting notes on the fence.

9 Q. Who was putting notes on the fence?

10 A. I don't know who because I -- at the time I was
11 working. I don't know who.

12 Q. Where were you working?

13 A. Enoree.

14 Q. Enoree? So while you were working at Enoree, you
15 learned that this deed had been signed giving the property
16 at 449 Westcliff to Tomika and Arthur?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Okay. And after you learned about this deed, do
19 you remember Arthur driving you around and taking you to
20 meet Tomika at Whiteford's Restaurant?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Do you remember asking Tomika and Arthur at
23 Whiteford's Restaurant whether they would give the property
24 at --

25 A. No.

WAYNE ROGERS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 Q. -- 449 Westcliff back to you?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Okay. Now, do you remember considering a divorce
4 from Janice Rogers during your marriage?

5 A. No. Never heard of it.

6 Q. Never heard that? But do you remember it?

7 A. No.

8 Q. At times, you've had a -- a -- at times the
9 marriage has been difficult, hasn't it?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. And I don't want to insult her, but --

12 A. No, you don't insult me.

13 Q. -- is she a bit bossy sometimes?

14 A. No, not her.

15 Q. No, she's not bossy?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Okay. Does she tell you what to do?

18 A. I hope she tells me more, but no.

19 Q. No? How -- how did Janice Rogers, your wife,
20 react when she found out about this deed to 449 Westcliff?

21 A. She was upset.

22 Q. She was --

23 A. She was mad.

24 Q. What did she say, do you remember?

25 A. I don't remember.

WAYNE ROGERS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 Q. Okay. How did you know she was upset and mad?

2 A. We've been married for about 18 years.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. I know when she reacts to something.

5 Q. Okay. Does Janice Rogers get along well with
6 Tomika and Arthur?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Was Janice Rogers angry with you about signing
9 that deed to 449 Westcliff and giving it up?

10 A. No.

11 Q. No?

12 A. I don't sign no deed.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. So she shouldn't get mad.

15 Q. All right. Well, then why did she get mad at you?

16 A. She never got mad at me for signing no deed,
17 though.

18 Q. But wasn't she upset about the property being
19 deeded to 449 Westcliff?

20 A. Yeah, she was upset about that, yeah.

21 Q. Yeah. And what did you tell her?

22 A. I told her don't worry about it.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. It will all blow over, but it never did, it kept
25 coming.

WAYNE ROGERS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 Q. What kept coming?

2 A. Little notes on the fence, Get out of here. The
3 property's of a sale.

4 MR. JENNINGS: Okay. All right. No more
5 questions. Thank you.

6 THE COURT: Any redirect, Mr. Thompson?

7 MR. THOMPSON: No, sir.

8 THE COURT: Okay. You can go back to your seat.
9 Let's take a ten-minute break.

10 (WHEREUPON, A BREAK WAS HELD.)

11 THE COURT: All right. All right. Do you swear
12 or affirm that the testimony you're about to give will be
13 the truth?

14 THE WITNESS: Yes.

15 JANICE ROGERS, after being duly sworn,
16 testified as follows:

17 THE COURT: Okay. Have a seat. Sit close to the
18 microphone. Be sure to speak up loud so we can hear you.

19 MR. THOMPSON: Before we start, I asked you to
20 bring your --

21 THE WITNESS: Oh, that's fine.

22 MR. THOMPSON: -- is it a daily diary, for lack of
23 a better word of ask you about that --

24 THE WITNESS: Can I get it?

25 THE COURT: Yeah, just go -- go, ma'am, just go

JANICE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 back out where you were you can get it, you're fine.

2 Mr. Thompson, come up and let the court reporter
3 check to make sure your lapel mic is turned on.

4 MR. THOMPSON: Okay. It's in my pocket.

5 THE COURT: You may proceed.

6 MR. THOMPSON: Has she been sworn?

7 THE WITNESS: Yes.

8 THE COURT: Yes. I've already sworn her.

9 DIRECT EXAMINATION

10 BY MR. THOMPSON:

11 Q. Give us your full name, please?

12 A. Janice Rogers.

13 Q. And you are the wife of Wayne Rogers?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And you all have been married approximately how
16 many years?

17 A. 31.

18 Q. 31 years?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You have no children between you?

21 A. No.

22 Q. But you do have -- you -- you have children by
23 another man?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And he has --

JANICE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- two children by a lady. All right.

3 108 Hunters Court, is that where you --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- you live?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. And you -- and you've lived there about how long?

8 A. About 31 years.

9 Q. Okay. And --

10 THE COURT: Now, we've been saying 108 Hunters
11 Court, but then I've heard Holland Hill. Not that it really
12 matters that much, but --

13 THE WITNESS: It's Holland Hill.

14 THE COURT: -- the -- the -- is it Holland Hill?

15 THE WITNESS: Holland Hill, yes.

16 MR. THOMPSON: Yeah. Is it Holland Hill?

17 THE WITNESS: Yes.

18 THE COURT: Yeah. You've been saying at times 108
19 Hunters Court.

20 THE WITNESS: It used to be Hunters Court.

21 THE COURT: Holland Hill. That's the address?

22 MR. THOMPSON: We'll call it Holland Hill.

23 THE COURT: There you go. You may proceed.

24 MR. THOMPSON: Okay.

25 BY MR. THOMPSON:

JANICE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 Q. Have you and Mr. Rogers lived at any other address
2 other than the Holland Hill address?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Okay. When you married Mr. Rogers, did your son
5 Jonathan move there with you?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And has Jonathan basically lived in the same house
8 with you and Mr. Rogers --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- from that day up until now?

11 A. Yes. Yes, he has.

12 Q. He -- okay. Now, Mr. Rogers' children, Tomika
13 Craig, and Arthur Rogers. Let's take Tomika Craig to begin
14 with. Has she ever lived on any type of a permanent basis
15 at the Holland Hill address?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Okay. Arthur Rogers, has he lived there on a
18 permanent basis for any period of time?

19 A. He has.

20 Q. Okay. Do you recall the last time he lived there?
21 What year?

22 A. I don't recall the dates.

23 Q. Okay. It's been more than a year ago?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. It's been more than two years ago?

JANICE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. All right. Now, up until recently, you were
3 employed is my understanding.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And what -- when was your last date of employment?

6 A. September 30th.

7 Q. Okay. And what shift did you work?

8 A. First.

9 Q. And your -- your husband, when you married, was
10 working, right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And he was in the textile field, right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Was his last employer Enoree Mills?

15 A. Enoree Mills, yes.

16 Q. Do you recall approximately what year he retired
17 from Enoree Mills?

18 A. 2015.

19 Q. Okay. And was that a voluntary retirement?

20 A. No.

21 Q. What did you understand the reason that he left?

22 A. He had started getting slower.

23 Q. Pardon me?

24 A. He had started working slower.

25 Q. Okay. Since leaving that position, did -- did he

JANICE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 take up any part-time work?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Okay. At some point in time after Mr. Rogers
4 ceased working at Enoree Mills, did he become more dependent
5 on you for his day-to-day needs?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And when did that begin, and -- and what did it
8 progress to?

9 A. He has Parkinson's.

10 Q. Okay. I'm not sure if I know all the symptoms of
11 that.

12 A. He gets slower. He moves slower. He don't get to
13 move around like he usually move around. He talks slower.

14 Q. And how long has this situation been with him,
15 this slow movement, lethargic lifestyle?

16 A. Ever since he's been diagnosed.

17 Q. Pardon me?

18 A. Ever since he's been diagnosed.

19 Q. Okay. Let's just start off a typical day. How is
20 his situation handled in the morning? What -- what do you
21 do for Mr. Rogers?

22 A. I have to help him get up --

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. -- to get started.

25 Q. What else?

JANICE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. Just the usual day-to-day things.

2 Q. Is he able to dress himself?

3 A. Sometimes.

4 Q. Okay. And if you're not going to be there to
5 watch him, what arrangements have you historically made to
6 make sure somebody has been there?

7 A. Yes, my son will be there if I'm gone.

8 Q. Would it be a rare occasion that Mr. Rogers would
9 be have -- be left alone there without some type of
10 supervision?

11 A. Yeah, very rare.

12 Q. Has there been times like that?

13 A. A few times.

14 Q. Okay. Any -- any times in the recent past?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Like, in 2021, was that -- was he left alone?

17 A. No.

18 Q. 2022?

19 A. No.

20 Q. 2023?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Okay. Okay. Who provides Mr. Rogers with
23 transportation?

24 A. I do.

25 Q. Are there other third parties that help with

JANICE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 transporting Mr. Rogers?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Have you called upon Tomika Craig and/or Arthur
4 Rogers to assist with medical help or needs or
5 transportation? Have you asked them to help you with your
6 husband?

7 A. A time or two.

8 Q. Not really?

9 A. Not really.

10 Q. Well, have you asked them, yes or no?

11 A. A time or two, yes.

12 Q. What -- what was their response? Did they help or
13 not?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. They did help? Okay. Okay. And what kind of
16 help would they give?

17 A. Sit with him until I do what I had to do outside
18 the house.

19 Q. When is the last time Mr. Rogers drove a motor
20 vehicle?

21 A. Three or four years.

22 Q. How did Mr. Rogers negotiate around the house
23 there where you live? How does he get about?

24 A. He has a walker.

25 Q. Anything else?

JANICE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. He uses a walker. He has two walkers and a
2 wheelchair.

3 Q. Okay. If -- if Mr. Rogers is there alone, is he
4 capable of getting up to where he's at and letting folks in
5 the house?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Why do you say that?

8 A. He's a fall risk.

9 Q. He's a what?

10 A. A fall risk.

11 Q. I understand he's a fall risk, but what would --
12 other than the fall risk, why can't he do it?

13 A. He would need a walker to get up. A walker.

14 Q. Okay. If he gets his walker, he's able to let the
15 folks in?

16 A. Not all the time.

17 Q. Why?

18 A. He's unable to walk good.

19 Q. Okay. Well, if he's in the house and he has his
20 walker and someone knocks on the door and no one else is
21 there what's to prevent him from getting the walker and
22 opening the door?

23 A. He doesn't do it.

24 Q. He just doesn't do it? How would you say he
25 spends his days? What occupies his time?

JANICE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. He watches TV.

2 Q. Okay. And are you in charge of Mr. Rogers'
3 medication?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Do you keep any log or -- or memorandum in writing
6 --

7 A. Yes, I do.

8 Q. -- of his medications?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. How long have you been doing that?

11 A. Two or three years.

12 Q. Okay. And it -- was that a suggestion of a
13 doctor?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. And does that help you ensure that he gets
16 what he needs to get --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- medication-wise?

19 A. Yes, it does.

20 Q. Do you have that -- that diary or whatever you may
21 call it, you have it with you?

22 A. I do.

23 MR. THOMPSON: Can we substitute the copy we gave
24 you during discovery as opposed to her putting her original
25 in?

JANICE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 THE COURT: Well --

2 MR. THOMPSON: Let's just do it at this point --
3 let me have that, please, we'll just mark -- we'll worry
4 about it later.

5 Let's mark this, the log, we'll mark it as
6 Plaintiff's Exhibit No. 2.

7 MR. JENNINGS: I'm sorry. Is Plaintiff asking
8 that it be admitted?

9 MR. THOMPSON: Yeah.

10 MR. JENNINGS: Or just marked?

11 THE COURT: I think what Mr. Thompson's wanting,
12 so Ms. Rogers could keep her original, put a copy of this
13 notebook diary in.

14 MR. JENNINGS: All right. I'm going to object --

15 THE COURT: Apart from admissibility, if it does
16 come in, are you okay with the copy?

17 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, sir, Your Honor. I'm fine
18 with the copy, but we would object --

19 THE COURT: Yeah.

20 MR. JENNINGS: -- based on hearsay.

21 THE COURT: Okay. Well, I think he's just
22 requesting it to be marked for ID right now, so let's go
23 with the copy.

24 MR. JENNINGS: Okay.

25 THE COURT: And then if he offers it into

JANICE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 evidence, then you can make your objection. Well, we'll go
2 with the copy.

3 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir.

4 THE COURT: That'll be marked for ID, the
5 Plaintiff's 2. Okay.

6 MR. THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you.

7 (WHEREUPON, PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT NO. 2 MARKED FOR
8 IDENTIFICATION.)

9 BY MR. THOMPSON:

10 Q. All right. Ms. Rogers, I'm going to hand you
11 Plaintiff's Exhibit 2 for identification purposes. Tell me
12 what that is.

13 A. It's a copy of the book that I keep.

14 Q. It's a what?

15 A. It's a copy of the book that I keep. It's the
16 medicine book.

17 Q. Who prepared the original?

18 A. I did.

19 Q. And when is it prepared -- how often is -- is it
20 filled in?

21 A. Every day.

22 Q. And when does the -- the exhibit that you have in
23 your hand, when does it begin? What day? What year? What
24 month?

25 A. This particular page starts 1/8/2022.

JANICE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 Q. All right. Is that when you first began keeping
2 these records?

3 A. No.

4 Q. When do you believe you first started keeping
5 these records?

6 A. It's been a -- it's been a year or two before
7 this. I have more copies. I have more books. This is not
8 the first that I started.

9 Q. And so this is the second one you found?

10 A. I'm not sure.

11 Q. It's hard to hear you, you're talking down into
12 the desk.

13 A. Okay. I'm not sure because this is -- this is not
14 the first book that I started.

15 Q. Let me ask you this: This one you're looking at,
16 who prepared that? Who put --

17 A. I did.

18 Q. -- all those entries in there?

19 A. I did.

20 Q. It -- what -- and it covered what period of time?

21 A. This is from 01/08/2022.

22 Q. Till when?

23 A. It goes all the way to 4/11/2022.

24 Q. Okay. Is it in -- primarily in your handwriting?

25 A. Yes, it is.

JANICE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 Q. And what exactly are you putting down on those
2 pages?

3 A. The times he take his medicine and the time I take
4 his blood pressure.

5 Q. Okay. Does it identify the medication he's
6 taking?

7 A. Yes, it does.

8 Q. And then it gives his blood pressure readings --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- upper and lower?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And you put that on January the 8th, I believe you
13 said? The beginning --

14 A. The first page starts January the 8th.

15 Q. Yes. And -- and carries on out until --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- the present?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. All right. And that is your work?

20 A. This is my work, yes.

21 Q. And -- and you recognize it as your handwriting
22 and your work?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. All right. And do you believe that adequately
25 reflects these medication that your husband took on each

JANICE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 day?

2 A. Yes, it does.

3 Q. And to the best of your ability the blood pressure
4 readings that was registered on the blood pressure cuff?

5 A. Yes.

6 MR. THOMPSON: Okay. All right. Well, we would
7 offer this in as Plaintiff's Exhibit No. 2, a diary or a
8 memorandum of the medications Mr. Rogers has received at the
9 hands of his wife from January 8th, 2022 to the present.

10 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Mr. Jennings, any
11 objection?

12 MR. JENNINGS: Your Honor, we would object based
13 on hearsay. And I don't think there's been any -- any
14 indication of -- of relevance or the purpose of this
15 document.

16 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Mr. Thompson, how
17 would these records assist the Court in making a
18 determination concerning the subject deed?

19 MR. THOMPSON: All right. If we would turn to the
20 -- the page --

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 MR. THOMPSON: -- of January --

23 THE COURT: Let's -- before I make a ruling on
24 admissibility, let's -- let's go to the subject page and
25 let's see if you can tie things in.

JANICE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 BY MR. THOMPSON:

2 Q. What -- those pages are Bates numbered,
3 Ms. Rogers, in the right-hand corner. Would you turn to
4 Saturday, January 22, 2022 to the page that reflects the
5 entry for that date?

6 A. Okay. I have it.

7 Q. The page number in the right-hand corner?

8 A. The page number?

9 Q. The number on the bottom right-hand corner.

10 A. 15.

11 Q. What is it?

12 A. 15.

13 MR. THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you. For the Court's
14 information, we provided this -- this diary, for lack of a
15 better word, to opposing counsel in the course of discovery,
16 and Bates numbered every page, so that's where we are now.

17 If you look at the page in question it has, not
18 only the date, but the times certain medications were
19 administered and the times when blood pressure was taken.

20 THE COURT: All right. Let me -- Ms. Rogers, let
21 me take a look at that page, please. Is this -- is this the
22 page?

23 THE WITNESS: Yes.

24 THE COURT: Okay.

25 MR. THOMPSON: Does she have it at the right page?

JANICE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 THE COURT: Yes, she's -- yeah, page 15. So
2 you're re-offering that -- that diary or at least the page
3 the -- in the evidence?

4 MR. THOMPSON: It reflects that Ms. Rogers was
5 present in the home on that particular day at those
6 particular times.

7 THE COURT: I'll allow it in. I think it goes
8 more towards the weight as opposed to the relevancy issue.
9 Since the recordings are made by her I don't see where it's
10 hearsay, so. But I think let's just put that one page in.
11 I don't think I need to necessarily see other pages. So
12 just when we take another break, or whatever, let's just get
13 one page in, okay?

14 (WHEREUPON, PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT NO. 2 WAS ADMITTED
15 INTO EVIDENCE.)

16 MR. THOMPSON: All right, Judge. Thank you.

17 BY MR. THOMPSON:

18 Q. Okay, Ms. Rogers, would you return to the relevant
19 page of Saturday, January 22, 2022? Tell me when you're
20 there.

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. What is the first time entry you placed?

23 A. 7:27 A.M.

24 Q. Okay. And that was for the purpose of what?

25 A. Of his blood pressure.

JANICE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 Q. Okay. You checked his blood pressure. Then after
2 that, you checked it how many different times?

3 A. 13 times after that.

4 Q. Okay. And that covers the period from 7:27 A.M.
5 until 8:09 P.M. that night?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. Is that your handwriting?

8 A. It is.

9 Q. Are those your entries?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. During that time frame, 7:27 until 8:09,
12 did -- were -- you were in the Rogers' home, right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Mr. Rogers was there, right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And did you have any visitors to the home during
17 that time frame?

18 A. I did not.

19 Q. Okay. If you move to the left side of the page,
20 tell me what -- what -- what those -- are those medications?

21 A. Yes, they are.

22 Q. Okay. And the first one was given when?

23 A. At 9:30 A.M.

24 Q. Okay. And then the next one when?

25 A. 6:00 P.M.

JANICE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 Q. And then the last one is given twice?

2 A. The last one?

3 Q. Is it given in the morning and the night?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And the last time it was given was what, 12:30
6 P.M.?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. Up to 12:30 P.M. on January 22, 2022, did
9 you have any visitors to the home?

10 A. No, I did not.

11 Q. Okay. All right. Let me -- we'll -- we'll figure
12 out how to get that page out of there a little bit later.
13 Just hand on to that, please.

14 THE COURT: I would just suggest since the copy is
15 being used, just pull -- just pull that and have that
16 actually marked. The page -- the copy of the page that she
17 has been testifying to, just pull that one page out. And
18 then we'll just have that one marked as Plaintiff's 2.

19 MR. THOMPSON: Let me just have the entire
20 document so -- (inaudible).

21 BY MR. THOMPSON:

22 Q. Have you reviewed the deed in question,
23 Ms. Rogers, from -- reportedly from your husband to his two
24 children? Plaintiff's Exhibit 1, and I hand it to you. Are
25 you familiar with that?

JANICE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. I've seen it.

2 Q. Pardon me?

3 A. I've seen it at the office.

4 Q. All right. When did you first see that document?

5 A. When we first started this, I don't recall the
6 date. It had to be -- it had to be after the 22nd.

7 THE COURT: Ms. Rogers, speak up a little bit,
8 please, ma'am?

9 THE WITNESS: Okay. It had to be after the 22nd.

10 BY MR. THOMPSON:

11 Q. You saw it on January the 22nd?

12 A. It had to be after.

13 Q. Oh, okay. I didn't understand you.

14 Was that -- was that document to your knowledge in
15 your home on January the 22nd, 2022?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Does this document -- does it bear a signature
18 purportedly to be your husband on page 2?

19 A. Repeat the question.

20 Q. Does the deed purportedly reflect a signature of
21 Mr. Rogers?

22 A. It has a signature on here.

23 Q. Okay. Can you make out the names of the witnesses
24 and notary on the deed?

25 A. Roslyn Smith Johnson.

JANICE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 Q. All right. Let's stop right there. Do you know
2 Roslyn Smith Johnson?

3 A. No, I don't.

4 Q. Do you acknowledge that she ever been in your home
5 at Holland Hill?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Okay. What -- is there any other signatures on
8 the document?

9 A. Gary L. Williams.

10 Q. Do you know Mr. Williams?

11 A. I do.

12 Q. Okay. Has he been in your home?

13 A. No.

14 Q. All right. Now, have you ever had an occasion to
15 drive your husband to -- to Mr. Williams' office for any
16 purpose whatsoever?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Do you know of any business your husband might
19 have had with Mr. Williams?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Okay. If Mr. Williams and Ms. Johnson were in
22 your home on January 22nd, 2022, do you believe you would
23 have been aware of that, of their presence?

24 A. I would have, yes.

25 Q. Describe the size of the house.

JANICE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. You first come into the living room. There are
2 three bedrooms, kitchen, and two baths.

3 Q. Do you have to go through the living room to get
4 to the bedrooms?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. Are there any places where somebody can sit
7 at a table for lack of a better way of saying it,
8 Ms. Rogers?

9 A. Kitchen.

10 Q. Any place else?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Okay. Mr. Williams and Ms. Johnson are apparently
13 saying that they were there and saw your husband sign. Are
14 you in agreement with that proposition?

15 A. I didn't see them.

16 Q. Pardon me?

17 A. I did not see them.

18 Q. Well, could they have been there and you didn't
19 see them?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Do you -- were they there or not that day?

22 A. They were not.

23 Q. Okay. Now, the date of January 22nd, 2022, tell
24 me what you did that day to the best of your recollection.

25 A. I was at home all day. We didn't do anything.

JANICE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 Q. You did not leaver your residence?

2 A. I'm sorry. I can't hear you.

3 Q. I'm sorry. I said you did not leave the
4 residence?

5 A. No, I did not.

6 Q. Okay. Do you recall having any visitors?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Okay. Do you remember that date, the 22nd of
9 January, for any particular reason other than just a
10 Saturday in January?

11 A. It was after my nephew's funeral.

12 Q. What's the -- your nephew's name is?

13 A. Tye.

14 Q. Okay. So he was buried on -- on -- on a Friday?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. And then the next day is when the deed was
17 supposedly signed in your home in January.

18 Who maintains the financial records and bank
19 accounts in your home?

20 A. I do.

21 Q. Okay. How are important decisions reached between
22 you and Mr. Rogers concerning let's say marital and property
23 or finances or vacations or whatever. How is that worked
24 out?

25 A. We discuss.

JANICE ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 Q. Okay. What, in your -- in your -- is your opinion
2 of Mr. Rogers' relationship with your sister who lives at
3 Westcliff?

4 A. It's very good.

5 Q. It's favorable?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. In your absence and in the absence of your
8 son, is there anyone that's available -- reasonably
9 available to take care of your husband's day-to-day needs
10 and medical affairs?

11 A. No.

12 Q. How did you find out that this deed, Plaintiff's
13 Exhibit No. 1, had been signed by someone and recorded in
14 the courthouse?

15 A. My sister had been getting letters.

16 Q. Your sister that lives at Westcliff --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- notified you of something, right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And based on what she told you -- don't tell me
21 what she told you, but based on what she told you, who --
22 who did you talk with about what she brought up?

23 A. Repeat the question.

24 Q. Okay. Your sister told you something about the
25 Westcliff property.

JANICE ROGERS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Whatever. Did you have discussions with anybody
3 after that about the Westcliff property and the state of the
4 title?

5 A. My husband.

6 Q. Mr. Wayne?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. Did you -- did you suspect that he had
9 signed the deed over to his daughter --

10 A. No.

11 Q. -- and son?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Was there an argument between you all about him
14 having given that property away?

15 A. No, there was no argument.

16 Q. Okay. Was it after that that you retained legal
17 counsel to look into the matter?

18 A. Yes.

19 MR. THOMPSON: Okay. I don't have any further
20 questions. Please answer any questions Mr. Jennings may
21 have.

22 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Jennings?

23 CROSS-EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. JENNINGS:

25 Q. Thank you, Ms. Rogers. When was the last time

JANICE ROGERS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 your husband Wayne could be alone?

2 A. When was the last time?

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. Explain.

5 Q. Well, as I understand it, you've said that he
6 requires 24-hour care or supervision, right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. When was the last time he did not need 24-hour
9 care and supervision?

10 A. It's been a while.

11 Q. Can you remember?

12 A. I don't recall.

13 Q. Well, was he able to be left alone after his
14 retirement at all?

15 A. No. That's when he started getting sick.

16 Q. And you said in 2015, he retired?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. So for the last nine years he hasn't been able to
19 stay at home alone for -- for any time?

20 A. Right.

21 Q. And not even for ten minutes?

22 A. Maybe ten minutes.

23 Q. Okay. And back in 2015, he could still walk on
24 his own, right?

25 A. Yes.

JANICE ROGERS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 Q. When did he start requiring a wheelchair or a
2 walker?

3 A. Not too long after that.

4 Q. And do you mean -- what -- what would be -- do you
5 think within two years he couldn't walk on his own or?

6 A. Within a year or so.

7 Q. So by 2016 he couldn't walk without assistance of
8 a wheelchair or --

9 A. Right.

10 Q. I'm sorry?

11 A. That's right.

12 Q. Okay. All right. And your husband, Wayne, is
13 67 years old now?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. All right. So since -- so nine years ago, he
16 would have been 58; is that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. But you said occasionally you've left him
19 at home alone. How do you decide when he can be left alone?

20 A. It depends on the day.

21 Q. Okay. And through the years, at times, Tomika
22 Craig has relieved you of your care and supervision of
23 Wayne, your husband, and she's been available to care for
24 him when needed, right?

25 A. Not too many times.

JANICE ROGERS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 Q. Okay. But at times, she has, right?

2 A. A couple of times.

3 Q. Okay. And before this lawsuit began, she was
4 always available if needed, right?

5 A. Not all the time. No.

6 Q. Just -- did she ever tell you no?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. How many times did she tell you no?

9 A. I don't recall.

10 Q. Okay. Now, before this lawsuit, Tomika Craig had
11 a good relationship with -- with your husband, Wayne, right?

12 A. I don't know.

13 Q. You don't know? All right. Now, can you tell us
14 again how you learned that this deed that has a date of
15 January 22, 2022, had been recorded in the Register of Deeds
16 Office? How did you learn about the deed?

17 A. When my sister had started getting letters coming
18 to her house.

19 Q. Your sister?

20 A. Yes, my sister.

21 Q. Go ahead. Go ahead.

22 A. That's the time when we started finding out about
23 all this.

24 Q. What kind of letters did your sister get?

25 A. I'm not sure what's on them, but new management or

JANICE ROGERS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 something to that effect.

2 Q. Okay. So did you look up and discover that this
3 deed had been recorded, or -- or who discovered the deed?

4 A. That's when we -- that's when I -- we went on and
5 got a lawyer.

6 Q. I -- I'm sorry --

7 A. That's when we went out and got a lawyer.

8 Q. Now, but what I mean, but who -- who discovered
9 that there was this deed out there that had been recorded
10 with the Register of Deeds?

11 A. I'm not understanding the question.

12 Q. Okay. Plaintiff's Exhibit 1 is a deed that
13 purports to be from Wayne Rogers to his two children, Tomika
14 and Arthur, it seems to have disappeared.

15 THE COURT: Is it up there with -- on the witness
16 stand?

17 BY MR. JENNINGS:

18 Q. All right. You -- you have a deed that's marked
19 Plaintiff's Exhibit 1.

20 A. Uh-huh.

21 Q. How did you discover that that deed existed?

22 A. It wasn't until we started getting the letters
23 that this came upon. This came upon after we looked at the
24 letters and stuff.

25 Q. But the letters did not include a copy of that

JANICE ROGERS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 deed, did they?

2 A. Well, we went to the lawyer's office.

3 Q. And the lawyer discovered the deed?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. And how did you feel when you discovered
6 that deed had been filed?

7 A. How did I feel?

8 Q. Yeah. Were you upset?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Were you angry? I'm sorry?

11 A. No.

12 Q. All right. Now, your husband Wayne only has two
13 children, right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Who are they?

16 A. Arthur Rogers, Tomika Craig.

17 Q. Okay. And you've had a rocky relationship with
18 your husband -- or -- or marriage with your husband, haven't
19 you?

20 A. I'm sorry?

21 Q. You've had a difficult marriage with your husband,
22 Wayne, haven't you?

23 A. No, I have not.

24 Q. Never?

25 A. No.

JANICE ROGERS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 Q. Well, what about when you almost divorced?

2 A. Almost divorced?

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. What are you talking about? I don't understand.

5 Q. Are you -- you saying that there was never
6 discussion about a divorce with Wayne?

7 A. No.

8 Q. And Wayne never told you that he might want to
9 divorce you?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Do you know if he ever told your son, Jonathan,
12 that he -- there might be a divorce?

13 A. No.

14 Q. And did you tell your son Jonathan that there
15 might be a divorce?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Okay. Did you become upset with your husband,
18 Wayne, when you discovered this deed?

19 A. No, because we didn't know what was going on.

20 Q. Okay. But you told Wayne that he better get that
21 property back into his name and out of the names of Tomika
22 and Arthur, didn't you?

23 A. Did I?

24 Q. Right. Didn't you tell him to fix it, get it
25 back?

JANICE ROGERS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 A. We discussed it.

2 Q. Yeah. Did you tell him to get the property back
3 in his name?

4 A. No.

5 Q. You didn't?

6 A. (No verbal response.)

7 Q. At this point, do you have a lot of control over
8 -- over your husband?

9 A. What do you mean when you say "control"?

10 Q. I mean, you're in charge of his healthcare, right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And he depends on you?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. All right. And without your care he would be at
15 risk, right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. Now, you testified about the signature on
18 that deed that's marked Exhibit -- Plaintiff's Exhibit 1,
19 didn't you?

20 A. That I saw all the signatures on the page.

21 Q. And -- and you are not a handwriting expert, are
22 you?

23 A. No, I am not.

24 Q. Do you know your husband's signature?

25 A. Yes.

JANICE ROGERS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 Q. And did you say that that was not his signature on
2 the deed?

3 A. I said I saw the signatures on the deed.

4 Q. Okay. Did -- do you remember saying that that was
5 not his signature?

6 A. It doesn't look like his.

7 Q. You don't think that's his signature? Is that a
8 yes or no?

9 A. No, I don't think it is.

10 Q. All right. And why not?

11 A. Why I don't think it is?

12 Q. Right.

13 A. He doesn't write like that.

14 Q. How does he write?

15 A. I don't know how am I supposed to describe how he
16 writes.

17 Q. Well, you -- you know what his -- his usual
18 signature looks like?

19 A. Pretty much.

20 Q. How would you describe it? Is it large? Is it
21 loopy? Is it scratchy? How would you describe it in your
22 own words?

23 A. It's small.

24 Q. Small? And signature on that deed, is it pretty
25 small?

JANICE ROGERS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 A. It's small.

2 Q. Okay. Any other ways you could describe his
3 signature?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Okay. And you don't want your sister to get
6 evicted from the house at 449 Westcliff; do you?

7 A. No, I don't.

8 Q. Are you worried that Tomika and Arthur might evict
9 her if -- if they are determined to be the owners of that
10 property?

11 A. Repeat the question.

12 Q. Are you worried that if Arthur and Tomika own the
13 property at 449 Westcliff, that they will evict your sister?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. That would upset you if they evicted her;
16 wouldn't it?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. All right.

19 MR. JENNINGS: One moment.

20 THE COURT: Sure.

21 MR. JENNINGS: No further questions.

22 THE COURT: Any redirect? Okay. You can step
23 down.

24 Okay. Next witness, Mr. Thompson.

25 MR. THOMPSON: We call Arthur Rogers.

ARTHUR ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 THE COURT: Okay. Come around, Mr. Rogers.

2 MR. JENNINGS: And, Your Honor, I would object.
3 He's not listed as a witness and identified as a witness in
4 any of the discovery, and so we did --

5 THE COURT: Since he's a named party, I don't
6 think he would need to be listed as a -- as a witness, so.

7 MR. JENNINGS: All right.

8 THE COURT: You can certainly -- certainly call
9 him. Come around, Mr. Rogers.

10 No, no. We got -- we don't need anybody out
11 there.

12 THE CLERK: Do you solemnly swear or affirm that
13 the testimony you're about to give will be the truth, the
14 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

15 THE WITNESS: Yes.

16 ARTHUR ROGERS, after being duly sworn,
17 testified as follows:

18 DIRECT EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. THOMPSON:

20 Q. Give us your full name, please?

21 A. Arthur Rogers.

22 Q. And you live on Independence Avenue here in
23 Laurens?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Pardon me?

ARTHUR ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. And I believe you work at BMW?

3 A. No.

4 Q. You no longer work there?

5 A. No.

6 Q. You were working there back in June of last year,
7 right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Why aren't you working there?

10 A. Because I'm not working there.

11 Q. What?

12 A. Because I'm not working there.

13 Q. Okay. Did you voluntarily leave?

14 A. Because I'm not working there.

15 Q. All right. Were you discharged or did you leave?

16 A. Because I'm not working there.

17 THE COURT: Answer the question, Mr. Rogers.

18 THE WITNESS: I voluntarily left.

19 MR. THOMPSON: Okay.

20 THE COURT: Thank you.

21 BY MR. THOMPSON:

22 Q. Are you still working at House of Pizza?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. I believe you told me when we took your
25 deposition back in June of 2023 the last time you lived with

ARTHUR ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 your father was back in 2018?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. So you haven't lived there '19, '20, '21, '22,
4 '23. Close to five years since you've lived with your
5 father; is that correct?

6 A. Close.

7 Q. Okay. Now, you have forged your father's name on
8 numerous checks; is that not correct?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. Yes.

12 THE COURT: Okay. Just speak up a little bit.

13 Maybe get a little closer to the microphone, Mr. Rogers, so
14 we can hear you.

15 BY MR. THOMPSON:

16 Q. Approximately how many times did you forge --

17 A. I don't recall.

18 Q. -- your father's name on checks? You don't know.

19 Did you sign your father's name on checks that
20 were on his account, right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And were you prosecuted for that?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Also, you have been stopped in the past for a -- a
25 -- a potential traffic violations, and you advised the --

ARTHUR ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 the -- the officer --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- that you were Arthur Rogers, right?

4 A. (No verbal response.)

5 Q. Pardon me?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. How many times have you done that?

8 A. I don't recall.

9 Q. More than once?

10 A. I don't recall.

11 Q. So it was more than one?

12 A. I don't recall.

13 Q. Okay. Now, you -- you were not present when the
14 Plaintiff's Exhibit 1 was allegedly signed by your father;
15 were you?

16 A. No, I was not.

17 Q. But you were aware before it was signed that it
18 was probably going to be signed, and you had had --

19 A. No, I did not.

20 Q. -- discussions with your father about it?

21 A. No, I did not.

22 Q. You did not? All right.

23 Your attorney answered discovery questions on your
24 behalf concerning that issue. Let me hand you -- why don't
25 we mark this --

ARTHUR ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 THE COURT: Sure, for identification?

2 MR. THOMPSON: Yeah.

3 THE COURT: Sure. It will be No. 3 for ID.

4 (WHEREUPON, PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT NO. 3 WAS MARKED
5 FOR IDENTIFICATION.)

6 MR. THOMPSON: Yeah, it's Defendant's Response to
7 Interrogatories.

8 BY MR. THOMPSON:

9 Q. Mr. Rogers, let me hand you Plaintiff's Exhibit
10 No. 3. I highlighted a response to a question. The
11 question was: Give the names of witnesses and what
12 information they may have about the case. What is your
13 response? I highlighted it in yellow.

14 A. This says that the witness has knowledge related
15 to the circumstances related to the Plaintiff's decision to
16 convey title to the subject real property to the Defendant's
17 relationship and transactions between the Plaintiff and the
18 Defendants and other relevant knowledge.

19 Q. Okay. So this response of yours by the way of
20 your attorney is dated February 9, 2023. So you did have
21 knowledge, prior knowledge, of the transaction concerning
22 the likelihood that property would be conveyed from your
23 father to you and your sister?

24 A. No.

25 Q. No? So is this incorrect that you read?

ARTHUR ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. Apparently. No.

2 Q. Pardon me?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Is it correct?

5 A. It's -- it's incorrect.

6 Q. Incorrect. Okay. Why did you give that type of
7 information if it was incorrect?

8 A. I don't recall giving that information.

9 Q. Okay. You don't recall responding like that?

10 A. I don't recall giving that information.

11 Q. Well, let me just ask you this question: Did you
12 or did you not know about this transaction being put
13 together before it went down?

14 A. No.

15 Q. You did not know?

16 A. No.

17 Q. In this document here, you claim to have known, so
18 is this wrong?

19 MR. JENNINGS: Objection, Your Honor. First of
20 all, it's leading -- leading. It's argumentative. And
21 there's nothing in the discovery response that says he had
22 prior knowledge of this deed planning to be signed.

23 THE COURT: All right. Well, even though
24 Mr. Thompson did not request the Court to declare Mr. Rogers
25 as a hostile witness or adverse witness because he is a

ARTHUR ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 Defendant in the case, I'll -- I'll give Mr. Thompson a
2 little latitude as far as examination.

3 Now, concerning the interrogatories, were they --
4 were they signed by your clients, Mr. Jennings, or just --

5 MR. JENNINGS: No, sir, Your Honor, they were
6 signed by me, and there's no reference to prior knowledge of
7 this.

8 THE COURT: I mean, I take the position that when
9 interrogatories, requests for production, whatever discovery
10 is done and not signed by the client, then really, the
11 client can't be held to what the attorney says as far as
12 responses. So I would just ask that you -- you go on to
13 something else.

14 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Your Honor. The rule
15 requires them to be sworn, the fact that they elected not to
16 do it.

17 THE COURT: Well, yeah. I know what the rule is
18 --

19 MR. THOMPSON: I know they were not signed.

20 THE COURT: -- but since they were not signed and
21 -- I mean, you can ask him questions about his knowledge,
22 but just not in reference to the interrogatories. All
23 right.

24 BY MR. THOMPSON:

25 Q. Do you also recall pleading guilty to the bank

ARTHUR ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 fraud, Mr. Rogers?

2 MR. JENNINGS: Object to any criminal convictions
3 more than ten years old.

4 MR. THOMPSON: Well, there's a caveat to that
5 rule.

6 THE COURT: There is. Just tell me the -- the
7 date of that conviction and let me just read the rule real
8 quick.

9 MR. THOMPSON: 2008.

10 THE COURT: 2008, okay.

11 MR. JENNINGS: And Your Honor, I believe the rule
12 says that any -- any convictions intended to be used have to
13 be provided to opposing counsel prior to trial and -- and --

14 MR. THOMPSON: They were.

15 THE COURT: Sir?

16 MR. THOMPSON: We emailed a notification to
17 opposing counsel --

18 THE COURT: Okay. All right.

19 MR. THOMPSON: -- that we intended to bring up
20 the, even though they were outside the ten-year period where
21 they were released from prison or, but the Court would still
22 have some leeway to allow them anyway based on --

23 THE COURT: No. Let's go back.

24 MR. THOMPSON: -- the facts of this case.

25 THE COURT: Let me just refresh my -- always have

ARTHUR ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 to refresh my -- my understanding of the impeachment rule.

2 MR. JENNINGS: Your Honor, I would just inform the
3 Court, I received an email at 12:03 P.M. today from opposing
4 counsel indicating that they intended to use this -- these
5 prior convictions. That's not sufficient under the rule. I
6 didn't even know they had sent it until I just checked my
7 email.

8 MR. THOMPSON: Oh, may I be heard?

9 THE COURT: Sure.

10 MR. THOMPSON: Opposing counsel is -- was aware of
11 Mr. Rogers' criminal record based on a deposition taken well
12 over a year ago where he admitted to all of these offenses.

13 Number two, we -- we did email our intention to
14 possibly use these, based on the rule, but my understanding
15 it went out yesterday. I realized that's sort of a short
16 fuse, but the -- one of the issues in this case is whether
17 the signature was forged or not. He's a grantee of the
18 alleged or fraudulent document and has a history of forgery
19 and bank fraud and other crimes. It goes to the weight. We
20 don't have to examine him -- (inaudible) -- the indictment's
21 in the record and in the evidence.

22 THE COURT: Well, you know, I guess you could
23 argue either way whether or not giving notice at 12:00 today
24 was sufficient. Advanced written notice -- I mean, it's,
25 you know, me being the fact finder and the judge of the law

ARTHUR ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 there's, you know, we've got some latitude there. I'm going
2 to allow it in. It is a conviction of a -- involving
3 dishonesty and, you know, more than ten years. And I find
4 that more than likely that the probative value does slightly
5 outweigh the unfair prejudice to the Defense. And so I will
6 -- I will allow it in. But it's already been brought out,
7 2008 bank fraud. So can't go any further than that.

8 MR. THOMPSON: Bear with me here, Judge.

9 THE COURT: Sure.

10 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. I'm sorting these out.
11 A couple of them pre-date -- some of them are before 2008,
12 we're not --

13 THE COURT: Okay.

14 MR. THOMPSON: -- offering those.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Very good.

16 MR. THOMPSON: We'll just offer and to put them
17 into the record.

18 THE COURT: Well, you know, again, if you're
19 wanting to offer them, then I need to know what they are and
20 certainly --

21 MR. THOMPSON: Okay.

22 THE COURT: -- allow Mr. Jennings to -- to offer
23 an objection as to any other convictions. All right.

24 BY MR. THOMPSON:

25 Q. All right. Mr. Rogers --

ARTHUR ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 MR. JENNINGS: And -- and Your Honor, again, I --
2 I -- I would object. The only notice provided was at 12:03
3 P.M. today saying that, Plaintiff intends to offer
4 impeachment evidence, conviction of a crime, as to Defendant
5 Arthur Rogers, pursuant to rule 609(b). There's no
6 identification of what convictions or any details other than
7 what I just mentioned.

8 THE COURT: All right. And of course,
9 Mr. Thompson, your argument is that Defense already knows
10 what the prior convictions are through discovery. Let's
11 just go ahead and -- and just cut it off right here and move
12 on to something else. I think that's --

13 MR. THOMPSON: Okay.

14 THE COURT: -- probably going to be for the best.

15 MR. THOMPSON: Let me --

16 THE COURT: Now, if you want to offer them as a
17 Court's Exhibit and they would not be a part of the
18 evidentiary record in this case, certainly I will allow you
19 to do that, if you so like.

20 MR. THOMPSON: I've got so many -- to get through.
21 The one that we -- the one that we dealt with, with
22 Mr. Rogers, let me pull that one. All right. All right.

23 The document, the certified document the Plaintiff
24 submits to the Court and requests that be made part of the
25 record in the indictment for forgery in 2008. The victim is

ARTHUR ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 Wayne Rogers, the plaintiff in this case. That would be the
2 only one.

3 THE COURT: All right. That -- all right. Is
4 that the 2008 bank fraud or is that something different?

5 MR. THOMPSON: It's forgery. The bank fraud is a
6 separate charge and it doesn't list an individual victim.

7 THE COURT: Okay. All right. But this forgery
8 charge is also 2008?

9 MR. THOMPSON: Yes. All right. Let me just
10 double-check it for you because --

11 THE COURT: Yeah.

12 MR. THOMPSON: -- I'm looking at the forgery in
13 '08. And the bank fraud is 2008 as well. Let me look at
14 the language --

15 THE COURT: Now -- now, we've already gotten into
16 evidence that he was prosecuted for forging his dad's
17 checks. Is that what you're referring to now? Is that the
18 same thing?

19 MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

20 THE COURT: Yeah. Well, I think the question was
21 asked of this witness and answered without objection that he
22 had forged his father's checks and was prosecuted. I don't
23 think any -- any other information was asked, but I think
24 that's already in.

25 MR. THOMPSON: All right.

ARTHUR ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 THE COURT: I think that's already in. Okay.

2 MR. THOMPSON: That's in. I was planning to put
3 the indictment in.

4 THE COURT: Okay. Well, as far as what I'm
5 allowing in or some others that I'm not allowing in? What
6 indictments are you referring to, Mr. Thompson?

7 MR. THOMPSON: I was referring to the single
8 indictment of a forgery involving his father's checking
9 account.

10 THE COURT: Right. I think the fact that you
11 already got in --

12 MR. THOMPSON: Okay.

13 THE COURT: -- that he was prosecuted for forging
14 his dad's checks, I think that's sufficient for whatever
15 consideration that I'm going to give that.

16 MR. THOMPSON: All right.

17 THE COURT: I don't think that the indictments
18 necessarily need to come in.

19 MR. THOMPSON: Okay. We can move on.

20 THE COURT: Sure.

21 BY MR. THOMPSON:

22 Q. Now, Mr. Rogers, who -- who handled the
23 preparation of the deed in this case?

24 A. I don't know.

25 Q. You don't know? Did -- did you play any part in

ARTHUR ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 that?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Were you present when --

4 A. No.

5 Q. -- the deed was allegedly signed?

6 A. No.

7 Q. You were not in the Rodgers' home on the day of
8 January the 22nd --

9 A. No.

10 Q. -- 2022?

11 A. No.

12 Q. How did you become aware of the fact that you now
13 are the half-owner of the Westcliff property?

14 A. I was informed through Tomika.

15 THE COURT: Mr. Rogers, can you speak up, please,
16 sir?

17 THE WITNESS: I was informed through Tomika.

18 BY MR. THOMPSON:

19 Q. She told you?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And what did she tell you?

22 A. She sent me copies of the documents.

23 Q. Did -- did she call you?

24 A. She sent me copies of the document.

25 Q. And -- by mail?

ARTHUR ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. Through text.

2 Q. She texted you a copy of the deed?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And did you question her about how all this came
5 about?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Okay. And do you still have that text and that
8 deed?

9 A. The deed, yeah. Text, no.

10 Q. Okay. And but you're telling the Court that you
11 were unaware of the fact that -- that -- that you were going
12 to be the given this real property from your father?

13 A. I was unaware.

14 Q. You were surprised?

15 A. I was unaware.

16 Q. You were unaware? What reason would your father
17 have to turn the property over to you and Tomika and put out
18 his sister-in-law whose wife was caring for him?

19 A. Any explanation I give you would be hearsay.

20 Q. Pardon me?

21 A. Any explanation I give you would be hearsay.

22 Q. Well, give it to me anyway.

23 A. I don't know.

24 Q. You don't know?

25 A. No.

ARTHUR ROGERS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 MR. THOMPSON: Let me look through my notes here.
2 Just a moment. I believe that's all we have, Judge, no
3 further questions.

4 THE COURT: Okay. All right.

5 Mr. Jennings, do you want to reserve examination
6 of your client in your case in chief or do you want to go
7 ahead and -- and do it now? Your call. Either way is fine
8 with me.

9 MR. JENNINGS: For the sake of judicial economy,
10 it may make sense to go ahead and do it now.

11 THE COURT: Okay. Let's -- let me -- let me just
12 see the lawyers for a quick second, and then I need to make
13 a quick phone call.

14 (WHEREUPON, A SIDEBAR BEGAN.)

15 THE COURT: All right. So examine him. You still
16 have Tomika, right? And then you still have Gary and
17 Rosalind, right?

18 MR. THOMPSON: He does, yeah.

19 THE COURT: And then --

20 MR. THOMPSON: Rosalind's here.

21 THE COURT: Huh?

22 MR. JENNINGS: I'm not -- I don't have Rosalind.

23 THE COURT: Okay. You calling Rosalind?

24 MR. THOMPSON: No.

25 THE COURT: Okay. Well, it just appeared on the

ARTHUR ROGERS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 witness list that --

2 MR. THOMPSON: Well, we tried to find her, but my
3 -- my process server couldn't find her.

4 THE COURT: Oh, okay. That's fine. Okay. You
5 think we can finish by 5:00? Because I need to be out of
6 here by 5:00.

7 MR. THOMPSON: Probably would not.

8 THE COURT: Okay. Okay. Well, if -- if we can't
9 finish by 5:00 -- well, I still have this week available, so
10 I'll work around y'all's schedule. The only time that I
11 would not have is Wednesday morning and Friday morning. But
12 other than that, if we have to regroup, then, you know, I'll
13 work around whatever y'all will have available, okay.

14 Okay. All right. Give me five minutes. I just
15 need to call the doctor's office real quick.

16 (WHEREUPON , THE SIDEBAR ENDED AND A BREAK WAS
17 HELD.)

18 THE COURT: Okay. We're back on the record.
19 Mr. Jennings, I think we're in cross-examination of your
20 client.

21 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Your Honor.

22 CROSS-EXAMINATION

23 BY MR. JENNINGS:

24 Q. Mr. Rogers, your father and Janice Rogers have not
25 gotten along very well during their marriage, have they?

ARTHUR ROGERS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 A. Not 100 percent, no.

2 Q. Did they almost divorce a number of years ago?

3 A. He brought it up one time before, yeah.

4 Q. Your father told you that he was going to divorce
5 her?

6 A. Once, yeah, about 20 years ago.

7 Q. Okay. And --

8 THE COURT: Need to speak up, sir, please.

9 BY MR. JENNINGS:

10 Q. And have you helped out with your father's care
11 and driven him around?

12 A. From time to time, not too often, no.

13 Q. Especially not since this lawsuit began?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Okay. Now, you would stop by your father's house
16 at times when Janice was not present, wouldn't you?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you know she wasn't there because her car
19 wasn't there?

20 A. Right.

21 Q. All right. Now, after this deed was filed, do you
22 remember driving your father around and going to Whiteford's
23 Restaurant?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And did you ask Tomika Craig to meet you at

ARTHUR ROGERS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 Whiteford's?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And what did your father tell you and Tomika when
4 you were meeting at Whiteford's?

5 A. I don't know the discussion in full detail, but it
6 -- it was surrounded around the property and returning it
7 over or something.

8 Q. Did your father --

9 A. -- something like that.

10 Q. I'm sorry. Did your father ask you and Tomika to
11 give the property back to him?

12 A. Something to that effect, but I can't give -- I
13 can't say fully.

14 Q. And did your father indicate that Janice Rogers
15 was upset with him about signing the deed?

16 A. He didn't say that she was upset, no. He didn't
17 really even mention her.

18 Q. Okay. All right. Did -- you let Mr. Thompson and
19 the Plaintiff know at your deposition that -- that you
20 didn't know prior to the execution and signing the deed that
21 Tomika and Mr. Williams and your father had planned to do
22 it, right?

23 A. Right.

24 Q. Okay. And have you ever met Gary Williams?

25 A. In the past.

ARTHUR ROGERS REDIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 Q. Okay. When did you meet him?

2 A. Just in passing -- passing. Not -- not an actual
3 meeting.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. But I know who he is.

6 Q. All right. So you think Mr. Williams would know
7 the difference between you and your father in appearance?

8 A. Probably not, not necessarily.

9 Q. Okay. Do -- do you think you look identical to
10 your father?

11 A. Not identical.

12 MR. JENNINGS: Okay. No further questions.

13 THE COURT: Anything in redirect, Mr. Thompson?

14 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

15 BY MR. THOMPSON:

16 Q. Did -- did you sign your father's name to the
17 Plaintiff's Exhibit No. 1, the deed?

18 A. No.

19 Q. You did not? You didn't have any problem signing
20 his name in the checks in the past, have you?

21 MR. JENNINGS: Your Honor, this -- this is well
22 beyond the scope of cross, and I object to --

23 THE COURT: I believe so. I will sustain the
24 objection.

25 BY MR. THOMPSON:

ARTHUR ROGERS RECROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 Q. All right. What reason would you give for not
2 signing your father's name to the deed?

3 A. I wasn't there.

4 Q. Okay. You didn't have to be there.

5 Why wouldn't you sign his name?

6 A. Why wouldn't I?

7 Q. Yeah.

8 MR. JENNINGS: Your Honor, same objection.

9 THE COURT: I'll allow -- I'll allow that and
10 overrule. Answer the question, please, Mr. Rogers.

11 THE WITNESS: Because it's not the noble thing to
12 do. It's not me.

13 MR. THOMPSON: All right. Thank you, Mr. Rogers.

14 THE COURT: Anything on --

15 MR. THOMPSON: No further questions.

16 THE COURT: Oh, you're not -- are you finished?

17 MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

18 THE COURT: Oh, okay. All right.

19 Anything in follow-up?

20 RECROSS-EXAMINATION

21 BY MR. JENNINGS:

22 Q. Mr. Rogers, you didn't sign the deed that's been
23 admitted as Plaintiff's Exhibit 1, did you?

24 A. No, I did not.

25 Q. And you didn't even know about it being signed

ARTHUR ROGERS RECROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 until you received a copy of it; did you?

2 A. Correct.

3 MR. JENNINGS: No further questions.

4 THE COURT: Okay. You can step down, sir. Thank
5 you. Okay. All right, Mr. Thompson, next witness.

6 MR. THOMPSON: I think we'll call -- we call
7 Ms. Gary Williams. No, Annette Williams. Excuse me,
8 Annette Williams.

9 THE COURT: Oh, Annette Williams. I thought you
10 said Gary Williams.

11 MR. THOMPSON: Annette Williams.

12 THE COURT: Yeah.

13 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes, sir.

14 THE COURT: That's fine. That's good.

15 MR. THOMPSON: I -- I -- I -- may have said Gary.
16 I -- but I didn't mean to.

17 THE COURT: I thought I heard Gary, somebody say
18 Gary, but that's fine. Come around, Annette Williams.

19 MR. THOMPSON: Just go around by her. Place your
20 left hand right and your right hand over here, left hand,
21 right hand.

22 ANNETTE WILLIAMS, after being duly
23 sworn, testified as follows:

24 THE COURT: Just sit close to the microphone and
25 speak up loud, please, ma'am.

ANNETTE WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 THE WITNESS: Okay.

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 DIRECT EXAMINATION

4 BY MR. THOMPSON:

5 Q. All right. Give us your full name, please.

6 A. Annette Williams.

7 Q. And do you live on the Westcliff property?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Okay. And who provided that property for you?

10 A. Wayne Rogers.

11 Q. Okay. And are you employed?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Who with?

14 A. I work at Learning District 55 High School.

15 Q. Okay. What do you do?

16 A. A custodian.

17 Q. Oh, okay. All right. Good. Do you pay rent out
18 there for Westcliff, or do any type of -- any kind?

19 A. I pay the bills, the power bill, water bill, and
20 stuff like that.

21 Q. Okay. So you pay the utility bills?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. And they allow you to stay there?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. Was it -- was it the original idea to provide a

ANNETTE WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 place for you and your mom to live in? Was that the
2 original plan?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. Mr. -- or no, you don't know --

5 MR. JENNINGS: Objection to what Mr. Rogers
6 intended.

7 THE COURT: Right. Right. Sustained.

8 BY MR. THOMPSON:

9 Q. Who initially -- when did you move there, to
10 Westcliff?

11 A. It's been a while.

12 Q. Who moved with -- there with you?

13 A. My mother.

14 Q. Okay. And she passed away?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. And you continued to live there?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Was there any type of interruption in your stay
19 there from Tomika Craig that caused you concern and consult
20 with your sister?

21 A. I got a letter from her.

22 Q. From who?

23 A. Tomika.

24 Q. And basically, what was the gist of it?

25 A. She owned the property.

ANNETTE WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. THOMPSON

1 Q. I see. And she wants you to leave?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. Okay. Did that concern you?

4 A. I told my sister about it.

5 Q. Okay. What is your relationship with Wayne
6 Rogers, your brother-in-law?

7 A. My brother-in-law.

8 Q. Is it good or bad?

9 A. Good.

10 Q. Okay. Would there be any reason for him to want
11 to put you off that property?

12 A. No, sir.

13 Q. Okay. Have you had any arguments --

14 A. No, sir.

15 Q. -- for this deed taken over the property?

16 A. No, sir.

17 Q. Okay. Do you -- have you observed your sister's
18 marital life and environment with Mr. Wayne Rogers over the
19 years?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Is it a perfect situation?

22 A. It's good.

23 Q. Okay. They had a spot -- they had a dispute from
24 time to time?

25 A. I guess, I don't know. They didn't have them when

ANNETTE WILLIAMS CROSS BY MR. JENNINGS

1 I was there.

2 Q. Did you detect any marital discord that they were
3 going to separate or divorce?

4 A. No, sir.

5 Q. Okay. How often do you see them?

6 A. I saw them every week.

7 Q. Okay. All right. And did you see any evidence
8 that the marriage was about to fall -- break up?

9 A. No, sir.

10 Q. Okay. All right. All right. And if -- if -- if
11 -- if -- if -- if the property is left in the name of Tomika
12 and Arthur, then you're going to have to move, right?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Is that going to cause a hardship on you?

15 A. Yes, sir. My mother used to stay there.

16 Q. I understand. All right. But can you think of
17 any reason in the world why Wayne Rogers wouldn't want to
18 put you off the property?

19 A. No, sir.

20 MR. THOMPSON: All right. Thank you. Answer any
21 questions Mr. Jennings may have.

22 THE COURT: Mr. Jennings.

23 CROSS-EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. JENNINGS:

25 Q. Ms. Williams, you don't know who signed the deed

1 to the property at 449 Westcliff; do you?

2 A. No, sir.

3 MR. JENNINGS: All right. No further questions.

4 THE COURT: Okay. You can step down, ma'am.

5 MR. THOMPSON: Just have a seat in the courtroom.

6 THE COURT: You -- you can remain in the courtroom
7 if you like or you're free to leave.

8 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.

9 THE COURT: If Mr. Thompson wants you to stay,
10 then you might need to stay.

11 MR. THOMPSON: Why don't you stay till we see
12 where we're at here just a second?

13 The Plaintiff rests. That's our last witness.

14 THE COURT: Okay. She is your last witness?

15 MR. THOMPSON: Yes. She is.

16 THE COURT: Okay. All right. The Plaintiff
17 rests.

18 All right. Mr. Jennings?

19 MR. JENNINGS: Your Honor, I'd move for a directed
20 verdict in a light most favorable to the Plaintiff. The
21 Plaintiffs -- Plaintiff has failed to show by clear and
22 convincing evidence that the subject deed which has been
23 admitted into evidence and shown to be recorded in the
24 Register of Deeds Office, that it should be set aside where
25 a deed is valid and regular on its face. It is presumed to

1 be valid in all respects. And to overcome that presumption,
2 the Plaintiff must present clear and convincing evidence
3 otherwise. And so we would move for a directed verdict.

4 THE COURT: Okay. Well, since this is a non-jury
5 bench trial, I want to hear the whole -- both sides, so I
6 will respectfully deny your motion. Okay.

7 You may call you first witness.

8 MR. JENNINGS: Your Honor, the Defendants called
9 Gary Williams.

10 THE COURT: Okay. Now, Gary Williams.

11 GARY WILLIAMS, after being duly sworn,
12 testified as follows:

13 MR. WILLIAMS: Judge, may I say something at the
14 initiation without questions?

15 THE COURT: Sure.

16 MR. WILLIAMS: Before the question begin. I was
17 sitting in sequestration as a witness, and a man came out of
18 the courtroom and I felt intimidated by him. He said --

19 THE COURT: By who?

20 MR. WILLIAMS: It was a man that was sitting on
21 this side of the courtroom in a blue shirt.

22 THE COURT: Okay.

23 MR. WILLIAMS: And he had gone in the smaller
24 witness room and spoken with the last witness that you just
25 -- I think her name is a Ms. Williams.

1 THE COURT: Okay.

2 MR. WILLIAMS: He had spoken -- he had gone in
3 there twice, and I had heard my name coming out of that
4 smaller witness room.

5 THE COURT: Okay.

6 MR. WILLIAMS: But before -- the second time
7 before he went into that witness room, he had come over to
8 me indicating that my job is on the line --

9 THE COURT: Okay.

10 MR. WILLIAMS: -- and that I know I didn't go over
11 there.

12 THE COURT: Okay.

13 MR. WILLIAMS: And I felt as if he was trying to
14 intimidate me.

15 THE COURT: Okay. All right. And I can --

16 MR. WILLIAMS: But he's no longer in the
17 courtroom.

18 THE COURT: Right. I -- I have to assume, and
19 lawyers, correct me if I'm wrong, I think Mr. Williams would
20 be referring to Jonathan Williams, who was the first witness
21 and stepson of Wayne Rogers; would that be correct?

22 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Okay. You can certainly identify him.
24 Is -- is Mr. Williams still around or has he left the
25 courthouse, Mr. Thompson? Or would you know?

1 MR. THOMPSON: May it please the Court? I thought
2 he was in the courtroom. I never -- I --

3 THE COURT: He was for a period of time after his
4 testimony.

5 MR. THOMPSON: I thought I made it clear to my
6 people --

7 THE COURT: Yeah.

8 MR. THOMPSON: -- that there would be contact with
9 the --

10 THE COURT: Yeah.

11 MR. THOMPSON: -- sequestered witnesses or anybody
12 else.

13 THE COURT: Well -- right.

14 MR. THOMPSON: I never dreamed about it.

15 THE COURT: Sure.

16 MR. THOMPSON: Somebody --

17 THE COURT: Right.

18 MR. THOMPSON: -- for lack of a better word,
19 threatening.

20 THE COURT: Right. And I'm -- well, I'm -- I'm
21 sure you would not have any prior knowledge of this. I'm
22 not real concerned about potential violation of the
23 sequestration order. What I'm more concerned about is a --
24 a possible intimidation of a witness. And probably I'll
25 have to deal with that. Let's go ahead and take

GARY WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. JENNINGS

1 Mr. Williams' testimony and then maybe take a break.

2 And, Mike, would you go out and just see if
3 Jonathan Williams is still present, if so, he needs to stay
4 here, not necessarily in the courtroom, per se, but he needs
5 to -- he needs to be around, okay?

6 Okay. Joe, if you go out with Mike, please.

7 THE BAILIFF: Yeah. You just want him to hang
8 around?

9 THE COURT: Yeah. And -- yeah. Okay. But let's
10 go ahead and take -- Mr. Williams, take your testimony,
11 please, sir, and just get up close to the microphone. You
12 know what to do.

13 DIRECT EXAMINATION

14 BY MR. JENNINGS:

15 Q. All right. Mr. Williams, you're Gary L. Williams?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And are you an attorney in Laurens, South
18 Carolina?

19 A. I am.

20 Q. How long have you been practicing law?

21 A. About 34 years, too long.

22 Q. And you have experience with the preparation of
23 deeds and real estate transactions?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. All right. Now, did Tomika Craig, around January

GARY WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. JENNINGS

1 2022, ask you to prepare a deed from her father, Wayne
2 Rogers, to Tomika Craig, and Arthur Rogers?

3 A. Yes. I think it -- it began around the end of
4 December, around Christmas time --

5 Q. Right.

6 A. -- when she initiated it, yes.

7 Q. Did you travel to the home of Wayne Rogers on
8 January 22nd, 2022?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And did anyone accompany you on that trip?

11 A. Rosalind Johnson.

12 Q. Rosalind Johnson? And do you remember was that in
13 the morning or afternoon of January 22nd?

14 A. I recall it was a Saturday. I had gone to the
15 post office initially and I think it was between 11:00 and
16 1:00 when we went over to that home.

17 Q. All right. And did you meet with Mr. Rogers on
18 that day?

19 A. I did.

20 Q. And could you tell the Court who was present on
21 January 22nd at Mr. Rogers' home?

22 A. So we arrived there and he was sitting in the
23 front room eating. I think he was in a lazy boy chair right
24 in the front of the TV with a card table eating when we
25 first arrived. And I want to say that Tomika Craig came a

GARY WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. JENNINGS

1 little bit later than when we arrived.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. And then I want to say there was a little child in
4 the kitchen. I don't know whether she may have come with
5 Tomika Craig or not.

6 Q. All right. Have you ever been to the home of
7 Mr. Rogers before or since that day?

8 A. No.

9 Q. All right. And do you know where his home is
10 located?

11 A. Yes. I've actually done deeds for almost all of
12 that street, a couple of houses on that street. And -- but
13 as -- it's about the third house on the right of Holland
14 Hill --

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. -- as you turn off of East Hampton, off of North
17 -- South or North Harper, I think that's South Harper, I
18 think.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Maybe North Harper, but anyway.

21 Q. Did you show Mr. Rogers the deed that is marked as
22 Plaintiff's Exhibit 1? Let me show that to you.

23 THE COURT: Keeps getting gone, doesn't it? It's
24 disappearing. Is there a deed up on the witness stand here?

25 MR. THOMPSON: Yeah. Sorry.

GARY WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. JENNINGS

1 THE COURT: Okay. All right. We found the
2 culprit.

3 BY MR. JENNINGS:

4 Q. All right. Let me show you the deed marked as
5 Plaintiff's Exhibit 1. Do you recognize that deed?

6 A. That's the deed I created.

7 Q. All right. You prepared that deed?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And is that the deed that you took to the home of
10 Mr. Rogers on January 22nd?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And on the second page of that deed, do you see
13 two witnesses?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Whose signatures are those two witnesses?

16 A. Rosalind Smith Johnson and myself.

17 Q. And there is an acknowledgment form below the
18 witness's section. Can you tell me if that is your
19 signature as a notary public?

20 A. It is.

21 Q. All right. And the date on there is January 22nd,
22 2022?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And did you record -- well, did you witness
25 Mr. Wayne Rogers sign that deed?

GARY WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. JENNINGS

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Do you recognize Mr. Wayne Rogers in the courtroom
3 today?

4 A. He has -- I -- I recognize the man, but at the
5 time of him signing the deed, I believe he had on -- he
6 wasn't as well-shaved as he is today. And I think he had a
7 baseball cap on --

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. -- from my recollection.

10 Q. All right. And you confirmed his identity?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And do you see Mr. Arthur Rogers seated to the
13 left or to the right of my client, Tomika Craig?

14 A. I've never met Arthur Rogers.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. He's never made contact with me --

17 Q. Are you certain --

18 A. -- that I can recall.

19 Q. Sorry. Are you certain that the person who signed
20 that deed was not Arthur Rogers?

21 A. Oh, I'm certain because I've never met that man
22 that's seated to the right of Tomika Craig.

23 Q. Would you risk your law license by fraudulently
24 attesting to the signature of someone who didn't actually
25 sign a deed?

GARY WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. JENNINGS

1 A. No. No. I -- I actually remember this because I
2 discussed with Mr. Rogers that he thought that he had two
3 lots, and there was one lot. When I went to look at the
4 record, he thought that he had gotten two lots. And I told
5 him the other lot apparently was owned by a -- some
6 Lattimore's. And we kind of discussed that. And -- and so
7 he -- we went ahead with the lot that I saw was in his name,
8 and that's how that kind of started.

9 Q. And that was Lot 24 Westcliff Estates, I believe?

10 A. 24, yes. I think 25 was in a Lattimore.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. But he thought that when he purchased it from, I
13 think, a Bank of New York, that he had gotten two lots.

14 Q. Right.

15 A. I think.

16 Q. I understand. And the deed that you prepared was
17 in compliance or conformed to the form shown in South
18 Carolina Code Section 27-7-10 in that it recites the
19 language that is approved by our legislature for the
20 conveyance of an interest in real property?

21 A. I believe so.

22 Q. Okay. And you did record the deed you said,
23 right?

24 A. Yes. There was some delay. It seems like he
25 wanted to kind of -- they wanted to see about that other lot

GARY WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. JENNINGS

1 before. And I think I was waiting on my money. I think the
2 deed was kind of recorded a couple of -- maybe a week or two
3 later, something like that. I can't remember. It wasn't
4 immediate.

5 Q. And to record the deed you needed two witnesses
6 and the acknowledgment section, right?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Compliance with section 30-5-30 of the South
9 Carolina Code?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. All right. In the document shown -- and I -- I
12 may have already asked you this, and I apologize. The
13 document shown as Plaintiff's Exhibit 1 is a -- a true and
14 accurate copy of the deed signed by Mr. Rogers and recorded
15 by you?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. All right. And did Ms. Tomika Craig pay you for
18 your services?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. \$265?

21 A. I believe it's 265 or 275.

22 Q. All right.

23 A. Actually, I think it was 265 because it was 250 to
24 -- to prepare it and 15 to record it. I think that's how it
25 is.

GARY WILLIAMS DIRECT BY MR. JENNINGS

1 Q. Okay. All right. And I'd like to just show you a
2 paid receipt and see if you can confirm that this was used
3 to pay you. I had it.

4 A. Yes. I think she -- she gave me a check, I think.

5 Q. Okay. All right.

6 A. But I gave her a receipt, yes.

7 Q. And that's your signature on the receipt?

8 A. It is.

9 MR. JENNINGS: All right. I would ask that that
10 receipt be marked as Defendant's Exhibit 1 --

11 THE COURT: Okay.

12 MR. JENNINGS: -- and ask that it be entered into
13 evidence.

14 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Thompson, any objection?

15 MR. THOMPSON: No, sir. I already have a copy of
16 it.

17 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Defense 1 into
18 evidence.

19 (WHEREUPON, DEFENSE EXHIBIT NO. 1 WAS ADMITTED
20 INTO EVIDENCE)

21 BY MR. JENNINGS:

22 Q. Did Mr. Wayne Rogers confirm with you that he was
23 desirous of transferring the property at 449 Westcliff
24 Drive, also known as Lot 24 Westcliff Estates to his son and
25 to his daughter?

GARY WILLIAMS CROSS BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. That's correct.

2 MR. JENNINGS: No further questions.

3 THE COURT: Mr. Thompson, any cross-examination.

4 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir.

5 CROSS-EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. THOMPSON:

7 Q. Mr. Williams, did -- did you go to the courthouse
8 to get the deed into Mr. Rogers in order to prepare the deed
9 in question, or did someone bring it to you?

10 A. I -- I went. I went.

11 Q. You came and got it?

12 A. Uh-huh.

13 Q. Okay. All right. Now, when you got to the Rogers
14 home, did you secure any identification for Mr. Rogers?

15 A. Well, when we entered, my recollection -- it's
16 been two years, but he and Ms. Johnson kind of knew each
17 other from -- from the days of -- of Jersey community.

18 Q. Yeah.

19 A. And I -- from my recollection, they talked about,
20 you know, just growing up in Jersey. And --

21 Q. All right. So there was --

22 A. -- Ms. Craig came later and...

23 Q. All right. So based on a conversation between
24 Ms. Johnson and Mr. Rogers, you concluded that he was the
25 Mr. Rogers in question?

GARY WILLIAMS CROSS BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. Well, he -- he discussed the issue associated with
2 that other lot --

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. -- that -- that he thought that he had purchased.

5 Q. Well, I see where you when you did your deed, you
6 made a change in the deed from the Bank of New York and you
7 put "Portion" down.

8 A. Right.

9 Q. So I'm confident that you checked the title
10 because, you're right, the bank thought it was conveying --
11 we're getting off subject here -- but the bank thought it
12 was conveying two lots, but it only had one lot, it didn't
13 foreclose on both lots.

14 A. Right. I think the Lattimore's had -- had done a
15 mortgage where -- where they only mortgaged one of the lots.
16 And they -- I think they lost that lot, but they didn't lose
17 the other lot.

18 Q. Right. I'm satisfied back on what you told me and
19 what I know about the record is that you did go to the
20 record and look, but you didn't get the driver's license,
21 but I understand what you're telling me.

22 Now, was Mr. Rogers able to move around in the
23 house walking with --

24 A. No, he -- he never got up out -- out of that seat.

25 Q. Okay. And -- and --

GARY WILLIAMS CROSS BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. But he was eating when --

2 Q. And then was -- do you know Janice Rogers, his
3 wife?

4 A. I saw her -- I think we went to school together.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. But I -- I didn't know that was Janice Rogers. I
7 know her as Janice Williams.

8 Q. Okay. That's right. All right. Now, where was
9 she, Janice Williams Rogers? Was she in the house with her
10 husband when you got the deed signed?

11 A. Not that I know of, no.

12 Q. Who --

13 A. I don't think so because --

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. -- I only peered in the living room, in the first
16 room --

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. -- when you enter the door.

19 Q. You saw -- you didn't see her in the -- in the
20 place?

21 A. No, sir.

22 Q. She could have been there, but you didn't see her?

23 A. I didn't see her.

24 Q. Now, who -- who let you in, and who opened the
25 door to let you in the building -- in the premises?

GARY WILLIAMS CROSS BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. I -- you know, it's been two years. If -- you
2 know, I did -- I've done deeds all along that street.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. Now, I think there was a child there.

5 Q. A child?

6 A. I think so, but --

7 Q. Can you estimate the age of the child, the size of
8 the child?

9 A. About -- probably about, maybe, 10.

10 Q. Pardon me?

11 A. Maybe 10.

12 Q. Okay. Not a -- not a 16 or 17-year-old?

13 A. No.

14 Q. A -- a -- a younger person?

15 A. But that child may have been present when I did a
16 deed up the street.

17 Q. All right.

18 A. I may -- I may be getting the houses kind of --

19 Q. Okay. Now, Tomika Craig arrived after you were
20 already there?

21 A. She may have been there. I -- it's been -- I -- I
22 don't know of the real detail on that. She may have been
23 there when I -- when I -- when we arrived, but I don't think
24 -- I think she arrived right after we did, I think.

25 Q. How familiar, and based on your recollection, was

GARY WILLIAMS CROSS BY MR. THOMPSON

1 Mr. Rogers with the nature of your business that day, the
2 transaction? What -- what -- what did he seem to know about
3 it in advance, if anything?

4 A. Well, apparently, they did discuss about these two
5 lots that -- that -- because he was involved in talking
6 about -- he -- he felt that there were two lots. And I had
7 spoken to Tomika late December about those two lots that --
8 that were there, but only one lot was in the dad's name.
9 And apparently they had had some discussion about it because
10 when I brought it up he was ready to talk about it.

11 Q. Okay. So he was ready, eager, and --

12 A. It seemed like he was --

13 Q. -- able to sign the deed and was there any
14 reluctance on his part --

15 A. No.

16 Q. -- to sign the deed?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Okay. And then you took the deed and had it later
19 recorded based on a -- waiting on a fee to be paid?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. Okay. And did you give Tomika Craig that receipt,
22 or did someone in your office give her that?

23 A. No, I gave it to her.

24 Q. Okay. All right. And so in the absence of
25 somebody being in another room in the house, you told us who

GARY WILLIAMS CROSS BY MR. THOMPSON

1 all was there.

2 A. See, I recall Tomika being -- coming over. And
3 when we executed the deed, I think my recollection is that I
4 asked her to proceed, and I think she went into the kitchen.

5 Q. Yeah.

6 A. And I want to say with that little child, but.

7 Q. You may have answered this on direct but
8 (inaudible 2:45:38). Had you had prior visits with Mr.
9 Johnson -- Mr. Rogers other than this one transaction?

10 A. No, not that I can recall.

11 Q. This is all I want to ask.

12 MR. THOMPSON: May I talk to my client just one
13 second?

14 THE COURT: Sure. Yes, by all means.

15 BY MR. THOMPSON:

16 Q. Your estimated time of arrival and -- and
17 departure is -- it is not pinpointed, I think. It's a broad
18 -- kind of broad answer based on the fact that several years
19 have gone by --

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. -- you were there in the afternoon. Is that what
22 you're telling me?

23 A. Yes, sir. It -- it was around -- it was around
24 noon, maybe a little --

25 Q. Okay.

GARY WILLIAMS REDIRECT BY MR. JENNINGS

1 A. -- later.

2 MR. THOMPSON: Okay. I don't -- I don't have any
3 further questions. Thank you.

4 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Jennings?

5 MR. JENNINGS: One second.

6 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

7 BY MR. JENNINGS:

8 Q. One last question, Mr. Williams. You've already
9 confirmed that Mr. Wayne Rogers signed that deed, right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You -- you -- you have no question about that?

12 A. I have no question that he signed that deed.

13 MR. JENNINGS: No further questions.

14 THE COURT: Okay. Anything follow-up?

15 MR. THOMPSON: No, nothing else.

16 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Concerning the
17 matter that Mr. Williams, Gary Williams, brought to the
18 Court's attention concerning Jonathan Williams, he was here,
19 but now it's my understanding that he has left.

20 MR. THOMPSON: No, I have him here.

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 MR. THOMPSON: Bring him in?

23 THE COURT: Yes. I -- I was just told that he had
24 gone. Yeah. Yeah. Have him brought in. No, I'm just
25 going to -- All right.

1 Mr. Williams, just kind of stand right in that
2 opening there. No. No. Come on up. You can just kind of
3 stand in that opening. And Mr. Gary Williams, before he
4 started his testimony, relayed some information concerning
5 what you -- what he claims you did before he testified. And
6 I want you to hear it directly from -- from Gary Williams.

7 So Mr. Gary Williams, would you relay again what
8 you told the Court about Jonathan Williams prior to your
9 testimony?

10 MR. GARY WILLIAMS: I was sitting directly in
11 front of the courtroom, and I -- he came upon me and I told
12 him I was a sequestered witness, that I don't need to be
13 talking to anyone. And he -- he -- he said that, You know
14 you didn't come over to my -- my dad's house. Your job's on
15 the line. You know you didn't come over to my dad's house.
16 And he kept getting closer and closer. And I kept telling
17 him, I'm a witness. I can't talk to you.

18 THE COURT: Okay.

19 MR. GARY WILLIAMS: And -- and I saw him going
20 into the smaller witness room and speaking to the lady that
21 was in there. He went in that one time, and then I think he
22 came back into the courtroom. He came out and went back in
23 there.

24 THE COURT: Okay.

25 MR. GARY WILLIAMS: Because I was going to bring

1 up the initial contact he had with that witness when I
2 arrived here in the courtroom. And then when he came back,
3 said what he said to me and then went back to that witness
4 in that little smaller court -- witness room, I said I was
5 going to bring it up to the Court's attention as an officer
6 of the court.

7 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Thank you,
8 Mr. Williams. Jonathan Williams, you're still under oath.
9 What about what Attorney Williams has just told me?

10 MR. JONATHAN WILLIAMS: I did not get close to
11 Mr. Williams. I simply just said he -- I said, You know,
12 you didn't come to my house. I was just -- I didn't know
13 anything about not talking to him. I didn't know the rules
14 about that. But I said -- he just was looking at me like --
15 I'm like, You know you didn't come to my house man. But I
16 did not get close to him. And I walked off and said nothing
17 else more.

18 THE COURT: Okay. What about, Your job is on the
19 line?

20 MR. JONATHAN WILLIAMS: I don't -- I don't -- how
21 did you get that?

22 MR. GARY WILLIAMS: You said it.

23 THE COURT: I mean, that's -- that sounds pretty
24 intimidating to me.

25 MR. JONATHAN WILLIAMS: No. There was no

1 threatening words towards him at all. No, sir.

2 THE COURT: Well, do you admit that you said, Your
3 job is on the line?

4 MR. JONATHAN WILLIAMS: No. I did not say nothing
5 like that. I said, You've got a better job than that
6 deserve.

7 THE COURT: Okay.

8 MR. JONATHAN WILLIAMS: And then didn't do that.
9 You know --

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 MR. JONATHAN WILLIAMS: It was no threat, man. I
12 just walked up all on him, all that. Just -- I just -- I'm
13 upset, man, that's it. That's all it is. Just I'm upset,
14 that's it.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Well, I can -- I can tell you
16 this, Mr. Williams, this matter may not be over with, okay,
17 you understand that?

18 MR. JONATHAN WILLIAMS: Yes, sir.

19 THE COURT: So I will -- I will decide how I want
20 to handle it and you'll be informed, okay?

21 MR. JONATHAN WILLIAMS: All right.

22 THE COURT: All right. Okay. Let me just see the
23 lawyers for just a second. Gary, you can step down. If you
24 want to just hang around here for a minute, that's fine.

25 (WHEREUPON, A SIDEBAR BEGAN.)

1 THE COURT: You got one more witness, Tomika?
2 Yeah. I hate to make you come back from Greenville. You
3 live -- you work in Granville; don't you?

4 MR. JENNINGS: Greenville.

5 THE COURT: Yeah.

6 MR. JENNINGS: That's all right.

7 MR. THOMPSON: (Inaudible).

8 THE COURT: Yeah. Well, I mean, I won't -- I
9 don't want to rush you.

10 MR. THOMPSON: Yeah.

11 THE COURT: But I really need to get out of here
12 by 5:00. But I don't certainly want to -- don't impose on
13 you to have to make a special trip back down here. But I
14 would imagine, unless -- unless Tom's willing to stipulate
15 what he anticipates she's saying, then probably need to --

16 MR. THOMPSON: Well, she can testify, I assume,
17 that was over there and her dad was signing the deed.

18 MR. JENNINGS: That's part of it.

19 MR. THOMPSON: But not this court and this
20 witness. (Inaudible).

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 MR. THOMPSON: She's put down as a character
23 witness, but I mean, there's not much she can (inaudible).

24 THE COURT: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. All right.
25 Well, when -- when would y'all want to come back and finish

1 this up? And I need to decide what to do about Jonathan
2 Williams. That -- pretty -- pretty straightforward. But
3 when do y'all want to come back?

4 MR. JENNINGS: Thursday.

5 THE COURT: We could do --

6 MR. JENNINGS: All day Thursday.

7 THE COURT: Yeah, all day Thursday. I mean, I'll
8 go whatever -- whatever time y'all want if -- if Thursday
9 works.

10 MR. JENNINGS: Thursday afternoon works.

11 THE COURT: Okay. Okay.

12 MR. JENNINGS: Or any time Friday works.

13 THE COURT: Yeah. Let's -- let's just do --

14 MR. THOMPSON: Let me see. I want to work with
15 y'all. I -- I think I have, like, 12:00 Thursday that I can
16 put off a couple of clients.

17 THE COURT: Okay. That's fine. All right.

18 MR. THOMPSON: We can do it at 1:00 or 1:30.

19 THE COURT: Yeah. Sure. Yeah. What -- what time
20 suits you, Clayton?

21 MR. JENNINGS: We could do it at 1:00 on Thursday.

22 THE COURT: Yeah. Okay. All right. All right.
23 We're going to -- I'm sorry.

24 MR. THOMPSON: I can ask them if we can do 2:00?

25 THE COURT: Sure. Yeah. Yeah.

1 (WHEREUPON, THE SIDEBAR ENDED.)

2 THE COURT: Okay. We are going to recess this
3 case until 2:00 Thursday. And we'll finish up the
4 testimony. Certainly, Mr. Thompson, you would have the
5 right to put up any reply case that you felt like would be
6 important. Mr. Jonathan Williams, I want you back here at
7 2:00 on Thursday as well. You understand, sir?

8 MR. JONATHAN WILLIAMS: Yes, sir.

9 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Okay. We'll be in
10 recess until Thursday at 2:00. Thank -- thank the lawyers
11 for accommodating the Court's schedule.

12 (WHEREUPON, THE TRIAL RECESSED AT 4:46 P.M.)

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

Case Name/Number: Wayne J. Rogers vs. Tomika Craig and
Arthur Rogers, 2025-CP-30-00208

Date of Hearing: October 15, 2024

Court Reporter/Monitor: DCRP

I, Cynthia D. Weaver, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and correct record of the recorded proceedings; that said proceedings were transcribed to the best of my ability from the audio recording and supporting information; and that I am neither Counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this case, and I have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome.

February 27, 2025

Cynthia D Weaver

Cynthia D. Weaver
Official Court Reporter/Transcriber
State of South Carolina

1 STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD
2 COUNTY OF LAURENS) CASE NO. 2022-CP-30-00208
3
4
5 -----
6 October 17, 2024
7 BEFORE: The Honorable Judge Donald B. Hocker
8
9 -----
10 Wayne J. Rogers,
11 Plaintiff,
12 vs.
13 Tomika Craig and Arthur Rogers,
14 Defendants.
15 -----
16 APPEARANCES:
17
18 Thomas J. Thompson, Esq.
19 Attorney for the Plaintiff
20
21 Clayton L. Jennings, Esq.
22 Attorney for the Defendant
23
24 Official Court Reporter, Transcriber
25 Cynthia D. Weaver

I-N-D-E-X

WITNESS/DESCRIPTION**PAGE NUMBER****TOMIKA CRAIG**

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Court Reporter Certificate.....43

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E-X-H-I-B-I-T-S

<u>NO.</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>ID</u>	<u>ADMIT</u>
D-2	Title, Mobile Home		13
D-3	Certificate of Title		14
D-4	Survey		15
D-5	DMV Receipt		15
P-4	Bill of Sale		19

TOMIKA CRAIG - DIRECT BY MR. JENNINGS

1 (COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Due to remote platform
2 interruption and audio interference throughout the
3 hearing, those instances are denoted with
4 (inaudible) in the transcript.)

5 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

6 THE COURT: All right. We're back on the record
7 in the Rogers vs. Craig and Rogers case. And we left off
8 on, I think, Tuesday with -- in your case, Mr. Jennings. I
9 think maybe you have one more witness that we need to hear
10 from.

11 MR. JENNINGS: That's correct, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Okay. You may proceed.

13 MR. JENNINGS: All right. I call Tomika Craig.

14 THE COURT: Come around, please, ma'am.

15 THE CLERK: Do you solemnly swear or affirm that
16 testimony you're about to give in this case to be the truth,
17 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

18 THE WITNESS: I do.

19 TOMIKA CRAIG, having been duly sworn,
20 testified as follows:

21 THE CLERK: Thank you. You may have a seat.

22 DIRECT EXAMINATION

23 BY MR. JENNINGS:

24 Q. Ms. Craig, good afternoon. Where do you live?

25 A. I live at 110 East Hampton Street in Laurens.

TOMIKA CRAIG - DIRECT BY MR. JENNINGS

- 1 Q. And who is your father?
- 2 A. Wayne Rogers.
- 3 Q. Do you have any siblings or half siblings?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Who is that?
- 6 A. Arthur Rogers is my half sibling by Wayne Rogers.
- 7 Q. He's your half brother?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And do you have any other siblings?
- 10 A. Yes, I have a sister and brother by my mother.
- 11 Q. By your mother, but not by your father --
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. -- Wayne Rogers?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. All right. So do you live near your father?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And your father is married to --
- 18 A. Janice Rogers.
- 19 Q. -- Janice Rogers. And they've been married a
- 20 number of years?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Are you aware that they almost divorced several,
- 23 many years ago?
- 24 A. I have heard of divorce, yes.
- 25 Q. Okay. How was your relationship with your father

1 before this lawsuit began?

2 A. We had a good relationship.

3 Q. And did you visit with him?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Did you ever walk with him?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Did he visit you at your home?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Did you ever drive him around?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. How did you learn that your father owned
12 the Property located at 449 Westcliff Drive, also known as
13 Lot 24 of Westcliff Estates?

14 A. My dad walked in my house one day and gave me the
15 paperwork to that property and told me he owned that
16 property.

17 Q. Did you know he owned that property before --

18 A. No.

19 Q. -- he showed you the paperwork and told you about
20 this?

21 A. No.

22 Q. And was that in late 2021 or when was that?

23 A. It was early 2021.

24 Q. Okay. And so when your father told -- showed you
25 the paperwork and why was -- do you -- do you remember that

1 conversation?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And do you know why he told you or what the
4 purpose of telling you he owned that property was?

5 A. He said he wanted his kids to have that property,
6 that was at that estate that he thought I knew about.
7 During that time he also was speaking of a divorce.

8 Q. And when you say his kids, are you and Arthur
9 Rogers the only kids he has?

10 A. Yes, we his only two biological kids.

11 Q. All right. And that property at 449 Westcliff
12 Drive is in Laurens County, right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. All right. So after he told you about his desire
15 to give that property to you and Arthur, what did you do?

16 A. I had to do some research on it. I looked at the
17 paperwork. At that time, he was also going to Townsend
18 Lawyer Office because that's who he wanted to do the
19 paperwork. They actually contact me and I took all the
20 paperwork to that office.

21 Q. Is that to the law office of Townsend and Thompson
22 or Thompson and Townsend?

23 A. Thompson -- it's Thompson now, I think it was
24 something else.

25 Q. Okay.

TOMIKA CRAIG - DIRECT BY MR. JENNINGS

1 A. I think it was two partners in there at once, but
2 to his lawyer office there, Mr. Thompson office.

3 Q. All right. And did you speak with someone at that
4 law office?

5 A. Yes, I spoke to a lady named Susan originally.
6 Over the course of holiday break, or whatever, that office,
7 people left, got fired, I don't know what happened to them.

8 So then I spoke to another lady in the office. I
9 do not remember her name, but she remembered this case
10 because of the land that was messed up, it was two lots,
11 Lot 24 and Lot 25. But it was messed up because he thought
12 he owned one and he -- well, he thought he owned both, but
13 come to find out he didn't. So she remembered the case when
14 I went to speak with her and she couldn't take over the case
15 because they were short staffed and he was already booked
16 with a lot of cases.

17 Q. And so what'd you do after that?

18 A. That's when I contact Gary Williams.

19 Q. Okay. Gary Williams is an attorney in Laurens?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And did your father indicate to you that he
22 thought he owned both Lot 24 and Lot 25 of Westcliff
23 Estates?

24 A. He did, yes.

25 Q. Okay. And when you spoke with Mr. Gary Williams,

TOMIKA CRAIG - DIRECT BY MR. JENNINGS

1 what did you provide to him?

2 A. I provided him the same paperwork. It was like
3 the Bill of Sale, the survey, the deed, everything that I
4 had gotten from Mr. Rogers.

5 Q. Okay. And did Mr. Gary Williams agree to prepare
6 a deed to the property?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And did Mr. Williams come to the house of your
9 father, Wayne Rogers, on January 22, 2022?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. All right. And did Mr. Gary Williams tell your
12 father who he was and what your father was about to sign?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And did you see your father sign the deed in
15 question?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Where were you when your father signed that deed?

18 A. Standing in the kitchen.

19 Q. But was -- could you see into the room where your
20 father was when he signed the deed?

21 A. Yes. He was in the living room. So you walk into
22 the house, you walk into the living room. So he was sitting
23 in a recliner, if I'm coming in the door, he was sitting in
24 a recliner to the right, the kitchen is to the left and I
25 was standing right in the doorway.

TOMIKA CRAIG - DIRECT BY MR. JENNINGS

1 Q. Okay. Now, after Mr. Williams recorded that deed,
2 did you speak with your father again?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And where were you?

5 A. At his house.

6 Q. And when you spoke with your father again, was his
7 current wife with him?

8 A. Not at that time. When we talked about still
9 trying to figure out the other lot, she wasn't there.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. We never discussed business around her.

12 Q. All right. When -- did your brother Arthur drive
13 your father around town, occasionally?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And after that deed was recorded, did Arthur call
16 you and tell you to meet him at Whiteford's Restaurant in
17 Laurens?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And did you meet him there?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And was your father in the car with Arthur?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And can you tell me why they asked you to meet
24 them there?

25 A. Well, we met there because right before that,

1 Janice called me, when she found out that that land was no
2 longer in his name, she called me, and I met at her house.
3 So that's how I knew she knew because she called me, I went
4 to the house, I was having a conversation with my father,
5 she interrupted, because she was standing in the living
6 room, like, if she's home, she's in the living room with us.
7 And she asked me, what is going on with 449 Westcliff Drive?
8 And I said, Huh? And she said, what dealings do you have
9 with 449 Westcliff Drive? And I said, I own that property.
10 At that moment, my daddy went dumb, like, he just wouldn't
11 say anything. So me and her was going back and forth.

12 So when I told my brother Arthur about it, that's
13 why he got my dad, and we met, and I asked him what was
14 going on, you know, what's going on? Because at this time,
15 somebody was coming to my house, which was a white guy
16 coming to my house with papers and I was at work. So I'm
17 like, what did -- has she gone went and done something, you
18 know? And he was like, he didn't know, basically, Can I
19 give it back to him? And I was letting him know, you know,
20 I'm not mad, but please tell the truth, because I knew
21 nothing about this property.

22 Q. When you say give it back to him, you mean the
23 property at 449 --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- Westcliff Drive? All right.

TOMIKA CRAIG - DIRECT BY MR. JENNINGS

1 And when you had that conversation you referenced
2 with Janice Rogers, was she upset that your father had
3 deeded the property to --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- you and your brother?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. How could you tell?

8 A. Her tone, her voice, her body language. Like I
9 say, we went back and forth.

10 Q. Okay. Did your father also give you the mobile
11 home on the property at 449 Westcliff Drive?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Let me show you a copy of a Certificate of Title,
14 see if you recognize it.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Is that a title to the mobile home on the subject
17 property?

18 A. It is.

19 Q. Okay. And does that title show the mobile home in
20 your father's name, Wayne Rogers?

21 A. Yes.

22 MR. JENNINGS: And I would ask that this document
23 be admitted as Plaintiff's Exhibit 2, I believe.

24 THE COURT: It would be Defense 2? Defense 2.

25 MR. JENNINGS: Defense 2.

TOMIKA CRAIG - DIRECT BY MR. JENNINGS

1 THE COURT: Any objection, Mr. Thompson?

2 MR. THOMPSON: No, sir.

3 THE COURT: Okay. Defense 2 into evidence for the
4 defense.

5 (WHEREUPON, Defendant's Exhibit 2 was admitted
6 into evidence.)

7 BY MR. JENNINGS:

8 Q. All right. Let me show you another Certificate of
9 Title. Let me know if you recognize that copy of the
10 Certificate of Title.

11 A. Yes, I do.

12 Q. And is that also a Certificate of Title for the
13 mobile home on the subject property?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And does that show you as the owner?

16 A. It does.

17 Q. Did your father transfer the title to the mobile
18 home to you?

19 A. He did.

20 Q. All right.

21 MR. JENNINGS: I would ask that this copy of the
22 Certificate of Title be admitted as Defendant's Exhibit 3.

23 MR. THOMPSON: No objection.

24 THE COURT: Without objection Number 3 into
25 evidence for the defense.

TOMIKA CRAIG - DIRECT BY MR. JENNINGS

1 (WHEREUPON, Defendant's Exhibit Number 3 was
2 admitted into evidence.)

3 BY MR. JENNINGS:

4 Q. And the property at 449 Westcliff Drive had been
5 surveyed, hadn't it?

6 A. It was surveyed. He gave me the survey, I
7 personally haven't surveyed it.

8 Q. But your father had a survey done of the property
9 back when he bought it in 2001?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Can I show you a copy of the survey and you let me
12 know if that is the property in question?

13 A. It is.

14 Q. And that's at 449 Westcliff Drive?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And that shows a double-wide mobile home on Lot
17 24?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Is that your mobile home?

20 A. Yes.

21 MR. JENNINGS: And I would ask that this survey be
22 admitted as Defendant's Exhibit 4.

23 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Thompson, any objection to
24 the survey?

25 MR. THOMPSON: No, sir.

TOMIKA CRAIG - DIRECT BY MR. JENNINGS

1 THE COURT: All right. Defense Exhibit 4 into
2 evidence.

3 (WHEREUPON, Defendant's Exhibit Number 4 was
4 admitted into evidence.)

5 BY MR. JENNINGS:

6 Q. And I'm almost done. Ms. Craig. You have -- you
7 paid \$15.50 to the South Carolina Department of Motor
8 Vehicles to transfer title to the mobile home on that
9 property?

10 A. I did.

11 Q. Can you tell me if this is a true and accurate
12 copy of the receipt for you paying DMV?

13 A. It is.

14 MR. JENNINGS: And I would ask that that paid
15 receipt be marked or be admitted as Defendant's Exhibit 5.

16 MR. THOMPSON: No objection.

17 THE COURT: Without objection 5 into evidence for
18 the defense.

19 (WHEREUPON, Defendant's Exhibit Number 5 was
20 admitted into evidence.)

21 MR. JENNINGS: I have no further questions. Thank
22 you.

23 THE COURT: Mr. Thompson, do you have any
24 cross-examination of Ms. Craig?

25 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir. I've got a few

TOMIKA CRAIG - CROSS BY MR. THOMPSON

1 questions, Your Honor.

2 CROSS-EXAMINATION

3 BY MR. THOMPSON:

4 Q. Ms. Craig, let me hand you Defendant's Exhibit
5 Number 3. And I believe you identified that as the
6 Certificate of Title to the mobile house to question? Is
7 that what document is?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And when was that issued?

10 A. It was issued in January of 2022. January 13,
11 2022.

12 Q. But it was issued before the alleged deed was
13 signed?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. All right. Did Mr. Rogers give you a Bill of Sale
16 to the mobile home?

17 A. He did.

18 Q. Do you have that?

19 A. I do.

20 Q. Can you produce it?

21 A. Yes. Your office should have a copy of it because
22 I gave it to your office, but I do have the Bill of Sale
23 here.

24 Q. Would you have it with you today?

25 A. Yes, sir, I do. Do you want me to me get it for

TOMIKA CRAIG - CROSS BY MR. THOMPSON

1 you?

2 THE COURT: Sure. You need to -- you need to step
3 down to get it?

4 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

5 THE COURT: Sure.

6 MR. THOMPSON: Could we go off the record for one
7 moment?

8 THE COURT: Sure. Yeah. Off the record.

9 (Discussion held off the record.)

10 THE COURT: All right. Okay. Let's go back on
11 the record.

12 MR. THOMPSON: All right. Thank you.

13 THE COURT: And Mr. Thompson, off the record, you
14 had expressed some concern because at least your office was
15 mentioned by Ms. Craig around this same time wherein she
16 might was seeking some sort of assistance. And it's been
17 confirmed that she had no communication with you, that she
18 talked to a couple of your staff members, and she is not
19 claiming any sort of conflict of interest insofar as you
20 representing her dad in this lawsuit.

21 Is what I just said, Ms. Craig, correct?

22 THE WITNESS: It is, but can I also say something?

23 THE COURT: Sure.

24 THE WITNESS: He also was there, that's how I
25 ended up there.

TOMIKA CRAIG - CROSS BY MR. THOMPSON

1 THE COURT: Okay.

2 THE WITNESS: He was -- he went initially to the
3 office, that's how I end up going, because they needed the
4 paperwork.

5 THE COURT: Okay. You're talking about your dad?

6 THE WITNESS: Yes.

7 THE COURT: Yeah. Okay. All right.

8 Are we good enough with that, Mr. Thompson?

9 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir, I am.

10 THE COURT: Okay. Very good, thank you.

11 MR. THOMPSON: Can I consult?

12 THE COURT: Sure. Yeah.

13 MR. THOMPSON: Here's our problem, Judge.

14 THE COURT: Okay.

15 MR. THOMPSON: We have an original document here
16 and we want to put it into evidence but we would like to
17 make a copy.

18 THE COURT: Sure. We can make a copy so Ms. Craig
19 can still keep her original document.

20 MR. THOMPSON: Oh, thank you.

21 BY MR. THOMPSON:

22 Q. Let me hand you this document back in Ms. Craig.

23 Are you telling me that is the Bill of Sale from
24 your father to you to the mobile home?

25 A. This is what he gave me in his paperwork, yes.

TOMIKA CRAIG - CROSS BY MR. THOMPSON

1 MR. THOMPSON: We'd like to have that marked as
2 Plaintiff's Number 4, I believe.

3 THE COURT: Is it four?

4 THE CLERK: Four.

5 THE COURT: Okay. Plaintiff's 4.

6 MR. JENNINGS: No objection.

7 THE COURT: Without objection into evidence for
8 the plaintiff.

9 (WHEREUPON, Plaintiff's Exhibit Number 4 was
10 admitted into evidence.)

11 BY MR. THOMPSON:

12 Q. All right. Ms. Craig, I'm going to hand you
13 Plaintiff's Number 4. That, in fact, is the Bill of Sale
14 from your father, the predecessor in title, is it not, to
15 the mobile home?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So your father's never given you a Bill of Sale to
18 the mobile home has he?

19 A. He gave me this Bill of Sale here.

20 Q. I understand that, but that's not to you?

21 A. Are you saying it's not made out to me?

22 Q. It says the seller on it is who?

23 A. The sale is the Bank of New York.

24 Q. Okay. And who did you get this property from?

25 A. I got the property from Wayne Rogers.

TOMIKA CRAIG - CROSS BY MR. THOMPSON

1 Q. Okay. So did Wayne Rogers give you a Bill of Sale
2 to the mobile home?

3 A. This is the only Bill of Sale he gave me.

4 Q. Okay. So he didn't give you one?

5 A. This is the only --

6 Q. Other than that one?

7 A. -- other than this one.

8 Q. All right. Thank you.

9 But you were able to obtain the Certificate of
10 Title to the mobile home from the Highway Department, were
11 you not?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What documents did you provide to the Highway
14 Department in order to have the mobile home --

15 A. The title.

16 Q. -- ownership turned over to you?

17 A. The title.

18 Q. You just took the title?

19 A. Yes, but he signed the title, so I took the title.

20 Q. He signed his title over to you in order that the
21 Highway Department could issue a replacement title?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. I'm going to hand you Defendant's Exhibit Number 2
24 back. You look at it for a moment. Is that the Certificate
25 of Title you're telling me you turned over to the Highway

TOMIKA CRAIG - CROSS BY MR. THOMPSON

1 Department?

2 A. Yes, it was a title. And then on the back it had
3 where you signed the title.

4 Q. Do you happen to have a copy or an original of
5 this with the reverse side signed by your father?

6 A. I do not.

7 Q. Now, the plan to arrange for your father to sign a
8 deed over to you and your brother, who was -- who put that
9 plan together, the mechanics of it?

10 A. To sign it over to us?

11 Q. How were you going to carry that out? How was
12 that to be handled?

13 A. Rephrase that.

14 Q. Maybe that's a bad question. Let me ask you this:
15 Did you go to Mr. Williams and ask him to help you with the
16 deed?

17 A. Yes, I explained to him what was going on, yes.

18 Q. Okay. What that pretty much the first step?

19 A. My first step was your office.

20 Q. Just towards the end of getting this property in
21 your name and your brother's name?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. All right. Now, your brother was driving your
24 father around from time to time during January of 2022,
25 right?

TOMIKA CRAIG - CROSS BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. I assume.

2 Q. Huh?

3 A. I assume. I can't tell you yes or no on that,
4 because I --

5 Q. Well, he drove him around from time to time, I
6 thought he testified on direct.

7 A. He did, but I can't say if he drove him in
8 January. He drove him around time, time for time, just like
9 I did. Yes.

10 Q. Well, do you think he drove him around before
11 January 22nd?

12 A. He could have.

13 Q. Well, did he or didn't he?

14 A. I can't tell you if I didn't see him, so he could
15 have.

16 Q. So you don't know that he ever drove him around
17 then?

18 A. Yes, yes I do, because I have seen them out.

19 Q. Well, did you see him drive him around after
20 January 22, 2022?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. Now, when you talked to Mr. Williams about
23 this deed situation why wasn't your father driven down to
24 the lawyer's office to handle it in the traditional fashion
25 --

TOMIKA CRAIG - CROSS BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. So I --

2 Q. -- where there would be people there and
3 necessary?

4 A. I told him my dad has Parkinson's, so some days he
5 has this good -- back then he had his good days when he was
6 still walking and he have his bad days when he didn't want
7 to do anything. So I had already previously spoke with my
8 father about going into the office. If he didn't want to
9 make it to the office, did he want to have a home visit? He
10 said that would work. So I asked Gary, Does he do home
11 visits? And he said, Yes. So that's how we arranged a home
12 visit now.

13 Q. Okay. Now, how many days before January the
14 22nd -- excuse me just one second -- how many days before
15 January 22nd of 2022, did you make arrangements with Gary to
16 come to your father's home?

17 A. I don't know how many days that was.

18 Q. Was it a week?

19 A. It was in -- it's within a week's time.

20 Q. And how -- was Janice Rogers expected to be there
21 when your lawyer came?

22 A. No, we wasn't expecting her to be there, like, she
23 never was present when we talked about business.

24 Q. Okay. So this deed was signed on a Saturday, I
25 believe, wasn't it?

TOMIKA CRAIG - CROSS BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. It was.

2 Q. And she would normally be home on a Saturday,
3 right?

4 A. I can't say if she normally be home or not. I
5 didn't keep in contact, check her schedule.

6 Q. Well, was it the plan to make sure she was not at
7 home when Mr. Williams got there?

8 A. We was hoping she wasn't going to be there when he
9 got there. We had already -- I had a conversation with my
10 daddy, if she's here or you going to sign this, because at
11 this point we was running behind her. So we made plans to
12 meet on that Saturday. I can't tell you the time that we
13 make plans to meet.

14 Q. Well, I might have missed what you said.
15 Was the plan to be the deed to be signed with
16 Mrs. Rogers out of the home?

17 A. It was planned. We was hoping she would be out of
18 the home, yes.

19 Q. You did not want her there?

20 A. He didn't want her there.

21 Q. And you didn't want her there?

22 A. At that point I didn't care if she was there or
23 not.

24 Q. Okay. So she wasn't supposed to be there, right?

25 A. She wasn't supposed to be there.

TOMIKA CRAIG - CROSS BY MR. THOMPSON

1 Q. Now, how would Mr. Williams plan his arrival when
2 the likelihood of Mrs. Rogers may or may not be there? How
3 was that coordinated?

4 A. We had a time and I do not remember the time that
5 we had scheduled to meet at the house.

6 Q. You don't remember that?

7 A. No, it was between like 12:00 and 5:00 o'clock
8 that day, but I don't know the exact time.

9 Q. But your testimony is that you did meet between
10 12:00 and 5:00 o'clock?

11 A. Yes, we met in between those times.

12 Q. And Mrs. Rogers was there or not there?

13 A. She was not there.

14 Q. Did anyone call you before you came to the home to
15 tell you the coast was clear that she was gone?

16 A. No, I could stand on my back porch and see his
17 front -- and see his house.

18 Q. Okay. So you knew --

19 A. That she was -- her car was gone, yes.

20 Q. Her car wasn't there?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You are familiar with Jonathan Williams?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. That's your stepbrother, I guess you would say, as
25 well, Mrs. Rogers' son?

TOMIKA CRAIG - CROSS BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. Mrs. Rogers' son, yes.

2 Q. Yes. He lives there at the home with your dad and
3 his mother at that time; is that not correct?

4 A. At that time I'm not sure had he moved back in at
5 that time, but he was there.

6 Q. What time did you arrive at the home on the 22nd
7 of January?

8 A. Like I said, I can't remember the time. It was in
9 between those hours, but I can't remember the time.

10 Q. And then who came to the home?

11 A. When I came there? Well, while I was there --
12 when I was there, Jonathan was there and he had a friend
13 there. They -- she was on the porch. As when I was there,
14 Jonathan left before --

15 Q. Wait a minute now, who is the person you're
16 referring to?

17 A. I don't know Jonathan's friend, he had a friend
18 there, as well.

19 Q. Well, I don't know who Johnny is.

20 THE COURT: I would assume that's Jonathan; isn't
21 it?

22 THE WITNESS: I said Johnathan.

23 THE COURT: Yeah.

24 BY MR. THOMPSON:

25 Q. Okay. Johnathan was there?

TOMIKA CRAIG - CROSS BY MR. THOMPSON

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. With a friend?

3 A. With a friend.

4 Q. When you arrived?

5 A. When I arrived.

6 Q. And what happened then?

7 A. We spoke like we usually speak. Me and my dad was
8 in the house, Jonathan had left.

9 Q. Johnathan leaves?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What about Johnathan's friend?

12 A. They left together.

13 Q. All right. Was there anybody else in the home at
14 that time other than you and your father?

15 A. No. If they was, they never came out of their
16 rooms.

17 Q. I understand. Did anybody ever arrive?

18 A. Yes, Mr. Williams and Roslyn.

19 Q. Okay. And did they come together?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Same car?

22 A. I don't know if they was in the same car, I didn't
23 look outside.

24 Q. Okay. And it's your testimony that during the
25 course of time they were there your father signed the deed

TOMIKA CRAIG - CROSS BY MR. THOMPSON

1 in question?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. And Mrs. Rogers never returned before you
4 left?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Now, Mr. Williams did not secure any
7 identification from your father is my understanding?

8 A. They didn't. They -- when she entered the home,
9 they started talking.

10 Q. Who's "they"?

11 A. Ms. Roslyn and my dad.

12 Q. They started talking.

13 A. They started talking like they knew each other.

14 Q. Okay. Like they knew each other?

15 A. Yeah, they was talking about --

16 Q. Did Mr. Williams --

17 A. -- growing up and stuff.

18 Q. -- say that I have identification?

19 A. He did not identify him.

20 Q. Did he ask him what is your name, sir?

21 A. He did.

22 Q. And what was the response?

23 A. He told him his name was Wayne Rogers.

24 Q. Okay. All right.

25 MR. THOMPSON: One minute.

TOMIKA CRAIG - CROSS BY MR. THOMPSON

1 THE COURT: Take your time.

2 BY MR. THOMPSON:

3 Q. So after the deed was signed, who took possession
4 of the document?

5 A. Gary took everything back with him.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. He gave it to me at a later date.

8 Q. Okay. After it was recorded?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay. Let me look at my notes one second, ma'am.

11 A. Okay.

12 THE COURT: Sure.

13 BY MR. THOMPSON:

14 Q. Had Mrs. Rogers been present there on that day in
15 January, you believe your father would have signed the deed
16 over to you and your brother?

17 A. I don't think if she was present he would have did
18 it.

19 Q. Okay. All right. And you also indicated that at
20 that time you were aware of the fact that he was suffering
21 from some type of cognitive issues?

22 A. I knew about his Parkinson's. And at that time it
23 wasn't where it's at today. My dad used to walk to my
24 house. Janice used to bring my dad to my house. She used
25 to bring him to my job. I used to watch him. We used to go

TOMIKA CRAIG - CROSS BY MR. THOMPSON

1 places. I used to drive him around. So where he's at now
2 and how they portraying that he couldn't walk, that's not
3 the case.

4 Q. Was any type of simple or rudimentary cognitive
5 test administered to your father --

6 MR. JENNINGS: Your Honor, I'm going to object.
7 The pleadings in this case assert one cause of
8 action --

9 THE COURT: Sure.

10 MR. JENNINGS: -- on behalf of the plaintiff and
11 that is forgery. There's nothing to set aside the deed
12 alleged --

13 THE COURT: Right.

14 MR. JENNINGS: -- based on lack of mental capacity
15 or undue influence or any other -- any other defense to the
16 deed.

17 THE COURT: All right. And certainly I agree with
18 your statement.

19 MR. THOMPSON: We'll withdraw the question.

20 THE COURT: There has been some testimony
21 concerning Mr. Rogers' dementia, and I think it would only
22 be relevant as far as his testimony given on Tuesday. So
23 I'll allow the question to be answered, but I do recognize
24 what you've just stated as far as what's been pled in the
25 complaint. You may proceed, Mr. Thompson.

1 BY MR. THOMPSON:

2 Q. All right. Let's just start it out this way.

3 A. Uh-huh.

4 Q. Are you familiar with what we call a rudimentary
5 or simple cognitive test that can be administered to an
6 individual to see if they have some basic understanding of
7 what day it is, the time it is, what's going on around them?

8 A. No, but I can tell you at that time, he was aware
9 of what was going on.

10 Q. That's your opinion.

11 A. Huh?

12 Q. I understand that's your opinion.

13 A. That is my opinion and that's the truth.

14 Q. I understand.

15 Now, can you explain to me, did anyone help you
16 with the transfer of the mobile home title with the Highway
17 Department, any lawyer or layman, anybody?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Okay. And why was that bifurcated, for lack of a
20 better word, why was that done a week before the deed was
21 allegedly signed?

22 A. Because apparently I didn't know, throughout this
23 whole process I was learning stuff out, too. He didn't have
24 to prepare a deed for the mobile home, so I can get it
25 signed before the deed, we could have did it all together,

1 but he said he didn't have to prepare that.

2 So when I had -- when he had the title to the
3 mobile home, my father signed it. Like I said, it was
4 different stuff going on. He signed it willingly and I took
5 it to the Highway Department. We could have done everything
6 together, but we didn't.

7 Q. Well, would be a correct statement to say that you
8 thought that once the mobile home title was transferred to
9 you, the transaction was complete?

10 A. No. No. Because I knew about the lots.

11 Q. You knew you had to get a deed as well?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. All right. Okay. No further questions.

14 THE COURT: Any redirect, Mr. Jennings?

15 MR. JENNINGS: Nothing further, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Okay. Ms. Craig, you can step down.
17 Anything further from the defense?

18 MR. JENNINGS: The defense rests, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Okay. All right.

20 Mr. Thompson, do you have any rebuttal case that
21 you would like to put up?

22 MR. THOMPSON: Nothing in reply, no, sir.

23 THE COURT: Okay. All right, thank you.

24 All right. Unless the lawyers feel compelled to
25 make any sort of closing statement, quite frankly, I don't

1 need that, but I don't want to deny you that opportunity to
2 make a closing statement if you want to, okay?

3 Mr. Thompson?

4 MR. THOMPSON: I think the Court has a grasp.

5 THE COURT: Sure.

6 MR. THOMPSON: And an understanding and the wisdom
7 to deal with matter without further --

8 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Thank you, very
9 much. Mr. Jennings, do you concur with Mr. Thompson?

10 MR. JENNINGS: Well, I do. And I know that the
11 court understands that Gary Williams would not, for \$265,
12 engage in some crazy conspiracy and risk his law license.

13 Thank you.

14 THE COURT: All right, everybody, be at ease for
15 just a minute. We're going off the record. I'm just going
16 to type a few notes, and then I'll make my ruling.

17 (WHEREUPON, a break was held off the record.)

18 THE COURT: And I'm going to announce my ruling.

19 First of all, as we just kind of discussed a
20 moment ago the sole issue before the Court is whether or not
21 to declare that the plaintiff is the rightful owner of the
22 subject property, as he maintains he did not sign the deed.
23 Competency and undue influence are not before the Court.
24 And if I view the testimony of Tuesday first, I have
25 testimony of Gary Williams, who is a longtime,

1 well-respected attorney in Laurens, who testified that it
2 was indeed the plaintiff who signed the deed in question on
3 January 22, 2022.

4 I have that testimony versus the testimony of the
5 plaintiff who has some form, not sure to what extent, but
6 has some form of dementia currently. And he testified that
7 he did not sign the deed. I think it's kind of a no brainer
8 that I would side with the testimony of Mr. Williams. And I
9 will therefore deny the plaintiff any declaratory relief. I
10 do deny the defense any relief under the Frivolous
11 Proceedings Act. And I would ask Mr. Jennings to prepare an
12 appropriate order, share it with Mr. Thompson to get his
13 comments before submitting it to the Court.

14 Anything further from the plaintiff or from the
15 defense?

16 MR. THOMPSON: No, sir.

17 MR. JENNINGS: No, sir, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Thank you, very much.

19 Now, is Mr. Jonathan Williams, is he in the
20 courthouse? Would he be -- Mrs. Rogers, is your son in
21 the -- I don't see him in the courtroom.

22 MRS. ROGERS: Not yet.

23 THE COURT: Ma'am?

24 MRS. ROGERS: Not yet. He had to work but he's
25 supposed to be on the way.

1 THE COURT: Okay. Is he on his way right now?

2 MRS. ROGERS: I'm not sure. I don't have my
3 phone.

4 THE COURT: Okay. All right, we're going to take
5 a very short break. You mind going out and calling him and
6 see where he is, because I told him, I understand you're
7 telling me he had to work, but I told him he had to be here
8 when everybody came back at 2:00. And so if you wouldn't
9 mind making a quick call, okay? Thank you, very much.

10 We'll be at ease for just a moment.

11 (WHEREUPON, a pause in the proceedings.)

12 THE COURT: Mr. Thompson, you went out with
13 Mrs. Rogers, can you report to the Court where Mr. Williams
14 may be?

15 MRS. ROGERS: He's at work. He was scared of
16 losing his job.

17 THE COURT: Okay. Well, he was under -- he was
18 under a strict court order to be here and, I mean, is his
19 plan just to show up whenever he wants to or what's the
20 situation?

21 MRS. ROGERS: Like I say, he's still at work and
22 he didn't want to lose his job. Do I need to tell him I
23 need to come get him right now?

24 THE COURT: Now, he testified Tuesday where he
25 works but I can't remember where is that?

1 MRS. ROGERS: It's a Malouf.

2 MR. JENNINGS: In Waterloo?

3 MRS. ROGERS: Malouf, it's Laurens.

4 THE COURT: Oh, Malouf. Yeah, we're going to need
5 to deal with the situation involving him and Mr. Gary
6 Williams on Tuesday. And so I think it would be important
7 that he come on and he just needs to explain to his boss
8 that the Judge is saying he has to come right now. So how
9 long will it take him to get here?

10 MRS. ROGERS: Probably 30 minutes.

11 THE COURT: 30 minutes? You know, my other option
12 is, Ms. Rogers, is for me to go ahead and issue a bench
13 warrant and just have him picked up. This is just a little
14 frustrating when he was specifically directed to be here at
15 2:00 when everybody else came, and then we're having to just
16 sit around and wait for him at his -- on his own time, it's
17 just a little frustrating for me. Hope you understand that.

18 MRS. ROGERS: You don't want me pick him up?

19 THE COURT: Yeah, get him here as soon as
20 possible. And Donna you can wait a little while longer,
21 Donna, you're good?

22 THE CLERK: Yes, sir.

23 THE COURT: Okay. Yeah, you go get him, get him
24 here as soon as possible.

25 Mr. Jennings, I'm not going to -- I wanted y'all

1 to be here just to hear what the exchange between
2 Mr. Williams and the Court -- but if it's going to be
3 another half hour, I don't want y'all to have to -- nor,
4 Mr. Thompson, you're welcome to remain, but you don't have
5 to stay, stay either. So y'all can stay or if you need to
6 go, you can go. But Mrs. Rogers, go -- go get your son here
7 as soon as possible, please.

8 Clayton, you and Tom come up here just a minute.

9 (WHEREUPON, a break was held in the proceedings.)

10 THE COURT: It was my understanding that you
11 requested to come back on the record for some matter and
12 that Mr. Jennings consented to you doing that without him
13 being here, correct?

14 MR. THOMPSON: Consented to?

15 THE COURT: You putting something on the record
16 without him being here?

17 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, he did.

18 THE COURT: Okay. Be glad to hear from you.

19 MR. THOMPSON: But I wanted Mrs. Rogers to be
20 here.

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 MR. THOMPSON: And her husband to be present in
23 the courtroom.

24 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Well, Mr. Rogers is
25 here, she's gone to get her son, so you want to just wait?

1 MR. THOMPSON: I think it would be prudent.

2 THE COURT: Sure.

3 MR. THOMPSON: I meant to relay that that she
4 wasn't here.

5 THE COURT: Sure. Just when she gets here, then
6 we can do what all we need to.

7 MR. THOMPSON: Okay. Yes, sir.

8 THE COURT: Very good. Thank you.

9 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you.

10 (WHEREUPON, a break was held.)

11 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Thompson, you wanted to put
12 something on the record and you want to do it when
13 Mrs. Rogers came back to the courtroom, so I'd be glad to --
14 glad to hear you.

15 MR. THOMPSON: Well, on reflection, I don't know
16 that it's absolutely necessary, but it may be helpful to her
17 and myself down the road, it's a posttrial issue.

18 THE COURT: Okay.

19 MR. THOMPSON: Concerning a potential appeal and
20 she wanted me -- she wanted to approach the Court about
21 asking about the appeal and I told her that that would not
22 be the way to handle it right at this point.

23 I have a contract with Mrs. Rogers and her husband
24 that does not include an appeal --

25 THE COURT: Right.

1 MR. THOMPSON: -- it's expressly off the table
2 unless we agree, and I wanted her to understand that, and
3 that she has 30 days to --

4 THE COURT: Right.

5 MR. THOMPSON: -- file an appeal, I assume from
6 the written order in this instance --

7 THE COURT: Right.

8 MR. THOMPSON: -- since there's going to be a
9 written order.

10 THE COURT: Right.

11 MR. THOMPSON: And that I will timely provide that
12 to her, and I think it's further that I can file a Notice of
13 Intention to Appeal on her behalf and not necessarily be --

14 THE COURT: Sure.

15 MR. THOMPSON: -- hooked in on it moving forward.

16 THE COURT: Okay. Mrs. Rogers, come on up and let
17 me --

18 MR. THOMPSON: I just want to make sure she
19 understands.

20 THE COURT: Sure.

21 MR. THOMPSON: Sometimes when cases get over,
22 litigants and others are not exactly --

23 THE COURT: Sure.

24 MR. THOMPSON: -- cool headed in some instances.

25 THE COURT: All right. Mrs. Rogers, raise your

1 right hand. Do you swear or affirm that anything you tell
2 the Court will be truthful and complete?

3 MRS. ROGERS: Yes.

4 THE COURT: Okay. And so you were talking with
5 Mr. Thompson about an appeal?

6 MRS. ROGERS: Yes, sir.

7 THE COURT: Okay. I can't really give you any
8 advice. However, what he just told me was correct as far as
9 the time limit and that sort of thing. And my
10 recommendation to you is if, if you want to appeal my
11 ruling, which you have every right to do, and if
12 Mr. Thompson does not want to handle the appeal, then you'll
13 have enough time to talk with, you know, with another lawyer
14 about that.

15 So -- and my recommendation to you is go ahead and
16 start now. Your time does not run until that written order
17 is filed -- signed and filed by me. So you have more than
18 30 days, practically speaking.

19 MRS. ROGERS: Okay. Okay.

20 THE COURT: But it would be my recommendation to
21 you that, again, if Mr. Thompson does not want to handle the
22 appeal then go and talk with another lawyer, okay?

23 MRS. ROGERS: Okay. Thank you.

24 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

25 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Judge.

1 THE COURT: Okay, thank you. All right.

2 Now, Jonathan Williams, if you remember, on
3 Tuesday I instructed you to be back here at 2:00 when we
4 were going to resume the case which we have already done.
5 And I know that you were at work, but I asked you to be back
6 here at 2:00 and you didn't do it, okay? Sure, yeah, tell
7 me whatever you want to tell me.

8 MR. WILLIAMS: Well, sir, I came to court on
9 Tuesday, I gave my job the subpoena, but I still received
10 points on my record for that because it wasn't two weeks in
11 advance.

12 THE COURT: Okay.

13 MR. WILLIAMS: I have currently, like, four points
14 right now, so if I get one more point, I will get fired.

15 THE COURT: Okay.

16 MR. WILLIAMS: So I was just trying to wait to get
17 off work at 3:30 and then come here.

18 THE COURT: Yeah, okay.

19 MR. WILLIAMS: Because I thought you all would
20 wild still be running. I apologize to the Court for that.

21 THE COURT: Well, you know, if, if I had -- if I
22 had been told that I would have done what I could to work
23 with you on that. But let's -- let's go to the heart of
24 this and you understand that the allegations made by Gary
25 Williams would constitute you being arrested for

1 intimidation of a witness.

2 Now, I realize on Tuesday you kind of somewhat
3 denied what he said, but those allegations could justify you
4 being arrested. Do you understand that?

5 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, sir.

6 THE COURT: And you understand that the charge of
7 intimidation of a witness is a felony, carries up to
8 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Pretty serious,
9 isn't it?

10 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, sir. I understand.

11 THE COURT: And I would have every authority and I
12 believe every right based upon what Attorney Williams told
13 me on Tuesday, I would have every right to have you put
14 under arrest right now, you understand that?

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, sir.

16 THE COURT: I'm not going to do that, but I hope
17 you've learned a lesson. And as important as this matter
18 was to the family, I understand, I understand that, but
19 still, it does not justify you threatening a witness,
20 whether an attorney or anybody else in the case. And so I
21 hope -- hopefully you've learned something from this and
22 you'll be, if you put back in the situation next time, that
23 you'll be a whole lot more careful, okay, you understand?

24 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, sir.

25 THE COURT: Okay. All right. This matter's

1 adjourned. Good luck to everybody.

2 END OF REQUESTED PROCEEDINGS

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

Case Name/Number: Wayne J. Rogers vs. Tomika Craig and
Arthur Rogers, 2025-CP-30-00208

Date of Hearing: October 17, 2024

Court Reporter/Monitor: DCRP

I, Cynthia D. Weaver, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and correct record of the recorded proceedings; that said proceedings were transcribed to the best of my ability from the audio recording and supporting information; and that I am neither Counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this case, and I have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome.

May 10, 2025

Cynthia D Weaver

Cynthia D. Weaver
Official Court Reporter/Transcriber
State of South Carolina

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PLEASE DO NOT PUBLISH IN THE NEWSPAPER

No Title Examination

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, THAT, I, WAYNE J. ROGERS, in the State aforesaid,

for and in consideration of the sum of Fifteen and 00/100 (\$15.00)-----
DOLLARS, and love and affection to me in hand paid at and before the sealing of these presents, in the State aforesaid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained, sold and released, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell and release unto **TOMIKA CRAIG AND ARTHUR ROGERS**, their heirs and assigns, forever, the following described property, to wit:

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land, with the improvements thereon, situate, lying and being on S.C. Highway 14, Northwest of the City of Laurens, in the County of Laurens, State of South Carolina, being shown and designated as Lot 24, Westcliff Estates, on a plat prepared by Applewhite & Applewhite, recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Laurens County in Plat Book 50 at Page 222.

This being the same property conveyed to Grantor herein, Wayne J. Rogers recorded in Laurens County Clerk of Court RMC Deed Book 533 at Page 242.

TMS: 323-00-00-058

Grantee's Address: 110 East Hampton Street, Laurens, South Carolina 29360

Together with all and singular the rights, members, hereditaments and appurtenances to the said premises belonging, or in anywise incident or appertaining.

To have and to hold, all and singular, the said Premises before mentioned unto **TOMIKA CRAIG AND ARTHUR ROGERS**, their heirs and assigns, forever.

And, I do hereby bind My Heirs, Executors, Personal Representative and Administrators, to warrant and forever defend, all and singular, the said Premises unto **TOMIKA CRAIG AND ARTHUR ROGERS**, their Heirs and Assigns, against me and my Heirs and any person or persons whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim the same, or any part thereof.

02/07/2022
DATE

1630
BOOK

86
PAGE

James A. Colman
AUDITOR



WITNESS his hand and seal this 22nd day of January 2022.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of:

Dorothy Smith Johnson Wayne J. Rogers
Mary L. Williams WAYNE J. ROGERS

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF LAURENS)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, Gary L. Williams, Notary Public for South Carolina,
do hereby certify that WAYNE J. ROGERS personally appeared before me this day and
acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument and also made oath that the witness(es)
herein are not a party to or beneficiary of this transaction.

Witness my hand and seal this the 22nd day of January 2022.

Gary L. Williams (SEAL)
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: 6/9/30
(Affix Seal)

Saturday 1/22/2022

Blood Pressure Check

(yellow) Carbidozol (every 6 hrs)
9:30 AM ✓

L) 7:27 AM 115/69 80
R) 7:29 AM 111/72 80
L) 8:35 AM 120/81 70
R) 8:37 AM 124/78 93

R) 9:13 AM 104/68 75
L) 9:15 AM 104/100 95

(P. 2) Pramipexole (every 8 hrs)
6:00 PM ✓

L) 12:08 PM 99/69 82
R) 12:09 PM 101/61 80
L) 12:53 PM 95/48 72
R) 12:54 PM 89/49 69
L) 5:53 PM 109/98 65
R) 5:57 PM 106/100 70

(White) Midodrine (Blood Pressure)

7:30 AM ✓
12:30 PM ✓

R) 8:08 PM 123/73 79
L) 8:09 PM 117/72 77

Atorvastatin
melatonin

10:00 PM



property to the defendants, the relationship and transactions between the plaintiff and the defendants, dealings with attorneys related to the subject property, and other, relevant knowledge.

- d. Arthur Rogers. c/o Jennings Law Firm, LLC. 1151 E. Washington St., Greenville, SC 29601. This witness has knowledge related to the circumstances related to the plaintiff's decision to convey title to the subject real property to the defendants, the relationship and transactions between the plaintiff and the defendants, and other, relevant knowledge.
- e. Renee (last name unknown). 210 W Laurens St, Laurens, SC 29360. This witness is an employee of Townsend and Thompson. This witness has knowledge related to Tomika Craig bringing documents and information related to the subject real property to the offices of Townsend and Thompson and the plaintiff's desire to transfer title to the subject property to the defendants.
- f. Each witness identified by the plaintiff in the plaintiff's discovery responses or called to testify at the trial of this case.

2. Set forth a list of documents, photographs, charts, sketches, video tapes, plats, appraisals, deeds, mortgages, notes, letters, cards, personal correspondence, had written notes, diaries, recordings, statements, or any other demonstrative evidence and/or documentation in possession of the Defendants or counsel that relate to the claim or the defense in this case, which you intend to use at the trial of this matter.

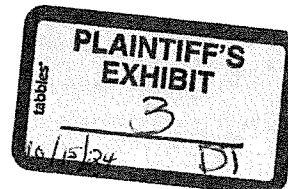
ANSWER:

Deeds in the chain of title to the subject property;
Telephone records for the cell phone of Tomika Craig;
Titles to the mobile home on the subject property;
Bill of Sale to mobile home;
Plats;
Contract of Sale with Wayne Rogers as the Purchaser;
Invoice from surveyor;
Tax records;
Letter from Laurens County Assessor dated April 13, 2021;
Property records for subject property;
Receipt from SCDMV;
Receipt from Gary Williams, Esq.;
Any and all documents produced by the plaintiff in his discovery responses.

3. For each person known to the Defendants or counsel to be a witness concerning the facts of the case, set forth a summary sufficient to inform the Plaintiff of the important facts either known to or observed by such witness or provide a copy of any written or recorded statements taken from such witness.

ANSWER: See Answer to number 1 above.

4. List the names and address of any expert witnesses concerning the facts of the case, whom the Defendants propose to use as a witness at the trial of the case and provide the names and



13. Did Defendants have communications, direct or indirect, with Annette Williams prior to January 22, 2022 or subsequent thereto concerning the subject real property known as 449 West Cliff Drive Laurens, hereinafter referred to as the "premises"? If yes, provide details.

ANSWER: No.

14. Do Defendants claim ownership of the mobile home located on the premises?

ANSWER: Yes, Tomika Craig does.

15. If Defendants answered yes to Interrogatory Fourteen (14) above, what documentation do defendants possess which demonstrates such ownership?

ANSWER: Title to mobile home.

16. Do Defendants contend Plaintiff executed the deed at his residence, 108 Holland Hill, Laurens, South Carolina?

ANSWER: Yes.

17. Do Defendants further contend Gary L. Williams, hereinafter referred to as "Williams" prepared the deed?

ANSWER: Yes.

18. What documents and/or other assistance did Defendants provide to Williams to enable him to prepare the deed?

ANSWER: Tomika Craig provided Attorney Williams the prior deed and plat to the property.

19. Did Williams charge for his services in connection with the preparation of the deed? If yes, who paid Williams for his services?

ANSWER: Yes, Tomika Craig paid him.

20. Do Defendants further contend Williams met with Plaintiff on January 22, 2022, the latter's residence for the purpose of having Plaintiff execute the deed?

ANSWER: Yes.

21. Who made the arrangements with Plaintiff for the meeting described in Interrogatory Twenty (20), above?

ANSWER: Tomika Craig.

22. When Plaintiff allegedly executed the deed who was in Plaintiff's immediate presence?

ANSWER: Gary Williams, Roslyn Smith Johnson, and Tomika Craig.

23. When Plaintiff allegedly executed the deed were there individuals in Plaintiff's residence and outside Plaintiff's immediate presence? If yes, provide the names of those individuals.

ANSWER: Gary Williams, Roslyn Smith Johnson, and Tomika Craig were in the same room with the plaintiff when he signed the deed. The defendants do not have knowledge of anyone in the home but in another room outside the immediate presence of the plaintiff when the plaintiff signed the deed.

24. List all real property owned by the Defendants.

ANSWER: 110 E. Hampton St., Laurens, SC; 449 Westcliff Drive, Laurens, SC; 413 Houston St., Laurens, SC – Tomika Craig.
449 Westcliff Drive, Laurens, SC – Arthur Rogers.

25. Has either Defendant utilized the services of Williams, other than in connection with the deed? If yes, provide the details of such services.

ANSWER: Yes, Williams was the closing attorney for the purchase of 413 Houston Street by Tomika Craig.

26. Describe the terms of Annette Williams occupancy of the premises relied upon by the Defendants to support the claim that Annette Williams should be ejected as from the premises as described in exhibit C.

ANSWER: Annette Williams has failed or refused to speak with the owner of the property rented by Annette Williams and has failed to make any payment of rent.

27. What compensation did the Plaintiff receive for allegedly conveying the premises to Defendants?

ANSWER: The consideration shown on the deed is \$15.00, love and affection.

28. Have Defendants incurred any costs and/or expenses in connection with the premises prior to January 22, 2022? If yes, provide details.

ANSWER: No.

29. **Did Plaintiff prior to January 22, 2022 or subsequent thereto gift either Defendant? If yes, provide details.**

ANSWER: The plaintiff has provided money to Tomika Craig and her children at various times throughout their lives. The plaintiff also transferred title to the mobile home on Westcliff Drive to Tomika Craig.

30. **What damages do Defendant's claim to have sustained as a result of the filing of the within action?**

ANSWER: The defendants have incurred ongoing attorney's fees and costs in defense of title to the subject property.

31. **Provide a list of all documents being provided in the response to the Plaintiff's Request for Production.**

ANSWER:

Deeds in the chain of title to the subject property;
Telephone records for the cell phone of Tomika Craig;
Titles to the mobile home on the subject property;
Bill of Sale to mobile home;
Plats;
Contract of Sale with Wayne Rogers as the Purchaser;
Invoice from surveyor;
Tax records;
Letter from Laurens County Assessor dated April 13, 2021;
Property records for subject property;
Receipt from SCDMV;
Receipt from Gary Williams, Esq.;
Any and all documents produced by the plaintiff in his discovery responses.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/Clayton L. Jennings
Clayton L. Jennings (S.C. Bar # 68284)
Jennings Law Firm, LLC
1151 E. Washington St.
Greenville, SC 29601
(864) 239-0055
Attorney for Defendants

February 9, 2023
Greenville, South Carolina



South Carolina Department of Public Safety

BILL OF SALE (Must Be Typed or Printed in Black Ink)

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

Check One:

- ☐ Purchase License Plate
☐ Transfer License Plate

I, The Bank of New York

Seller

1704 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Street City State Zip Code

state that on the _____ day of _____ Yr. _____ the following vehicle:

MAKE Fleet MODEL GAFLH BODY TYPE MBH YEAR 1987

VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NO. GAFLH5A&B13475CH LICENSE NO. _____

was sold to _____
Buyer

Street City State Zip Code

And the above described vehicle is free of all liens and encumbrances in the buyer's name except:

(List here any mortgages, liens, or encumbrances)

Sale price of vehicle \$ _____
Less trade-in \$ _____
Taxable Total \$ _____

Federal and State law requires that you state the mileage in connection with the transfer of ownership. Failure to complete or providing a false statement may result in fines and/or imprisonment.

I state that the odometer now reads _____ (no tenths) miles and to the best of my knowledge that it reflects the **ACTUAL MILEAGE** of the vehicle described herein, **UNLESS** one of the following statements is checked.

STOP! DO NOT check one of the following unless it applies.

- ____ 1. I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge the odometer reading reflects the amount of mileage in EXCESS of its mechanical limits.
____ 2. I hereby certify that the odometer reading is NOT the actual mileage. WARNING: ODOMETER DISCREPANCY.

WARNING: Federal and state law requires that you state the mileage in connection with the transfer of ownership. Failure to complete or providing a false statement may result in fines and/or imprisonment.

Signature(s) of Buyer(s) Date

[Signature] 12/23/2001
Signature(s) of Seller(s) Date

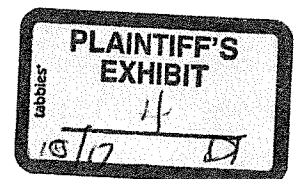
Hand Print Name(s) of Buyer(s)

Gary H. Johnson II
Hand Print Name(s) of Seller(s)

Return to: South Carolina Department of Public Safety
Division of Motor Vehicles
P.O. Box 1498
Columbia, S.C. 29216-0024

ANY ALTERATION OR ERASURE VOIDS THIS DOCUMENT.
ORIGINALS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT.

Form 4031 (Rev. 9-97)



RECEIPT DATE 1/24/22 No. 078049

RECEIVED FROM Yoneke / Cruz \$2605.00

☐ FOR RENT 2605.00 ☐ CASH

☐ FOR Deed ☐ CHECK

ACCOUNT 2605.00 ☐ MONEY

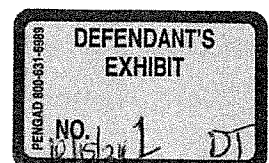
PAYMENT 2605.00 ☐ ORDER

BAL. DUE 00.00 ☐ CREDIT

FROM Yoneke / Cruz TO Alayne Rogers

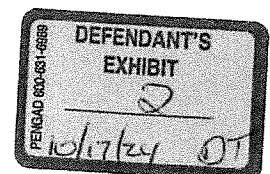
BY [Signature]

1-18280



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA					
CERTIFICATE OF TITLE					
OF A VEHICLE					
VEHICLE ID NUMBER GAFLH5A&B13475CH		YEAR 1987	MAKE FLEE	MODEL GAFLH5	NEW/USED USED
BODY STYLE MBH	DATE 10/14/2021	ODOMETER 0	WEIGHT 0	TITLE NUMBER 770300412323176	
VEHICLE BRAND(S) THIS IS A DUPLICATE CERTIFICATE AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO THE RIGHTS OF A PERSON UNDER THE ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE EXEMPT					
FULL NAME OF OWNER(S) ROGERS, WAYNE 108 HUNTERS CT LAURENS, SC 29360-2371		CUSTOMER NUMBER: 21783463			
					
THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES HEREBY CERTIFIES THAT THE PERSON HEREIN IS REGISTERED BY THIS DEPARTMENT AS THE LAWFUL OWNER OF THE VEHICLE DESCRIBED SUBJECT TO THE LIENS, IF ANY, HEREIN SET FORTH. KEVIN A. SHWEDO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HENRY MCMASTER GOVERNOR					
KEEP IN A SAFE PLACE. ANY ALTERATION OR ERASURE VOIDS THIS TITLE.					

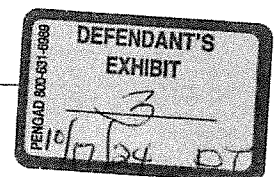
40584439

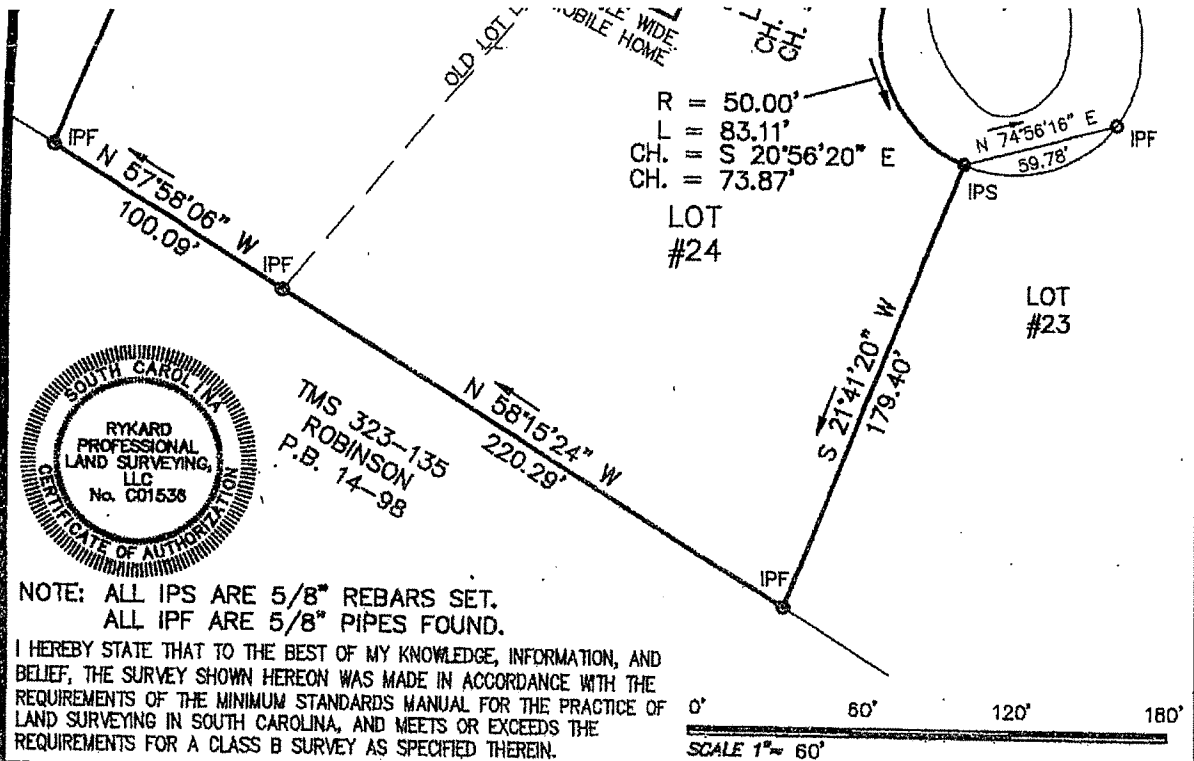


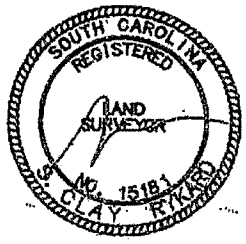
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA					
CERTIFICATE OF TITLE					
OF A VEHICLE					
VEHICLE ID NUMBER	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	NEW/USED	
GAFLH5A&B13475CH	1987	FLEE	GAFLH5	USED	
BODY STYLE	DATE ISSUED	ODOMETER	WEIGHT	TITLE NUMBER	
MBH	01-13-2022		4094	770300416903429	
VEHICLE BRAND(S)					
EXEMPT					
FULL NAME OF OWNER(S)			CUSTOMER NUMBER: 022853628		
CRAIG, TOMIKA D					
110 E HAMPTON ST					
LAURENS SC 293602357					
					
THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES HEREBY CERTIFIES THAT THE PERSON HEREIN IS REGISTERED BY THIS DEPARTMENT AS THE LAWFUL OWNER OF THE VEHICLE DESCRIBED SUBJECT TO THE LIENS, IF ANY, HEREIN SET FORTH. KEVIN A. SHWEDO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HENRY MCMASTER GOVERNOR					

0551136288

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR OPENING INSTRUCTIONS





	STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA LAURENS COUNTY		RYKARD PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYING, L.L.C. 207 CHURCH STREET LAURENS, S.C. 29360 (864) 984-1137 FAX(864) 984-3427														
	SURVEY FOR WAYNE J. ROGERS LOTS 24 & 25 WESTCLIFF ESTATES S/D 131 WESTCLIFF DRIVE																
RLS: S. CLAY RYKARD NO: 15181			<table border="1"> <tr><td>REF. PLAT BOOK</td><td>50-222</td></tr> <tr><td>REF. DEED BOOK</td><td>533-242</td></tr> <tr><td>TAX MAP</td><td>323-68</td></tr> <tr><td>PARTY CHIEF</td><td>SCR</td></tr> <tr><td>DRAWN</td><td>SCR</td></tr> <tr><td>DATE</td><td>3-21-01</td></tr> <tr><td>DWG. NO.</td><td>01050</td></tr> </table>	REF. PLAT BOOK	50-222	REF. DEED BOOK	533-242	TAX MAP	323-68	PARTY CHIEF	SCR	DRAWN	SCR	DATE	3-21-01	DWG. NO.	01050
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DATE	3-21-01																
DWG. NO.	01050																

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In the Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM THE LAURENS COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

The Honorable Donald B. Hocker

Appellate Case No. 2024-002104

RECEIVED

Oct 13 2025

SC Court of Appeals

Wayne J. Rogers, ...Appellant,

v.

Tomika Craig and Arthur Rogers, ...Respondents.

CERTIFICATE OF COUNSEL

The undersigned hereby certifies that the Record on Appeal contains all materials proposed to be included by any of the parties to this matter and not any other material.

Respectfully submitted,

THE DODD LAW FIRM, LLC

By: /s/ Michael B. Dodd
S.C. Bar No. 100599
michael@thedoddlawfirm.com
13 Sevier Street
Greenville, SC 29605
864-214-5012
Attorney for the Appellant

October 13, 2025

PROOF OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned attorney of the law office of The Dodd Law Firm, LLC, attorney for the Appellant, do hereby certify that I have served all parties to this appeal with a copy of the pleading(s) specified below by emailing a copy of the same to the email addresses for each of the below-listed counsel pursuant to the email addresses currently listed in the AIS database:

Pleading(s): Record on Appeal

Party Served:

JENNINGS LAW FIRM, LLC

Clayton L. Jennings
SC Bar No.: 68284
Jennings Law Firm, LLC
1151 E. Washington St.
Greenville, SC 29601
864-239-0055
clayton@jenningslawfirm.com
*Attorney for the Respondents,
Tomika Craig and Arthur Rogers.*

RECEIVED
Oct 13 2025
SC Court of Appeals

By: /s/Michael B. Dodd

October 13, 2025