

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
 EDGEFIELD COUNTY)
)
 Bettis C. Rainsford, Sr., and)
 Greg W. Anderson,)
 Plaintiffs,)
)
 v.)
)
 Edgefield Civic League, Beth)
 Thornton, George Thornton, Jr.,)
 Douglas Timmerman, Jr.,)
 Rebecca Turner, Beth Cali, and)
 Patsy Smith,)
 Defendants.)

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
 ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

2024-CP-19-00411

Order of Dismissal

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 SC Court of Appeals

The parties appeared before the court on July 7, 2025, for defendant’s motion to dismiss for several reasons. Plaintiff Greg W. Anderson, a licensed attorney in South Carolina, appeared *pro se*. Plaintiff Bettis C. Rainsford, Sr., was not present and did not present any independent filing or evidence to the court. Plaintiff’s provided an extensive history of both the history of the entities and personalities involved in this litigation, the significance of the artifacts and items held in Edgefield, and an anecdotal account of the impact this history has upon modern day Edgefield. The court will not recite this information in this order but acknowledges the extensive and unique history of Edgefield within the state of South Carolina and this nation.

For purposes of this order, the relevant facts are as follows:

- (1) the individual defendants are board members or former board members of a community organization which is Edgefield Civic League (“League”). Edgefield Civic League is a private organization that receives grants and other monies and assistance from political subdivisions such as the City of Edgefield. League is not a political subdivision or governmental entity or department.
- (2) Plaintiffs are concerned citizens in Edgefield and former board members of League and/or its sister entities;
- (3) Defendants reached a confidential agreement with Old Edgefield District Genealogical Society (“Society”) regarding the artifacts and other possessions held in the Tompkins Library. This agreement resulted in the

remaining artifacts and materials moved out of the town of Edgefield to another location nearby (See Plaintiff's Response Brief In Opposition); and

- (4) At the time of the events leading to the confidential settlement agreement and at the time of signing, the plaintiffs were not board members for either the League or the Society.

Defendants moved for dismissal for lack of standing by the plaintiffs and lack of jurisdiction. Plaintiffs argue a type of taxpayer standing based upon the public importance of the artifacts and other materials formerly housed in the City of Edgefield. In his argument, plaintiff asserted the location of the library items substantially increased tourism and was a benefit to all citizens in the city. Unfortunately, plaintiff's accounts were anecdotal only. Plaintiff also emphasized League's receipt of grants from the city and/or county to argue the League was quasi-governmental or a political subdivision entity.

There is no evidence that League is a political subdivision or governmental department or entity. The court finds that because these are private organizations, it is inappropriate to apply the law of taxpayer standing. Plaintiffs clearly have a passion for the history of Edgefield and disagree with decisions made by League and the individual defendants that impact the atmosphere in Edgefield. However, the court finds no basis upon which plaintiffs have a legal interest or other interest to confer proper standing upon plaintiffs regarding private organizations and agreements. Plaintiff Rainsford was not present and presented no opposition to this motion at all.

For these reasons, this court grants defendants' motion, and this case is dismissed.

July 29, 2025

Martha M. Rivers
Presiding Judge for the
Eleventh Judicial Circuit

[Electronic Signature to Follow]



Edgefield Common Pleas

Case Caption: Bettis C Rainsford Sr , plaintiff, et al VS Edgefield Civic League ,
defendant, et al
Case Number: 2024CP1900411
Type: Order/Dismissal

IT IS SO ORDERED.

/s/ Hon. Martha M. Rivers (2788)