

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF DARLINGTON

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

v.

KATHERINE ANN BAUCOM-COWICK,

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

CASE NO.: 2016-GS-16-1447 &  
2024-GS-16-2095

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Nov 20 2025

ORDER

SC Court of Appeals

I heard this case without a jury. I was the factfinder. Consequently, as I did when announcing the verdicts and sentences, I deem it proper that I offer my reasons denying the post-trial motions.

Katherine Ann Baucom-Cowick (Defendant) was charged with two counts of accessory before murder, one count of accessory before armed robbery, and one count of burglary first degree. I found Defendant not guilty of two counts of accessory to murder. I found Defendant guilty of accessory before the fact of armed robbery and guilty of burglary first degree. For the two convictions, I sentenced Defendant to 25 years concurrently, and I gave her credit of 3,243 days for time served on house arrest.

Defendant timely filed her motion for new trial and reconsideration of sentences. I have considered her motions without need of a hearing. I respectfully deny the motions and offer the following reasons.

TRUE CERTIFIED COPY.

*Scott B. Suggs*  
CLERK OF COURT/RMC  
DARLINGTON COUNTY, S.C.

SC1713 SUGGS  
CLERK OF COURT/R.O.D.  
DARLINGTON COUNTY, S.C.

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TRIAL

This case was tried before me as a bench trial. Defendant did not testify, and, as the factfinder, I did not hold her decision to not testify against her.

I saw and heard the witnesses. I assessed their demeanor, manner of testifying, and appearance of the witnesses. I assigned credibility or believability as I deemed proper.

I considered the evidence offered using the beyond a reasonable doubt metric.

I considered the evidence, direct and circumstantial, just as a court charges a jury after a criminal trial. I gave weight to the evidence as I saw fit.

I considered the elements of each offense as I pondered the charges.

ACCESSORY BEFORE THE FACT OF ARMED ROBBERY

Defendant asserts there was an insufficiency of evidence or proof beyond a reasonable doubt that Defendant was guilty of accessory before the fact of armed robbery. I respectfully disagree. I did not find Defendant guilty of accessory to murder because I was not convinced Defendant knew her husband planned to murder the victims. However, regarding the accessory to the armed robbery charge, my trial notes reflect that Defendant gave a

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CLERK OF COURT/RMC  
DARLINGTON COUNTY, S.C.

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CLERK OF COURT/RMC  
DARLINGTON COUNTY, S.C.

*See 2*

statement to law enforcement that she was aware her husband planned to rob the victim. The investigator testified Defendant told him that when Defendant's husband came home after being with one of his friends, he told Defendant of his plan to rob the victim because the victim had pain pills. Defendant assisted in the planned robbery when she took or went with her husband to a location near victim's house. After husband exited the vehicle to walk to victim's house, Defendant drove to a nearby store to wait for her husband to return.

Defendant told the investigator she begged her husband not to rob the victim but there was no use in arguing with her husband. Defendant avers in her motion that her husband drove the vehicle to a location near the victim's home before the robbery; however, my notes from the statement she made to law enforcement indicated that Defendant drove her husband to that location. Regardless, Defendant knew why husband was going to the location and she was with her husband when they drove to the location near victim.

Thus, I found Defendant knowingly aided her husband before the armed robbery. I find the proof of this offense left me firmly convinced of her guilt.

BURGLARY FIRST DEGREE

This conviction was not raised or addressed in the motion. I note this only for clarity and why I am not addressing it here.

*In 3*

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*Scott B. Suggs*  
CLERK OF COURT/R.M.C.  
DARLINGTON COUNTY, S.C.

RECONSIDERATION OF THE SENTENCES

Defendant moves the court to reconsider sentencing based on the "court's reliance of the fact that Defendant drove [her husband] to the crime scene." I interpret this request to be based upon granting Defendant a new trial on the accessory before the fact of the armed robbery. For the reasons stated above, I do not grant that motion.

Notwithstanding the denial of the sentence reconsideration, I wish to offer the following regarding sentencing.

First, I issued concurrent sentences, not consecutive.

Second, even if I granted the new trial for the accessory before the fact of armed robbery, the sentence would remain 25 years for the burglary offense alone.

Third, the maximum sentence for the accessory before the fact of armed robbery is thirty years. I did not sentence the maximum sentence. The burglary first degree charge allows for a life sentence. I did not issue a life sentence.

I gave Defendant credit for her house arrest ~~time~~ 3,243 days or 8.88 years.

I wish to clarify a comment I made when sentencing Defendant. I stated after the verdicts that while "I was impressed by the knowledge and professional bearing of Dr. McKnight, as to the guilt

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DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS

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Scott B. Suggs  
CLERK OF COURT/AMC  
DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS  
Jan 4

or innocence of Defendant, I gave no weight to her testimony." I meant to say that involuntary intoxication or drug use or the effect of addiction is not a defense in a criminal case. I should have added that my concurrent sentences and the discretion I used to grant full credit for house arrest time and the discretion to avoid maximum sentencing were very much influenced by Dr. McKnight's testimony regarding the remarkable progress Defendant has made in her life since treatment began. I also considered as mitigation the information Dr. McKnight provided regarding the effects of the addiction that affected Defendant before treatment began.

ATTORNEYS

I again wish to commend the attorneys for their civility at trial. All were prepared for trial, and I appreciated their patience with me.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, based upon the foregoing, I respectfully deny Defendant's motions. If a higher and more learned panel of jurists determines that I have erred, I will stand corrected, chastened, and rebuked.

TRUE CERTIFIED COPY,  
*Scott B. Suggs*  
CLERK OF COURT/RMC  
DARLINGTON COUNTY, S.C.

*Jan 5*

SCOTT B. SUGGS  
CLERK OF COURT/R.M.C.  
DARLINGTON COUNTY, S.C.

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It is done and ordered this 18th of November 2025 at Sumter,  
South Carolina.

George M. McFaddin, Jr.  
GEORGE M. McFADDIN, JR.  
(ORDER PREPARED BY TRIAL JUDGE)

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DARLINGTON COUNTY, S.C.

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Nov 20 2025

SENTENCE ORDER

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

COUNTY OF Darlington

STATE

VS.

Katherine Ann Baucom-Cowick

AKA: SSN: [REDACTED]

RACE: White SEX: Female

DOB: [REDACTED]

SC Court of Appeals

) INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2016-GS-16-1447

) AW#: 2016A1610400721

) Date of Offense: 07/17/2016

) S.C. Code §: 16-11-0311

) CDR Code #: 0079

) Range of Offense: 15- Life

In disposition of the above indictment comes now the Defendant who was [X] CONVICTED OF or [ ] PLEADS

TO: Burglary 1st

Range of Offense Pled: \_\_\_\_\_

In violation of § 16-11-0311 of the S.C. Code of Laws, bearing CDR Code # 0079

[ ] NON-VIOLENT [X] VIOLENT [ ] SERIOUS [X] MOST SERIOUS [ ] Mandatory GPS [ ] § 17-25-45 (CSC w/minor 1st or CSC w/minor 3rd)

The charge is: [X] As indicted, [ ] Lesser Included Offense, [ ]

Defendant Waives Presentment to Grand Jury.

The plea is: [ ] w/o Rec/Negotiations [ ] Negotiated \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Recommendation \_\_\_\_\_

Kernard Redmond 66583 Solicitor SC Bar #

Paul V. Cannarella, Sr. 1104 Attorney For Defendant SC Bar #

The Defendant is committed to the [X] SCDC [ ] County Detention Center [ ] Home Incarceration Program for a determinate term of 25 days/months/years Time Served [ ] YOA NTE, years and/or shall pay a fine

of \$ \_\_\_\_\_; provided that upon the service of \_\_\_\_\_ days/months/years/Time Served and or payment

of \$ \_\_\_\_\_; plus costs and assessments as applicable\*; the balance is suspended with probation for \_\_\_\_\_ months/years and subject to SCDPPPS standard conditions of probation, which are incorporated by reference.

The sentence shall run [X] CONCURRENT or [ ] CONSECUTIVE to sentence on: with other sentence on this date.

[X] The Defendant is to be given credit for time served pursuant to S.C. Code § 24-13-40 to be calculated and applied by SCDC.

3243 days/month [ ] To include time spent on monitored house arrest prior to trial and sentencing.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

- [ ] PTUP
[ ] No Contact with Victim [ ] Domestic Violence Intervention Program [ ] Hold for Inpatient Treatment
[ ] Sex Offender Registry pursuant to S.C. Code § 23-3-430 [ ] SAC/MHC if necessary
[ ] Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect pursuant to S.C. Code § 17-25-135
[ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] RESTITUTION See Separate Order (20% per S.C. Code § 24-21-490 (B) )

§14-1-206 (Assessments 107.5%)

§14-1-211 (A)(1)(Conv. Surcharge)

§14-1-211 (A)(2)(DUI Surcharge)

§56-5-2995 (DUI Assessment)

§56-1-286 (DUI Breath Test)

§14-1-212 (Law Enforce. Funding)

§14-1-213 (Drug Court Surcharge)

§34-11-70(b)and(c), and 34-11-80(c)and(d) (Admin Fraud Check Court Costs)

§50-21-114 (BUI Breath Test Fee)

§56-5-2942(J) (Vehicle Assessment)

3% to County (if paid in installments)

[ ] Appointed PD or appointed other counsel, Proviso requires \$500 be paid to Clerk during probation and shall be collected before any other fees

[ ] § 17-3-30(B) Unpaid Application Fee to be paid to the Public Defender Fund

Michelle Neeson Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

Lisa Carter Court Reporter

2759 Judge Code

6/5/2025 Sentence Date

[Signature] Presiding Judge

G. McFarland

Table with 2 columns: Description, Amount. Includes Restitution \$, FINE: \$100, \$100, \$12, \$25, \$25, \$160, \$41, \$50, \$40/ea, TBD, \$3.75, \$500, TBD, TOTAL \$128.75

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SC Court of Appeals

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

SENTENCE ORDER

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

COUNTY OF Darlington  
STATE

) INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2024GS1602095

) AWF#: 2024GS1602095

) Date of Offense: 07/17/2016

) S.C. Code §: 14-01-0040; 14-01-0050

) CDR Code #: 0002

) Range of Offense: 10-30

VS.

Katherine Ann Baucom-Cowick

AKA: SSN: [REDACTED]

RACE: White SEX: Female

DOB: [REDACTED]

In disposition of the above indictment comes now the Defendant who was  CONVICTED OF or  PLEADS

TO: Accessory before the fact to a felony

Range of Offense Pled: \_\_\_\_\_

In violation of § 14-01-0040; 14-01-0050 of the S.C. Code of Laws, bearing CDR Code # 0002

NON-VIOLENT  VIOLENT  SERIOUS  MOST SERIOUS  Mandatory GPS  § 17-25-45  
(CSC w/minor 1<sup>st</sup> or CSC w/minor 3<sup>rd</sup>)

The charge is:  As indicted,  Lesser Included Offense,  Defendant Waives Presentment to Grand Jury.

The plea is:  w/o Rec/Negotiations  Negotiated \_\_\_\_\_  Recommendation \_\_\_\_\_

Kernard Redmond  
Solicitor

66583  
SC Bar #

Paul V. Cannarella, Sr.  
Attorney For Defendant

1104  
SC Bar #

The Defendant is committed to the  SCDC  County Detention Center  Home Incarceration Program  
for a determinate term of 25 days/months/years/Time Served  YOA NTE \_\_\_\_\_ years and/or shall pay a fine

of \$ \_\_\_\_\_; provided that upon the service of \_\_\_\_\_ days/months/years/Time Served and or payment

of \$ \_\_\_\_\_; plus costs and assessments as applicable; the balance is suspended with probation for \_\_\_\_\_  
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3% to County (if paid in installments)

Appointed PD or appointed other counsel, Proviso requires \$500 be paid to Clerk during probation and shall be collected before any other fees

§ 17-3-30(B) Unpaid Application Fee to be paid to the Public Defender Fund

Michelle Rattray  
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

Lisa Carter  
Court Reporter

2759  
Judge Code

6/15/2025  
Sentence Date

[Signature]  
Presiding Judge

G. McAdams

	Restitution	\$
Restitution		
FINE:		
	\$	
	\$100	\$ 100.00
	\$100	\$
	\$12	\$
	\$25	\$
	\$25	\$ 25.00
	\$150	\$
	\$41	\$
	\$50	\$
	\$40/ea	\$
	TBD	\$ 3.75
	\$600	\$
	TBD	\$
TOTAL		\$ 128.75

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01/27/2025