

The Supreme Court of South Carolina

Patricia A. Howard
CLERK OF COURT

Brenda F. Shealy
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

POST OFFICE BOX 11330
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA
29211
TELEPHONE: (803) 734-1080
FAX: (803) 734-1499

December 9, 2025

Ms. April J. Lilliston
PO Box 5
Sandy Springs, SC 29677

RECEIVED
Dec 09 2025
SC Court of Appeals

Dear Mr. Lilliston:

This responds to your letter received December 8, 2025, relating to your case that is pending below. Since you are represented by counsel in this matter(s), no action will be taken on your pro se filing. *Miller v. State*, 388 S.C. 347, 697 S.E.2d 527 (2010); *Jones v. State*, 348 S.C. 13, 558 S.E.2d 517 (2002); *State v. Stuckey*, 333 S.C. 56, 508 S.E.2d 564 (1998); *Foster v. State*, 298 S.C. 298 S.C. 306, 379 S.E.2d 907 (1989).

We are forwarding a copy of your letter to your counsel so she can be aware of your concerns.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Howard

CLERK

cc: Wanda H. Carter (with copy of correspondence)
Rachel Huddleston Janowski
Mark Reynolds Farthing
Alan McCrory Wilson
The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings

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DEC 08 2025

S.C. SUPREME COURT

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

April J. Lilliston, Petitioner,

v.

The Honorable Deadra L. Jefferson, Respondent.

PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDAMUS

INTRODUCTION

Petitioner, April J. Lilliston, respectfully petitions this Court for a Writ of Mandamus compelling the Honorable Deadra L. Jefferson to issue a ruling on Petitioner's Motion to Reconsider, filed on August 11, 2025. Although a hearing was held on October 20, 2025, the court has failed to issue a written ruling. The matter has remained pending for several months. Petitioner has no other adequate remedy and is entitled to a timely ruling as required by law.

STATEMENT OF JURISDICTION

This Court has original jurisdiction to issue extraordinary writs, including mandamus, pursuant to Article V, § 5 of the South Carolina Constitution and Rule 245, SCACR. This Petition is properly brought under Rule 240, SCACR.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

1. Petitioner was a party in the lower court matter before the Honorable Deadra L. Jefferson.
2. On August 11, 2025, Petitioner timely filed a Motion to Reconsider.
3. The lower court held a hearing on October 20, 2025.
4. As of the date of this filing, the court has not issued a written ruling.
5. Petitioner has monitored the docket and made reasonable efforts to obtain a ruling, but none has been issued.
6. Without a ruling, Petitioner is prevented from seeking further appellate review and is prejudiced by the continued delay.

GROUND FOR RELIEF

A writ of mandamus is appropriate when:

- (1) the respondent has a clear legal duty to perform the act requested;
- (2) the petitioner has no other adequate remedy; and

(3) the petitioner has a clear legal right to the relief requested.

See *Redmond v. Lexington Cnty. Sch. Dist.*, 314 S.C. 431, 445 S.E.2d 441 (1994).

1. CLEAR LEGAL DUTY

Judges have a mandatory, nondiscretionary duty to rule on properly filed motions. A Motion to Reconsider was filed and heard. A ruling is required.

2. NO ADEQUATE REMEDY

Petitioner cannot appeal or seek review until the lower court issues a ruling. No other remedy exists to compel action except mandamus.

3. CLEAR LEGAL RIGHT TO A RULING

A litigant has a constitutional and statutory right to a timely ruling. The delay since August 11, 2025, is unreasonable and prejudicial.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (Rule 240(c), SCACR)

Petitioner includes the following exhibits:

- Exhibit A – Evidence of the October 20, 2025 Hearing (Notice or confirmation)
- Exhibit B – Docket printout showing no ruling has been issued

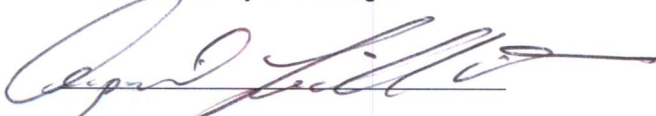
REQUEST FOR RELIEF

Petitioner respectfully requests that this Court:

1. Issue a Writ of Mandamus directing the Honorable Deadra L. Jefferson to issue a written ruling on the Motion to Reconsider filed August 11, 2025;
2. Require Respondent to show cause, if necessary; and
3. Grant any additional relief deemed just and proper.

VERIFICATION

I, April J. Lilliston, verify that the facts stated in this Petition for Writ of Mandamus are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



April J. Lilliston

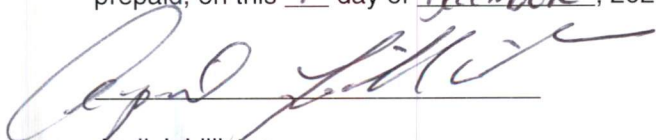
PO Box 5

Sandy Springs, SC 29677

Date: December 1, 2025

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I served a copy of this Petition for Writ of Mandamus upon the Honorable Deadra L. Jefferson and the Berkeley County Solicitor's Office by depositing a copy in the U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, on this 1st day of December, 2025.



April J. Lilliston

April Lilliston
PO Box 5
Sandy Spring SC 29677



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U.S. POSTAGE
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South Carolina Supreme Court
Clerk of Court
1231 Gervais Street
Columbia, SC 29201

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S.C. SUPREME COURT



Berkeley County 9th Judicial Circuit Public Index



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Switch View

The State of South Carolina VS April Jarqvia Lilliston

Case Number:	2024A1820500652	Court Agency:	General Sessions	Filed Date:	06/03/2024
Case Type:	Criminal-Clerk	Case Sub Type:			
Status:	Appeal	Assigned Judge:	Clerk Of Court C P, G S, And Family Court	Disposition Judge:	Jefferson, Deadra L.
Disposition:	Trial Guilty				
Disposition Date:	08/01/2025	Date Received:	06/03/2024	Arrest Date:	06/03/2024
Law Enf. Case:		True Bill Date:	07/17/2024	No Bill Date:	
Prosecutor Case:		Indictment Number:	2024GS0803222	Waiver Date:	
Probation Case:					

Case Parties	Charges	Sentencing	Associated Cases	Actions	Financials	Bonds
Name	Description	Type	Motion Roster	Begin Date	Completion Date	Documents
Lilliston, April Jarqvia	Letter/Letter	Filing		10/16/2025-11:03		
Janowski, Rachel Huddleston	State's Response To Defense Motion For Reconsideration	Motion		10/02/2025-11:24		
Lilliston, April Jarqvia	Active - Probation	Filing		09/09/2025-15:43	08/01/2025-15:43	
Shivers, Julie Marie	Certificate/Proof of Service	Filing		08/29/2025-13:26	08/01/2025-13:26	
Lilliston, April Jarqvia	Letter/Letter	Filing		08/28/2025-16:10	08/01/2025-16:10	
Shivers, Julie Marie	Appeal/Notice of Appeal	Filing		08/27/2025-10:16	08/01/2025-10:16	
Lilliston, April Jarqvia	Letter/Letter	Filing		08/22/2025-16:38	08/01/2025-16:38	
Lilliston,	Motion/Relieve Counsel	Motion		08/22/2025-	08/01/2025-	

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DEC 08 2025

S.C. SUPREME COURT

April Jarqvavia				11:56	11:56	
Shivers, Julie Marie	Motion/Motion for Reconsideration of Sentence	Motion		08/11/2025-15:07	08/01/2025-15:07	
Lilliston, April Jarqvavia	Appeal/Notice of Appeal	Filing		08/11/2025-10:49	08/01/2025-10:49	
Lilliston, April Jarqvavia	Letter/Letter	Filing		08/11/2025-09:49	08/01/2025-09:49	
Lilliston, April Jarqvavia	Letter/Letter	Filing		08/11/2025-09:10		
Lilliston, April Jarqvavia	Letter/Letter	Filing		08/08/2025-10:48	08/01/2025-10:48	
Lilliston, April Jarqvavia	Letter/Ex Parte Letter from Judge Jefferson	Filing		08/06/2025-15:46		
Lilliston, April Jarqvavia	Exhibit/Exhibit List	Filing		08/01/2025-15:11		
Shivers, Julie Marie	Motion/Dismiss	Motion		07/31/2025-10:52	08/01/2025-10:52	
Shivers, Julie Marie	8/18/2025_PDTR_Roster/Notice of Motions Roster Publication S	Action		07/25/2025-14:34	08/01/2025-14:34	
Janowski, Rachel Huddleston	8/18/2025_PDTR_Roster/Notice of Motions Roster Publication S	Action		07/25/2025-14:34	08/01/2025-14:34	
Shivers, Julie Marie	8/4/2025_PDTR_Roster/Notice of Motions Roster Publication Se	Action		07/11/2025-11:02	08/01/2025-11:02	
Janowski, Rachel Huddleston	8/4/2025_PDTR_Roster/Notice of Motions Roster Publication Se	Action		07/11/2025-11:02	08/01/2025-11:02	
Janowski, Rachel Huddleston	7/28/2025_PDTR_Roster/Notice of Motions Roster Publication S	Action		07/03/2025-09:34	08/01/2025-09:34	
Shivers, Julie Marie	7/28/2025_PDTR_Roster/Notice of Motions Roster Publication S	Action		07/03/2025-09:34	08/01/2025-09:34	
Shivers, Julie Marie	Criminal Records for All State's Witnesses	Filing		06/13/2025-16:25	08/01/2025-16:25	
Shivers, Julie Marie	Motion/In Limine	Motion		06/13/2025-16:25	08/01/2025-16:25	
Shivers, Julie Marie	Motion to Sequester Witnesses	Motion		06/13/2025-16:24	08/01/2025-16:24	
Shivers, Julie Marie	Motion/Exclude Testimony of Prior Bad Acts	Motion		06/13/2025-15:58	08/01/2025-15:58	
Janowski, Rachel Huddleston	6/16/2025_PDTR_Roster/Notice of Motions Roster Publication S	Action		05/23/2025-12:55	08/01/2025-12:55	
Shivers, Julie Marie	6/16/2025_PDTR_Roster/Notice of Motions Roster Publication S	Action		05/23/2025-12:55	08/01/2025-12:55	

Shivers, Julie Marie	Motion/Relieve As Counsel	Motion		05/07/2025- 15:03	08/01/2025- 15:03	
Lilliston, April Jarqvia	Order on Defendant's Motion to Reconsider Bond Mod (DENIED)	Order		05/07/2025- 14:34	08/01/2025- 14:34	
Shivers, Julie Marie	5/12/2025_PD_Roster/Notice of Motions Roster Publication Sen	Action		05/07/2025- 13:59	08/01/2025- 13:59	
Janowski, Rachel Huddleston	5/12/2025_PD_Roster/Notice of Motions Roster Publication Sen	Action		05/07/2025- 13:59	08/01/2025- 13:59	
Shivers, Julie Marie	Motion/Reconsider Bond Modification Denial	Motion		04/25/2025- 10:47	08/01/2025- 10:47	
Shivers, Julie Marie	Order/Order Denying Motion for Bond Modification	Order		04/09/2025- 12:09	08/01/2025- 12:09	
Janowski, Rachel Huddleston	4/9/2025_PD_Roster/Notice of Motions Roster Publication Sent	Action		04/08/2025- 14:42	08/01/2025- 14:42	
Shivers, Julie Marie	4/9/2025_PD_Roster/Notice of Motions Roster Publication Sent	Action		04/08/2025- 14:42	08/01/2025- 14:42	
Shivers, Julie Marie	Motion/Motion to Modify Bond	Motion		03/31/2025- 16:25	08/01/2025- 16:25	
Shivers, Julie Marie	Notice/Notice of Appearance	Filing		02/24/2025- 15:21	08/01/2025- 15:21	
Janowski, Rachel Huddleston	3/3/2025_PD_Roster/Notice of Motions Roster Publication Sent	Action		02/18/2025- 11:47	08/01/2025- 11:47	
Lilliston, April Jarqvia	Second Appearance Report	Filing		12/05/2024- 11:39	08/01/2025- 11:39	
Anderson, Carles' Gabraie	12/6/2024_PDSA_Roster/Notice of Motions Roster Publication S	Action		11/26/2024- 15:18	08/01/2025- 15:18	
Janowski, Rachel Huddleston	12/6/2024_PDSA_Roster/Notice of Motions Roster Publication S	Action		11/26/2024- 15:18	08/01/2025- 15:18	
Anderson, Carles' Gabraie	Motion/Speedy Trial And Motion For Dismissal	Motion		11/25/2024- 11:05	08/01/2025- 11:05	
Lilliston, April Jarqvia	Indictment/Indictment	Filing		07/17/2024- 09:12	08/01/2025- 09:12	
Lilliston, April Jarqvia	Preliminary Hearing Disposition	Filing		07/15/2024- 11:30	08/01/2025- 11:30	
Lilliston, April Jarqvia	Letter/Letter Returned	Filing		07/10/2024- 11:49	08/01/2025- 11:49	
Anderson, Carles' Gabraie	Rule 5 Request For Discovery	Filing		06/27/2024- 10:47	08/01/2025- 10:47	
Anderson, Carles'	Motion/Motion to Modify Bond	Motion		06/24/2024- 16:44	08/01/2025- 16:44	

Gabraie						
Lilliston, April Jarqvia	Order/Appointment of Public Defender	Order		06/20/2024- 11:24	08/01/2025- 11:24	
Lilliston, April Jarqvia	Public Defender App Approved	Filing		06/20/2024- 11:24	08/01/2025- 11:24	
Lilliston, April Jarqvia	Public Defender Application/Request \$40	Filing		06/20/2024- 11:22	08/01/2025- 11:22	
Lilliston, April Jarqvia	Public Defender App Denied	Filing		06/06/2024- 16:40	08/01/2025- 16:40	
Lilliston, April Jarqvia	Public Defender Application/Request \$40	Filing		06/06/2024- 15:55	08/01/2025- 15:55	
Lilliston, April Jarqvia	Discharge Issued	Filing		06/03/2024- 14:42	08/01/2025- 14:42	
Lilliston, April Jarqvia	Filing/Case File	Filing		06/03/2024- 13:57	08/01/2025- 13:57	



Leah Guberry Dupree
Berkeley County Clerk of Court
Post Office Box 219
Moncks Corner, SC 29461

October 1, 2025
Via U.S. Mail

April Lilliston
P.O. Box 5
Sandy Springs, SC 29677

RE: State of South Carolina vs April Lilliston
Berkeley County General Sessions Court
Charges: Children / Cruelty to children (Torture, deprivation)
DOA: 6/3/2024

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please be advised that you are scheduled to appear for Berkeley County General Sessions Court for a term of court beginning the week of October 20, 2025. **Please be present on Monday, October 20, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** You must be present at that time in Courtroom F of the Berkeley County Courthouse located at 300-B California Avenue, Moncks Corner, South Carolina 29461.

Please notify your attorney upon receipt of this letter.

Failure to appear for Court at the above stated time may result in a Bench Warrant being issued for your arrest.

Sincerely,
Leah Dupree
Berkeley County Clerk of Court

cc: Julie Shivers, Esq
105 Gulledge St.
Moncks Corner, SC 29461