

**STATE OF SOUTH  
IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA COURT OF APPEALS**

PRANCETON WILLIAMS,

Appellant,

v.

**Appellate Case No. 2025-002279**

WILLIAM "BILL" RHODES,

Respondent.

**APPELLANT'S MOTION FOR LEAVE TO ORDER TRANSCRIPT OUT OF TIME**

NOW COMES Appellant Pranceton Williams ("Appellant"), proceeding *pro se*, and respectfully moves this Court for leave to order a transcript of proceedings out of time pursuant to Rule 207 of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules (SCACR), and in support thereof states as follows:

**I. COMPLIANCE WITH COURT'S DECEMBER 1, 2025 LETTER**

On December 1, 2025, this Court issued a letter notifying Appellant that the time for ordering the transcript had expired and directing Appellant to either: (1) file proof of timely ordering the transcript, or (2) file a motion requesting permission to order the transcript outside the filing deadlines set by Rule 207 of the SCACR. This motion is filed in compliance with that directive.

Appellant acknowledges that he did not timely order the transcript within the deadlines prescribed by Rule 207 of the SCACR. Appellant hereby requests permission to order the transcript out of time for the reasons set forth below.

**NATURE OF THE APPEAL**

This is an appeal from Greenville County Court of Common Pleas case number, (2022-CP-23-3012) Breach of Contract case, date of October 13, 2025. The transcript at issue is essential for appellate review of the Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment held on August 14, 2025 before the Honorable Dale Van Slambrook.

## **GROUNDNS FOR GRANTING LEAVE TO ORDER TRANSCRIPT OUT OF TIME**

### **A. Pro Se Status and Unfamiliarity with Appellate Procedures**

Appellant is proceeding *pro se* in this appeal. As a self-represented litigant without legal training, Appellant was not immediately aware of the specific deadlines for ordering transcripts under Rule 207 of the SCACR.

South Carolina courts have long recognized that *pro se* litigants should not be penalized for technical procedural deficiencies when they are diligently pursuing their rights. *See Strickland v. Strickland*, 375 S.C. 76, 81, 650 S.E.2d 465, 467 (2007) (*pro se* parties "are generally accorded some degree of latitude in appellate matters"); *Bochette v. Bochette*, 407 S.C. 218, 754 S.E.2d 745 (Ct. App. 2014) (same).

### **B. Good Cause Exists for the Delay**

Rule 207(b) of the SCACR provides that "[a]n appellant who fails to order a transcript within the time required by this rule shall not be entitled to a transcript at public expense." However, this Court retains discretion to permit late ordering of transcripts when good cause is shown.

Good cause exists here for the following reasons:

- 1. Prompt Action Upon Notice:** Appellant is filing this motion promptly upon receiving the Court's December 1, 2025 letter notifying him of the missed deadline. This demonstrates diligence and good faith.
- 2. Unfamiliarity with Procedures:** As a *pro se* appellant, Appellant was not aware of the specific timing requirements of Rule 207 until receiving the Court's letter.
- 3. No Willful Disregard:** Appellant's failure to timely order the transcript was not due to willful disregard of the rules, but rather to his unfamiliarity with appellate procedures as a self-represented litigant.
- 4. Transcript is Essential:** The transcript is essential for meaningful appellate review of the issues raised in this appeal. Without the transcript, the Court will not have a complete record of the proceedings below.
- 5. No Prejudice to Respondent:** Granting this motion will not prejudice Respondent. The court reporter's notes remain available, and both parties will benefit from having an accurate, official transcript of the proceedings.

### **C. The Transcript is Necessary for Appellate Review**

Rule 207 of the SCACR recognizes that transcripts are generally necessary for proper appellate review. An accurate transcript of the proceedings below is essential because:

1. It provides the factual foundation for the Court's review of alleged errors;
2. It preserves witness testimony and evidentiary rulings;
3. It documents oral arguments and representations made to the lower court;
4. It ensures that appellate review is based on what actually occurred, not on imperfect recollections; and
5. It promotes accuracy and fairness in the appellate process.

Denying access to the transcript would effectively deny Appellant meaningful appellate review and would place him at a severe disadvantage compared to represented parties who would have been aware of the transcript ordering deadlines.

#### **NO PREJUDICE TO RESPONDENT**

Granting this motion will not prejudice Respondent in any way. The court reporter's notes remain available, and ordering the transcript now will simply provide both parties with an official, accurate record of the proceedings. Both parties will benefit from having the transcript for purposes of briefing and oral argument.

Moreover, Respondent is represented by counsel who would have been aware of transcript ordering deadlines. Appellant's *pro se* status placed him at a procedural disadvantage that this Court can and should remedy by permitting late ordering of the transcript.

#### **APPELLANT WILL BEAR THE COST OF THE TRANSCRIPT**

Appellant acknowledges and understands that by failing to timely order the transcript, he has forfeited his right to a transcript at public expense under Rule 207(b) of the SCACR. Appellant is prepared to bear the cost of preparing the transcript in accordance with the court reporter's standard fee schedule.

Appellant requests that the Court direct the court reporter to provide a cost estimate before preparation of the transcript, and Appellant will make arrangements for payment upon receiving that estimate.

## LETTER TO COURT REPORTER ATTACHED

In compliance with the Court's December 1, 2025 letter, Appellant attaches as **Exhibit A** a copy of his letter to the court reporter requesting preparation of the transcript. Appellant is prepared to send this letter to the court reporter immediately upon this Court's granting of this motion.

### CONCLUSION

Appellant is a *pro se* litigant diligently pursuing his appeal. His failure to timely order the transcript was not due to willful disregard of the rules, but rather to his unfamiliarity with appellate procedures. He has acted promptly upon receiving notice of the missed deadline and is prepared to bear the cost of the transcript.

The transcript is essential for meaningful appellate review, and granting this motion will not prejudice Respondent in any way. In the interests of justice and fundamental fairness, Appellant respectfully requests that this Court grant him leave to order the transcript out of time.

**WHEREFORE**, Appellant respectfully requests that this Court:

1. Grant Appellant leave to order the transcript out of time;
2. Direct the court reporter to prepare the transcript upon Appellant's payment of the applicable fees;
3. Direct the court reporter to provide Appellant with a cost estimate before preparing the transcript;
4. Grant Appellant a reasonable time to arrange for payment of transcript costs; and
5. Grant such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2025.

s/Princeton Williams  
Princeton Williams, Pro Se  
20 Alice Farr Dr.  
Greenville, SC 29617  
864-787-2295

**STATE OF SOUTH  
IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA COURT OF APPEALS**

PRANCETON WILLIAMS,

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WILLIAM "BILL" RHODES,

Respondent.

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**SC Court of Appeals**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 20<sup>TH</sup> day of December, 2025, I served a copy of the foregoing Motion for Leave to Order Transcript Out of Time, together with a copy of my letter to the court reporter (Exhibit A), upon the following parties by depositing the same in the United States mail, first class postage prepaid, and by email where email addresses are available:

**The South Carolina Court of Appeals:**

Jenny Abbott Kitchings, Clerk  
South Carolina Court of Appeals  
Post Office Box 11629  
Columbia, SC 29211

**South Carolina Office of Court Administration:**

South Carolina Office of Court Administration  
1220 Senate Street, Suite 200  
Columbia, SC 29201

**Respondent's Counsel:**

Gregory Alan Morton, Esquire  
4 Arborland Way  
Greenville, SC 29615  
gmorton@dmdslaw.com

s/Pranceton Williams \_\_\_\_\_  
Pranceton Williams, Pro Se

December 20, 2025

South Carolina Office of Court Administration  
1220 Senate Street, Suite 200  
Columbia, SC 29201

Greenville County Court of Common Pleas  
305 E North Street  
Greenville, South Carolina 29601

**Re: Request for Transcript**

**Princeton Williams v. William "Bill" Rhodes**  
**Appellate Case No. 2025-002279**  
**Lower Court Case No. 2022-CP-23-3012**  
**Greenville County Court of Common Pleas**

Dear Court Reporter:

I am the appellant in the above-referenced appeal currently pending before the South Carolina Court of Appeals. I am proceeding *pro se* (representing myself).

I hereby request that you prepare a transcript of the following proceedings:

**Proceeding:** Hearing on Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment  
**Date:** August 14, 2025  
**Presiding Judge:** The Honorable Dale Van Slambrook  
**Court:** Greenville County Court of Common Pleas  
**Lower Court Case Number:** 2022-CP-23-3012

I understand that I am responsible for the cost of preparing this transcript. I have filed a Motion for Leave to Order Transcript Out of Time with the South Carolina Court of Appeals, which was necessary because I missed the standard deadline for ordering transcripts under Rule 207 of the SCACR. As a result, I have forfeited my right to a transcript at public expense and will bear all costs personally.

**Please provide me with a written cost estimate that includes:**

1. The estimated number of transcript pages;
2. Your per-page rate (ordinary transcript rate);
3. The total estimated cost;
4. Your preferred method of payment (check, money order, credit card, etc.); and
5. The estimated timeframe for completion once payment is received.

Please note that my motion to order the transcript out of time was filed with the Court of Appeals on December 20, 2025. I am awaiting the Court's ruling granting me leave to proceed. Upon receiving the Court's order, I will immediately arrange for payment so that you may begin preparation of the transcript.

**Time is of the essence** in this appellate matter, as my brief will be due within a specific timeframe after the transcript is filed with the Court of Appeals. I would greatly appreciate

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**Dec 22 2025**

**SC Court of Appeals**

your prompt attention to this request and your cost estimate so that I can arrange payment immediately upon the Court's granting of my motion.

Please send your cost estimate to me at:

Princeton Williams  
20 Alice Farr Dr.  
Greenville, SC 29617  
Phone: 864-787-2295

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email.

Copies of this letter are being provided to:

- The South Carolina Court of Appeals
- South Carolina Office of Court Administration
- Respondent's counsel (Gregory Alan Morton, Esquire)

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. I look forward to receiving your cost estimate and working with you to complete the transcript for this appeal.

Respectfully,

s/Princeton Williams  
Princeton Williams, Pro Se  
Appellant

**cc:** Jenny Abbott Kitchings, Clerk  
South Carolina Court of Appeals  
P.O. Box 11629  
Columbia, SC 29211

South Carolina Office of Court Administration  
1220 Senate Street, Suite 200  
Columbia, SC 29201

Gregory Alan Morton, Esquire  
4 Arborland Way  
Greenville, SC 29615  
gmorton@dmdslaw.com

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS  
GREENVILLE COUNTY  
COURT of COMMON PLEAS  
Honorable Dale Van Slambrook  
Greenville County Circuit Judge  
Case No. 2022-CP-23-3012  
Appellate Case No. 2025-002279

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**Dec 22 2025**  
SC Court of Appeals

South Carolina Court of Appeals  
Clerk of Court  
Post Office Box 11629  
Columbia, SC 29211

**Re:** Pranceton Williams v. William "Bill" Rhodes  
Appellate Case No. 2025-002279  
Response to Deficiency Letters

Dear Clerk of Court:

Enclosed please find the following documents in response to the deficiency letters dated December 1, 2025 and December 8, 2025:

1. Appellant's Response to Deficiency Letters
2. Motion for Extension of Time to Order Transcript
3. Letter Requesting Transcript from Court Reporter
4. Proof of Service (SCACR Form 7)
5. Certificate of Service
6. Proof of Filing with Greenville County Clerk of Court (file-stamped copy attached)

**TRANSCRIPT DEFICIENCY (December 1, 2025 Letter):**

I have filed a Motion for Extension of Time to Order Transcript and concurrently sent a formal request to the South Carolina Office of Court Administration for the transcript of the hearing held in Greenville County Circuit Court. I respectfully request that the Court grant the extension and accept my transcript request as timely filed.

**PROOF OF SERVICE DEFICIENCY (December 8, 2025 Letter):**

The enclosed Proof of Service is provided in substantial compliance with SCACR Form 7, certifying service of the Notice of Appeal and all subsequent filings on all required parties.

**PROOF OF FILING DEFICIENCY (December 8, 2025 Letter):**

Attached is a file-stamped copy of the Notice of Appeal from the Greenville County Clerk of Court as proof of filing.

These responses are submitted within the applicable deadlines. I respectfully request that the Court accept these filings as curing all noted deficiencies and allow this appeal to proceed.

Should the Court require any additional information or documentation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Princeton Williams  
Princeton Williams, Pro Se  
20 Alice Farr Street  
Greenville, South Carolina 29617

December 19, 2025

Enclosures (6)

**cc:** Gregory Alan Morton, Esquire (via U.S. Mail)  
South Carolina Office of Court Administration (via U.S. Mail and email to  
transcripts@sccourts.org)  
Greenville County Clerk of Court (via U.S. Mail)