

The South Carolina Court of Appeals

Robert Jones and Jessica Jones, Respondents,

v.

Aaron Quinzy and Charles Smith, Defendants,

of whom Aaron Quinzy is the Appellant.

Appellate Case No. 2025-002454

ORDER

On December 11, 2025, Appellant filed a notice of appeal from an order issued by the master-in-equity on November 24, 2025. According to the order on appeal, Appellant entered into a lease-to-own contract with Respondents for real property, and although Appellant made some payments, he had failed to make all required payments. The master found Appellant had an equity of redemption and ordered he could exercise his equity of redemption by paying the balance due on Respondents' mortgage or taking over Respondents' mortgage within thirty days. In addition, the master ordered Appellant to pay \$12,000 for fifteen months of back rent within thirty days. The master stated that if Appellant could not purchase the property either by paying the balance due on the mortgage or taking over the mortgage, then the master would sign an order cancelling the lease-to-own contract. Further, the master ordered that if Appellant was "unable to comply with the conditions and time periods set forth" in the order, then Appellant must vacate the premises.

On December 11, 2025, Appellant filed a motion to stay the master's order pending the outcome of the appeal. After careful consideration, we grant a temporary stay of the master's order. Within ten days of the date of this order, Respondent shall serve and file a return to Appellant's motion to stay and within five days of service of the return, Appellant may serve and file a reply.

On December 11, 2025, Appellant moved to proceed *in forma pauperis* stating he is unable to afford filing fees and costs. The right to proceed *in forma pauperis* must rest upon a statute or a fundamental constitutional right. *See Ex parte Martin*, 321 S.C. 533, 471 S.E.2d 134 (1995) ("In the absence of a statutory provision allowing the general waiver of filing fees, we conclude motions to proceed *in forma pauperis* may only be granted where specifically authorized by statute or required by constitutional provisions."). Appellant has the burden of showing he is entitled to this relief, but he has not done so. After careful consideration, we deny Appellant's motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*. Appellant must pay the notice of appeal filing fee within ten days of the date of this order. Failure to comply will result in dismissal of this appeal.

Krista L. Urby J.
FOR THE COURT

Columbia, South Carolina

cc:

Aaron Quinzy
A. Paul Weissenstein, Jr., Esquire
The Honorable Michael M. Jordan
The Honorable James C. Campbell

FILED
Jan 05 2026