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Jan 15 2026

SC Court of Appeals

**THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In the Court of Appeals**

**APPEAL FROM MARLBORO COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas**

The Honorable Robert E. Hood

Case No.: 2025CP3400154

Sharon Covington and Dorothy Douglas Respondents,

v.

**1st Better Living 2, LLC; Marlboro County Delinquent Tax Collector;
Newrez, LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing Appellants.**

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Appellant Newrez, LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage appeals from the order of the Marlboro County Court of Common Pleas, 4th Judicial Circuit denying its Motion to Dismiss, including denial of enforcement of an agreement to arbitrate, which was entered by the Honorable Robert E. Hood. The Court issued a final written order on December 8, 2025. A copy of the order is attached and provided to the Court of Appeals with this Notice. Written notice of entry of the final order was received by the Appellant on December 9, 2025.

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Respectfully submitted this 8th day of January 2026.

/s/ G. Benjamin Milam

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Delinquent Tax Collector*

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PROOF OF SERVICE

I certify that I served the notice of appeal by depositing a copy of it on the date shown below in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

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This the 8th day of January 2025.

/s/ G. Benjamin Milam

G. Benjamin Milam
*Attorney for Newrez, LLC d/b/a Shellpoint
Mortgage Servicing*

Sharon Covington et al
PLAINTIFF(S)

1st Better Living 2, LLC et al
DEFENDANT(S)

DISPOSITION TYPE (CHECK ONE)

- JURY VERDICT.** This action came before the court for a trial by jury. The issues have been tried and a verdict rendered.
- DECISION BY THE COURT.** This action came to trial or hearing before the court. The issues have been tried or heard and a decision rendered.
- ACTION DISMISSED (CHECK REASON):** Rule 12(b), SCRPC; Rule 41(a), SCRPC (Vol. Nonsuit); Rule 43(k), SCRPC (Settled);
 Other
- ACTION STRICKEN (CHECK REASON):** Rule 40(j), SCRPC; Bankruptcy;
 Binding arbitration, subject to right to restore to confirm, vacate or modify arbitration award;
 Other
- STAYED DUE TO BANKRUPTCY**
- DISPOSITION OF APPEAL TO THE CIRCUIT COURT (CHECK APPLICABLE BOX):**
 Affirmed; Reversed; Remanded;
 Other

NOTE: ATTORNEYS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR NOTIFYING LOWER COURT, TRIBUNAL, OR ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY OF THE CIRCUIT COURT RULING IN THIS APPEAL.

IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED: See attached order (formal order to follow) Statement of Judgment by the Court:

This matter was before the Court on Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., upon the Respondent Newrez, LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing's Motion to Dismiss Counterclaims, or in the Alternative, Motion to Sever. George Milam was present on behalf of Respondent Newrez, LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing. Tonya Little was present on behalf of Respondent 1st Better Living 2, LLC. Andrew McLeod was present on behalf of Respondent Marlboro County Delinquent Tax Collector. Jason Luck was present on behalf of Appellants Sharon Covington and Dorothy Douglas.

The Court heard arguments from all parties. After consideration of the record, arguments made, and the applicable law, the Court finds that the Respondent Newrez, LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing's Motion to Dismiss Counterclaims is denied. The Court further finds that the Respondent's alternative Motion to Sever is also denied.

ORDER INFORMATION

This order ends does not end the case. See Page 2 for additional information.

For Clerk of Court Office Use Only

This judgment was electronically entered by the Clerk of Court as reflected on the Electronic Time Stamp, and a copy mailed first class to any party not proceeding in the Electronic Filing System on 12/08/2025 .

Sharon Covington for Sharon Covington
Sharon Covington for Sharon Covington

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NAMES OF TRADITIONAL FILERS SERVED BY MAIL

Court Reporter:

E-Filing Note: The date of Entry of Judgment is the same date as reflected on the Electronic File Stamp and the clerk's entering of the date of judgment above is not required in those counties. The clerk will mail a copy of the judgment to parties who are not E-Filers or who are appearing pro se. See Rule 77(d), SCRCP.



Marlboro Common Pleas

Case Caption: Sharon Covington VS 1st Better Living 2, LLC

Case Number: 2025CP3400154

Type: Order/Electronic Form 4

So Ordered

s/ R.E. Hood #2164