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Feb 13 2026

SC Court of Appeals

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM SPARTANBURG COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

J. Mark Hayes, II, Circuit Court Judge

Case No. 2017-CP-42-00219
Appellate Case No. 2024-001546

Jo Ann Blackwell, Michelene Brooks, and Samuel H. Owens, Jr., individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Respondents,

v.

Mary Black Health System, LLC, d/b/a Mary Black Memorial Hospital; CHSPSC, LLC;
Professional Account Services, Inc.,

Appellants,

APPELLANTS' STATUS REPORT

Appellants Mary Black Health System, LLC, d/b/a Mary Black Memorial Hospital; CHSPSC, LLC; and Professional Account Services, Inc. (collectively, "Appellants") submit this status update in compliance with the Court's Order (filed January 14, 2025) granting Appellants' motion to hold this appeal in abeyance until a final decision is issued in the related appeal, Appellate Case No. 2020-001613 (the "First Appeal") and the Court's Letter, dated July 18, 2025, confirming the stay of the case and requesting status updates every sixty (60) days.

On January 27, 2025, the Court denied Appellants' Petition for Rehearing in the First Appeal. Appellants timely filed a Petition for a Writ of Certiorari with the South Carolina Supreme

Court. The Supreme Court issued an order granting Appellants' Petition for Writ of Certiorari on June 25, 2025.

The parties completed the briefing process before the Supreme Court; however, prior to the Supreme Court holding oral argument, the parties participated in a lengthy mediation. At the conclusion of the mediation the parties reached an agreement in principle to settle the case, including the alleged class claims. This settlement includes all pending matters related to the underlying litigation, encompassing not only the First Appeal but also in this appeal. Thus, the parties moved the Supreme Court to hold the First Appeal in Abeyance while they finalize the terms of a complete and detailed class settlement agreement in accordance with the agreement reached at mediation.

On November 13, 2025, the Supreme Court issued an order holding the First Appeal in abeyance and instructing the parties to provide it with an update on the status of their settlement negotiations by December 12, 2025. On December 11, 2025, the parties filed a Joint Status Report in compliance with the Supreme Court's order. On December 17, 2025, the Supreme Court issued an order remanding the case to the circuit court for consideration of the parties' settlement agreement.

Since the issuance of the order remanding the First Appeal, the parties have diligently worked to finalize the details of a complete Class Settlement Agreement and the various related exhibits and documents, which will be necessary to obtain final court approval. After the parties have finalized the Class Settlement Agreement, they intend to move to have the this appeal partially remanded to the circuit court so that it may facilitate the process necessary to review and, if appropriate, approve the parties' agreed-upon class settlement.

As the First Appeal remains in abeyance and the parties are finalizing a proposed Class Settlement Agreement, Appellants will provide the Court with another status update within the

next sixty (60) days in compliance with the Court's January 14, 2025, Order holding this appeal in abeyance.

s/Katon E. Dawson Jr.

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Appellants,

PROOF OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on February 13, 2026, a copy of **Appellants' Status Report** was served on all counsel of record via email containing the above referenced document to counsels' individual AIS email addresses as follows:

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