



TENTH CIRCUIT PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE

Anderson and Oconee Counties

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JENNIFER L. JOHNSON
Circuit Public Defender

Oconee County Office
415 S. Pine Street
Walhalla, SC 29691
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February 11, 2026

By U.S. Mail

Mr. Juan Guevara-Frutos
146 Lesley Road
Pelzer, SC 29669

Re: The State v. Juana A. Guevara-Frutos
Appellate Case No. 2026-000282

RECEIVED

FEB 17 2026

SC Court of Appeals

Dear Mr. Guevara-Frutos:

I am writing at the request of the South Carolina Court of Appeals. I sent you a copy of the Notice of Appeal on February 9th. As stated in the Notice of Appeal, I am “not aware of any meritorious issues to be reviewed on appeal” because (1) there was a factual basis for your guilty plea, and (2) the judge sentenced you to probation – that is, a sentence within the permissible sentencing range for felony animal cruelty. I am also enclosing another copy of the appeal notice with this letter.

I am also enclosing a letter that I received from the Court of Appeals. They ask for you to write them to explain the basis for your appeal and any issues that you believe are preserved for appellate review. Put differently, they are asking you to explain what legal errors were made in your case that you want to appeal. You have **twenty (20) days** from the date of this letter to explain. Please send your letter to the below-listed address:

South Carolina Court of Appeals
P.O. Box 11629
Columbia, SC 29211

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Hadden Lucas
Assistant Public Defender

cc: SC Court of Appeals (by US Mail and email)



The South Carolina Court of Appeals

JENNY ABBOTT KITCHINGS
CLERK

CATHERINE S. HARRISON
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

POST OFFICE BOX 11629
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29211
1220 SENATE STREET
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201
TELEPHONE: (803) 734-1890
FAX: (803) 734-1839
www.sccourts.org

February 11, 2026

Mr. Alexander Hadden Lucas, Esquire
500 S. McDuffie Street
Anderson SC 29624

Re: The State v. Juan A. Guevara-Frutos
Appellate Case No. 2026-000282

Dear Counsel:

This Court has received your explanation for appealing.

Please forward your explanation to your client, along with a statement that your client has twenty (20) days from the date of your transmittal letter to inform this Court in writing of any arguable basis that there are issues preserved for appeal. Please provide your client with the Court's address:

South Carolina Court of Appeals
P.O. Box 11629
Columbia, SC 29211

Please send your letter to your client within ten (10) days, with a copy to this Court, or this appeal will be dismissed.

Very truly yours,

Catherine Harrison, deputy
CLERK

RECEIVED
FEB 17 2026
SC Court of Appeals

File Copy

**THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In the Appellate Court**

**APPEAL FROM ANDERSON COUNTY
Court of General Sessions**

Patrick Cleburne III, Circuit Court Judge

A TRUE COPY
FEB - 6 2026
C. Reena Thomason
CLERK OF COURT

Case No(s): 2025A0410102130, 2025A0410102164

The State,

Juan Albert Guevara-Frutos,

v.


Respondent.

Appellant.

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Juan Albert Guevara-Frutos appeals his conviction and sentence in this case. The Defendant pled guilty to two counts of felony animal cruelty on January 29, 2026 and was sentenced to three years suspended to three years of probation. The Defendant's case was not yet indicted and he waived indictment to proceed with the guilty plea. Several days after being released from jail, the Defendant contacted his attorney to request the filing of an appeal. Counsel is not aware of any meritorious issues to be reviewed on appeal. However, as Mr. Guevara has a right to appeal his conviction and has requested that an appeal be filed, I am therefore filing this appeal.

Date: February 05, 2026


A. Hadden Lucas
Assistant Public Defender
10th Circuit Public Defender Office
Anderson, SC 29624
Attorney for Appellant

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FEB 17 2026

SC Court of Appeals

Other Counsel of Record:
Madeline Cromer
Assistant Solicitor
P.O. Box 8002
Anderson, SC 29622
Attorney for Respondent



10th Circuit Public Defender

Anderson & Oconee Counties

500 S. McDuffie St.

Anderson, SC 29624

GREENVILLE SC 296

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The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings
South Carolina Court of Appeals
P.O. Box 11629
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

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FEB 17 2026

SC Court of Appeals

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