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Feb 18 2026

SC Court of Appeals

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

Appellate Case No. 2025-002279

PRANCETON WILLIAMS,

Appellant,

v.

WILLIAM "BILL" RHODES,

Respondent.

**APPELLANT'S MOTION TO ADDRESS PROCEDURAL DEFICIENCIES,
FOR EXTENSION OF TIME, AND FOR REDUCTION OF
SUPERSEDEAS BOND**

COMES NOW, Appellant Pranceton Williams, appearing pro se, and respectfully moves this Court pursuant to Rules 214, 225, and 241 of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules (SCACR), and Article I, Sections 3 and 15 of the South Carolina Constitution, for the following relief: (1) permission to address all outstanding procedural deficiencies identified in this Court's February 4, 2026 letters through a single consolidated filing; (2) an extension of time to cure said deficiencies; and (3) reduction of the supersedeas bond requirement of \$113,650.00 imposed by the lower court as an unconstitutionally excessive condition of this appeal. In support thereof, Appellant states as follows:

I. BACKGROUND

1. Appellant Pranceton Williams filed a Notice of Appeal in the above-referenced matter, Pranceton Williams v. William "Bill" Rhodes, Appellate Case No. 2025-002279, appealing from an Order and/or Judgment entered by the Greenville County Court of Common Pleas.
2. Appellant's second notice of appeal is primarily directed at challenging the lower court's imposition of an excessive and constitutionally unreasonable supersedeas bond in the amount of

\$113,650.00 as a condition of pursuing this appeal. Appellant contends that the bond amount is grossly disproportionate to the circumstances of this case and imposes an unconstitutional barrier to Appellant's right of access to the appellate courts.

3. On February 4, 2026, this Court issued two letters to Appellant: (1) a Deficiency Letter identifying the following deficiencies in Appellant's second notice of appeal: (a) the notice of appeal was not accompanied by the challenged order(s) and/or judgment(s); (b) the \$250.00 filing fee had not been submitted; (c) proof of service had not been provided in the format required by Form 7, Appendix C, Part II of the SCACR; and (d) proof of filing the notice of appeal with the Greenville County Clerk of Court had not been provided; and (2) a separate letter advising Appellant that the time for ordering the transcript had expired and requiring Appellant to advise the Court of the transcript's status within ten (10) days.

4. Both letters require Appellant to act within ten (10) days of February 4, 2026. Appellant is diligently working to cure all deficiencies and respectfully requests this Court's permission to address all outstanding matters through a single filing.

II. ARGUMENT

A. This Court Has Discretion to Permit Appellant to Address All Outstanding Matters Through a Single Filing

5. Pursuant to Rule 214, SCACR, where more than one appeal arises from the same order or judgment, or where the same question is involved in two or more appeals, this Court may in its discretion consolidate the appeals. More broadly, this Court has inherent authority to manage its docket and to permit a party to address related procedural requirements together in the interest of judicial economy.

6. Both letters received from this Court on February 4, 2026 relate to the same underlying appeal, Appellate Case No. 2025-002279. Permitting Appellant to respond to all outstanding requirements in a single submission will conserve the Court's resources, reduce duplicative filings, and avoid potentially inconsistent or fragmented procedural rulings.

7. Appellant respectfully requests that this Court exercise its discretion to allow Appellant to submit one comprehensive filing addressing all deficiencies identified in both February 4, 2026 letters.

B. The \$113,650.00 Supersedeas Bond Is Excessive and Should Be Reduced Pursuant to Rule 241, SCACR

8. The lower court's imposition of a \$113,650.00 supersedeas bond as a condition of this appeal is the central substantive issue before the Court. Pursuant to Rule 241, SCACR, this Court has authority to modify the terms upon which a supersedeas or stay may be granted, including the amount of any bond required.

9. Appellant respectfully submits that the \$113,650.00 bond amount is grossly excessive in relation to any legitimate interest the bond is intended to protect. The bond requirement, as set, effectively denies Appellant meaningful access to appellate review by imposing a financial condition that Appellant is unable to satisfy.

10. Article I, Section 15 of the South Carolina Constitution expressly prohibits the imposition of excessive bail or excessive fines. While that provision arises primarily in the criminal context, its underlying principle — that monetary conditions must not be set so high as to be functionally prohibitive — applies with equal force to civil supersedeas bonds that operate as a barrier to the constitutional right of appeal. Article I, Section 3 of the South Carolina Constitution further guarantees that no person shall be deprived of liberty or property without due process of law, nor be denied the equal protection of the laws.

11. A supersedeas bond that is so financially onerous as to preclude an appellant from pursuing an otherwise meritorious appeal raises serious due process concerns. Appellant respectfully requests that this Court, pursuant to Rule 241(c)(3), SCACR, modify the bond requirement to an amount proportionate to the interests at stake in this appeal and within Appellant's ability to meet.

12. Appellant further requests that, pending resolution of the bond issue, this Court stay enforcement of the \$113,650.00 bond requirement so that Appellant is not irreparably prejudiced during the pendency of this appeal.

C. Appellant Is Diligently Working to Cure All Procedural Deficiencies

13. Appellant takes this Court's deficiency notices seriously and is actively working to correct all identified deficiencies within the deadlines set forth in this Court's February 4, 2026 letters.

14. Specifically, Appellant is in the process of: (a) obtaining and submitting the order(s) and/or judgment(s) challenged on appeal, including the order imposing the \$113,650.00 supersedeas bond; (b) tendering the \$250.00 filing fee; (c) preparing and filing a proof of service substantially in the format shown by Form 7 in Appendix C to Part II of the SCACR; (d) obtaining and providing proof of filing the notice of appeal with the Greenville County Clerk of Court; and (e) ordering the transcript from the court reporter and providing the required confirmation letter to this Court, or alternatively, filing a motion for permission to order the transcript outside the filing deadlines set by Rule 207, SCACR, if the transcript has not been timely ordered.

15. To the extent this Court requires additional time beyond the ten (10) day deadline to allow Appellant to fully comply, Appellant respectfully requests a reasonable extension of time to cure all deficiencies.

III. CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, Appellant Pranceton Williams respectfully requests that this Court: (1) permit Appellant to address all outstanding procedural deficiencies identified in this Court's February 4, 2026 letters through a single consolidated filing; (2) grant a reasonable extension of time to cure all identified deficiencies if necessary; (3) pursuant to Rule 241(c)(3), SCACR, reduce the supersedeas bond requirement from \$113,650.00 to an amount proportionate to the interests at stake and within Appellant's financial means; (4) stay enforcement of the \$113,650.00 bond requirement pending resolution of this motion and the appeal; and (5) grant such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Princeton Williams
Princeton Williams, Pro Se
20 Alice Farr Dr.
Greenville, SC 29617

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Pranceton Williams, hereby certify that on February 18, 2026, I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Motion upon the following parties by placing same in the United States Mail, first-class postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

Gregory Alan Morton, Esquire
4 Arborland Way
Greenville, South Carolina 29615
Attorney for Respondents

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

s/ Pranceton Williams
Pranceton Williams, Pro Se