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SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON INDIGENT DEFENSE

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Wanda H. Carter, Chief Appellate Defender

February 17, 2026

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Feb 17 2026

SC Court of Appeals

The Honorable Jenny A. Kitchings
Clerk, S.C. Court of Appeals
Post Office Box 11629
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Re: The State v. Francisco Cortes
Appellate Case No. 2024-002210

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

Enclosed is a proposed order in the above case. By copy of this letter, we are also forwarding a copy of this proposed order to opposing counsel, J. Benjamin Aplin. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kathrine H. Hudgins
Senior Appellate Defender

KHH/cs

cc: J. Benjamin Aplin, Esquire

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Feb 17 2026
SC Court of Appeals

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

Appeal from Beaufort County

Honorable Kristi F. Curtis, Circuit Court Judge

THE STATE,

RESPONDENT,

V.

FRANCISCO CORTES,

APPELLANT

APPELLATE CASE NO. 2024-002210

O R D E R

On motion of Kathrine H. Hudgins, attorney for appellant, it is hereby ORDERED that **STATE'S EXHIBITS #1, #2 (911 CALLS); STATE'S EXHIBIT #30 (OFFICER RAY BODY CAMERA); STATE'S EXHIBITS #31, #32 (OFFICER CUSHMAN BODY CAMERA); STATE'S EXHIBITS #92, #93, #94, #95, #96 (JAIL CALLS AND VIDEO VISIT)** be released to the Office of the Attorney General, or its designee, for transporting to the Court of Appeals of South Carolina for purposes of review by the Court for the above-captioned case.

By _____
CLERK

Columbia, South Carolina
February 17, 2026

Copies to: The Honorable Jerri Ann Roseneau
Kathrine H. Hudgins, Esquire
J. Benjamin Aplin, Esquire

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)	IN THE COURT OF
COUNTY OF BEAUFORT)	GENERAL SESSIONS
)	
)	
)	
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,)	CASE NOS:
)	2022-GS-07-00756-760;
)	2023-GS-07-01862
)	
V.)	
)	
FRANCISCO CORTES,)	
DEFENDANT.)	<u>TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD</u>
)	

Monday, December 16, 2024 - Wednesday, December 18, 2024

COMMENCING AT:
 Beaufort County Courthouse
 Beaufort, South Carolina
 Before The Honorable Kristi F. Curtis, Judge

APPEARANCES:

For the State of South Carolina:
 Samantha A. Molina, Assistant Solicitor
 Rachel DeAngelis, Assistant Solicitor
 Fourteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office
 Post Office Box 1880
 Bluffton, South Carolina 29910

For the Defendant:
 Courtney Gibbs, Assistant Public Defender
 Taylor Diggs, Assistant Public Defender
 Fourteenth Circuit Public Defender's Office
 1905 Duke Street, Suite 210
 POB 525
 Beaufort, SC 29901

Heather R. Landry, CVR
 Official Court Reporter

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COURT'S EXHIBITS

Court's Exhibit No. 1 - Redacted Jail Calls142

STATE'S EXHIBITS

State's Exhibit No. 1 - 911 CD99

State's Exhibit No. 2 - 911 CD99

State's Exhibit No. 3 - Surveillance CD102

State's Exhibit No. 4 - Surveillance Photo102

State's Exhibit No. 5 - Illustration (ID Only)123

State's Exhibit No. 6 - Photo of Unit 6132

State's Exhibit No. 7 - Photo of Unit 6132

State's Exhibit No. 8 - Photo of Unit 6132

State's Exhibit No. 9 - Photo of Unit 6132

State's Exhibit No. 10 - Photo of Unit 6132

State's Exhibit No. 11 - Photo of Knee157

State's Exhibit No. 12 - Photo of Knee157

State's Exhibit No. 13 - Photo of Unit 6132

State's Exhibit No. 14 - Jack's Pants189

State's Exhibit No. 15 - Condom Wrapper225

State's Exhibit No. 16 - Condom225

State's Exhibit No. 17 - Bullet251

State's Exhibit No. 18 - Black Shirt216

State's Exhibit No. 19 - Shoes186

State's Exhibit No. 20 - Clothes186

State's Exhibit No. 21 - iPhone186

1 State's Exhibit No. 22 - Phone216

2 State's Exhibit No. 23 - Shell Casing Envelope'261

3 State's Exhibit No. 24-29 - Shell Casings261

4 State's Exhibit No. 30 - DVD of Body Cam Video171

5 State's Exhibit No. 31 - Body Cam CD184

6 State's Exhibit No. 32 - Body Cam CD184

7 State's Exhibit No. 33-44 - Photographs of Clothes187

8 State's Exhibit No. 45 - Photograph of Pants189

9 State's Exhibit No. 46 - Photograph of Pants189

10 State's Exhibit No. 47-51 - Photos of Injuries201

11 State's Exhibit No. 52-65 - Crime Scene Photos210

12 State's Exhibit No. 66-70 - Photographs of Inside217

13 State's Exhibit No. 71-77 - Photos of Bedroom220

14 State's Exhibit No. 78-88 - Photos of Bedroom222

15 State's Exhibit No. 89-91 - Kitchen Photographs237

16 State's Exhibit No. 92-96 - DVDs of Jail Calls264

17

18 (NO EXHIBITS OFFERED BY THE DEFENSE)

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From: [Stock, Chris](#)
To: [Ben Aplin](#); [Susan Spencer](#)
Cc: [Hudgins, Kathrine](#)
Subject: 2024-002210 - The State v. Francisco Cortes - Record on Appeal & Proposed Transportation Order
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 3:54:00 PM
Attachments: [2024-002210 - The State v. Francisco Cortes - Record on Appeal.pdf](#)
[2024-002210 - The State v. Francisco Cortes - Proposed Transportation Order.pdf](#)

Mr. Aplin,

Please find attached for service the Record on Appeal & Proposed Transportation Order for Francisco Cortes's appeal which will be filed with the Court of Appeals today.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you,

Chris Stock
Administrative Coordinator
Commission on Indigent Defense
Appellate Division
(803) 734-1330

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Feb 17 2026
SC Court of Appeals