



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. Gabriel Vernon Paul Ingram, Esquire
PO Box 525
1905 Duke Street Suite 210
Beaufort SC 29901

Re: The State v. Lionel O. Blue
Appellate Case No. 2026-000240

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.

RECEIVED
FEB 23 2026
SC Court of Appeals

Very truly yours,

Jasmine D. Smith, Deputy

CLERK

cc: Wanda H. Carter, Esquire
Christopher O'Neil Dore, Esquire
Alan McCrory Wilson, Esquire
Mark Reynolds Farthing, Esquire

Office of the Public Defender

Fourteenth Judicial Circuit

Stephanie Smart-Gittings, Circuit Defender

ALLEDALE & HAMPTON OFFICE
1 Courthouse Square (Courthouse)
Elm Street, Room 133 (Physical)
Post Office Box 506 (Mailing)
Hampton, SC 29924
Phone No. (803) 914-2240

BEAUFORT COUNTY OFFICE
Human Services Building/ DSS
1905 Duke Street, Room 210
Beaufort, South Carolina
Phone No. (843) 255-5000

COLLETON COUNTY OFFICE
319 N. Lucas Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone No. (843) 549-1633

JASPER COUNTY OFFICE
262 3rd Avenue (Physical)
Post Office Box 689 (Mailing)
Ridgeland, SC 29936
Phone No. (843) 717-3683

February 18, 2026

Lionel Odell Blue
774 Folly Creek Lane
Green Pond, SC 29446

Re: **The State v. Lionel O. Blue**
Appellate Case No. 2026-000240

RECEIVED
FEB 23 2026
SC Court of Appeals

Dear Mr. Blue:

This letter is to inform you that I have filed the Notice of Appeal in your case, which includes an affidavit from myself explaining to the Court of Appeals what I believe to be the basis for the appeal. In your case, as I explained to you previously, I do not believe there is a basis for appeal. However, at your request, I have filed the Notice of Appeal. Please find enclosed a copy of the Affidavit that I was required to submit as part of your Notice of Appeal.

Please also be advised that you have twenty (20) days from the date of **this** letter to inform the Court of Appeals in writing of any arguable basis that there are issues preserved for appeal in your case. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter.

The address for the Court of Appeals is:

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

[SIGNATURE BLOCK ON NEXT PAGE]

Office of the Public Defender

Fourteenth Judicial Circuit

Stephanie Smart-Gittings, Circuit Defender

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Post Office Box 689 (Mailing)
Ridgeland, SC 29936
Phone No. (843) 717-3683

Sincerely



Gabriel Ingram
Public Defender
Post Office Box 525
Beaufort, SC 29901
Phone: (843) 473-9637 (cell)

Enclosure(s):
Affidavit of Gabriel Ingram

Office of the Public Defender
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit
Stephanie Smart-Gittings, Circuit Defender

BEAUFORT COUNTY

Human Services Building
1905 Duke Street, Room 210
Post Office Box 525
Beaufort, SC 29902
(843) 255-5805 (Phone)

ALLENDALE, HAMPTON & JASPER COUNTIES

1 Courthouse Square
80 Elm Street, Room 133
Post Office Box 506
Hampton, SC 29924
(803) 914-2240 (Phone)
(843) 255-9494 (Fax)

COLLETON COUNTY

319 N. Lucas Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
(843) 549-1633 (Phone)

January 29, 2026

Via Regular Mail

Mr. Lionel Odell Blue
774 Folly Creek Lane
Green Pond, SC 29446

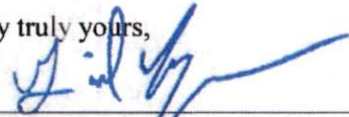
Re: NOTICE OF APPEAL
State v. Lionel Odell Blue
Warrant/Ticket No(s): 2020A0710300141

RECEIVED
FEB 23 2026
SC Court of Appeals

Dear Mr. Blue,

Enclosed please find a copy of the Notice of Appeal in the above matter along with Proof of Service. I have also enclosed a copy of your sentencing documents.

Very truly yours,



Gabriel Ingram, Esq.
Assistant Public Defender
Post Office Box 525
1905 Duke Street, Suite 210
Beaufort, SC 29901

Enclosure

Office of the Public Defender
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit
Stephanie Smart-Gittings, Circuit Defender

BEAUFORT COUNTY
Human Services Building
1905 Duke Street, Room 210
Post Office Box 525
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COLLETON COUNTY
319 N. Lucas Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
(843) 549-1633 (Phone)

January 29, 2026

Via Certified Mail/ Return Receipt Requested

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

Re: NOTICE OF APPEAL
State v. Lionel Odell Blue
Warrant/Ticket No(s): 2020A0710300141

RECEIVED
FEB 28 2026
SC Court of Appeals

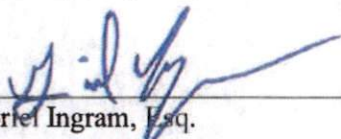
Dear Sir/ Madam:

Enclosed you will find the original Notice of Appeal in the above matter along with Proof of Service upon the Respondents. The Notice has been filed with the Beaufort County Clerk of Court. Also enclosed is a copy of the sentencing sheet from which this appeal is taken and a copy of the warrant(s) and indictment(s).

These matters are being referred to the Office of Appellate Defense in that we were participating as Court appointed counsel at trial.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours very truly,



Gabriel Ingram, Esq.
Assistant Public Defender
Post Office Box 525
1905 Duke Street, Suite 210
Beaufort, SC 29901
Attorney for Appellant

Enclosure

cc: Office of the Fourteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office
Office of the Attorney General
Office of Appellate Defense

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In the Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM BEAUFORT COUNTY
Court of General Sessions

The Honorable Perry H. Gravely, Circuit Court Judge

Warrant No (s): 2020A0710300141
Indictment No (s): 2020GS0700992

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

v.

Lionel Odell Blue,

Appellant.

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Lionel Odell Blue appeals his plea pursuant to Alford and sentence on the charge(s) of Breach / Breach Of Trust With Fraudulent Intent, Value Less Than \$2,000, before the Honorable Perry H. Gravely, Presiding Judge, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit. Appellant entered an Alford plea on January 22, 2026. Appellant appeals his Alford plea and his sentence and any other issues related to the plea, as well as his conviction before The Honorable Perry H. Gravely.


[SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW]

2026 JAN 29 PM 2:12
JERRI ANN ROSENEAU
BEAUFORT COUNTY, S.C.
CLERK OF COURT

RECEIVED
FEB 23 2026
SC Court of Appeals

Respondent.

January 29, 2026



Gabriel Ingram, Esq.
Bar No. 106344
Assistant Public Defender
Post Office Box 525
1905 Duke Street, Suite 210
Beaufort, SC 29901
Attorney for Appellant

Other Counsel of Record:
Christopher Dore, Esq.
Assistant Solicitor, 14th Judicial Circuit
Post Office Box 1880
Bluffton, SC 29910
Attorney for Respondent

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

In the Court of Appeals

2026 JAN 29 PM 2: 12

APPEAL FROM BEAUFORT COUNTY
Court of General Sessions

JERRI ANN ROSENEAU
BEAUFORT COUNTY, S.C.
CLERK OF COURT

The Honorable Perry H. Gravely, Circuit Court Judge

RECEIVED
FEB 23 2026
SC Court of Appeals

Warrant No (s): 2020A0710300141
Indictment No (s): 2020GS0700992

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

Respondent.

v.

Lionel Odell Blue,

Appellant.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I certify that I have served the Notice of Appeal on the below listed respondents by depositing a copy of it in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, on January 29, 2026.

Christopher Dore, Esq.
Assistant Solicitor, 14th Judicial Circuit
Post Office Box 1880
Bluffton, SC 29910
Attorney for Respondent

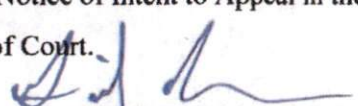
S.C. Office of Appellate Defense
P.O. Box 11589
Columbia, SC 29211

Alan Wilson, Esq.
Attorney General
P.O. Box 11549
Columbia, SC 29211

Clerk
S.C. Court of Appeals
Post Office Box 11629
Columbia, SC 29211

I further certify that on January 29, 2026, an Original Notice of Intent to Appeal in the above captioned case was filed with the Beaufort County Clerk of Court.

January 29, 2026


Gabriel Ingram, Esq.
Bar No. 106344
Assistant Public Defender
Post Office Box 525
1905 Duke Street, Suite 210
Beaufort, SC 29901

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

) IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

) WARRANT NUMBER: 2020A0710300141

VS.

) INDICTMENT NUMBER: 2020GS0700992

LIONEL ODELL BLUE

) AFFIDAVIT OF GABRIEL INGRAM
) REGARDING THE GUILTY PLEA IN
) THIS MATTER

2026 JAN 29 PM 2:12
JERRY ANN ROSENEAU
BEAUFORT COUNTY, S.C.
CLERK OF COURT
Defendant.

NOW COME, Gabriel Ingram, who being duly sworn, does hereby attest to the following facts in the above-captioned matter:

1. I was appointed by the Clerk of Court to handle the above referenced matters for Lionel Odell Blue. This appeal is part of a guilty plea pursuant to North Carolina v. Alford on January 22, 2026, in Beaufort County, South Carolina before The Honorable Judge Perry H. Gravely.
2. Mr. Lionel Odell Blue was present for multiple Court dates before entering his plea. I advised Mr. Blue of his options with regard to accepting or rejecting the State's recommendation.
3. I am an Assistant Public Defender for the Fourteenth Circuit Public Defender's Office and a licensed attorney with the South Carolina Bar.
4. I am filing this appeal upon the request of my client, Lionel Odell Blue.
5. I am not aware of any reviewable appellate issues as a result of this plea. However, at the request of appellant, I am filing this appeal.
6. I further certify that a copy of this affidavit has been served via U.S. Mail on Mr. Lionel Odell Blue at the following address along with other parties listed below:

[PARTIES AND SIGNATURE BLOCK ON NEXT PAGE]

RECEIVED

FEB 23 2026

SC Court of Appeals

Chris Dore, Esq.
14th Circuit Solicitor's Office
Post Office Box 1880
Bluffton, South Carolina 29910

S.C. Office of Appellate Defense
Post Office Box 11589
Columbia, SC 29211

Alan Wilson, Esq.
Attorney General
Post Office Box 11549
Columbia, SC 29211

Mr. Lionel Odell Blue
774 Folly Creek Lane
Green Pond, SC 29446

Signed: _____



Gabriel Ingram, Assistant Public Defender
14th Circuit Public Defender's Office
Post Office Box 525
Beaufort, South Carolina 29901
SC Bar No. 106344

State of South Carolina
County of Beaufort

Sworn and Subscribed before me GABRIEL INGRAM, ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER on
this 29th Day of January, 2026.



Notary for the State of South Carolina
My Commission Expires December 16, 2035

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

SENTENCE ORDER

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

County of Beaufort

State

VS.

LIONEL ODELL BLUE

AKA: SS#: XXX-XX-8191

RACE: Black SEX: Male

DOB: 6/12/1983 12:00:00 AM

) INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2020GS0700992

) AW#: 2020A0710300141

) Date of Offense: 11/01/2019

) S.C. Code §: 16-13-230(A)

) CDR Code #: 3422

) Range of Offense: Not more than 30 days

RECEIVED FEB 28 2026 SC Court of Appeals

In disposition of the above indictment comes now the Defendant who was CONVICTED OF or PLEADS TO: Breach of trust with fraudulent intent, value \$2 000 or less Range of Offense Pled: Not more than 30 days

In violation of § 16-13-230(A) of the S.C. Code of Laws, bearing CDR Code # 3422

NON-VIOLENT VIOLENT SERIOUS MOST SERIOUS Mandatory GPS § 17-25-45 (CSC w/minor 1st or CSC w/minor 3rd)

The charge is: As indicted, Lesser Included Offense, Defendant Waives Presentment to Grand Jury. The plea is: w/o Rec/Negotiations Negotiated Recommendation Probation in the court's discretion to include restitution

Solicitor Christopher Dore 106733 SC Bar # Attorney for Defendant Gabriel Ingram 106344 SC Bar #

The Defendant is committed to the SCDC County Detention Center Home Incarceration Program

for a determinate term of 30 days/months/years/Time Served YOA NTE ___ years and/or shall pay a fine

of \$ ___; provided that upon the service of 75 days/months/years/Time Served and or payment of \$ ___; plus costs and assessments as applicable*; the balance is suspended with probation for 12 months/years and subject to SCDPPPS standard conditions of probation, which are incorporated by reference.

The sentence shall run CONCURRENT or CONSECUTIVE to sentence on: _____

The Defendant is to be given credit for time served pursuant to S.C. Code § 24-13-40 to be calculated and applied by SCDC.

1 days/month To include time spent on monitored house arrest prior to trial and sentencing.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

- PTUP
 No Contact with Victim Domestic Violence Intervention Program Hold for Inpatient Treatment
 Sex Offender Registry pursuant to S.C. Code § 23-3-430 SAC/MHC if necessary
 Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect pursuant to S.C. Code § 17-25-135
 Other: Restitution hearing w/ 90 days - can terminate probation after 13 mos if on full complor

RESTITUTION See Separate Order (20% per S.C. Code § 24-21-490 (B))

Restitution \$ FINE: \$

Table with 3 columns: Description, Amount, Total. Includes rows for assessments, surcharges, and a final TOTAL of \$643.75.

Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk: [Signature] Court Reporter: [Signature] Judge Code: 2755 Sentence Date: 1/22/26 Presiding Judge: [Signature]

SCGA217B 01/27/2025

2020A0710300141

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Beaufort County

Beaufort

THE STATE 20S103124

Lionel Odell Blue

Address: [Redacted]

Hardenville, SC 29927-2621

Phone: [Redacted] SSN: [Redacted]

Sex: M Race: B Height: [Redacted] Weight: [Redacted]

DL State: SC DL #: [Redacted]

DOB: [Redacted] Agency ORI #: SC0070000

Prosecuting Agency: Beaufort County Sheriffs Office

Prosecuting Officer: Andrew D Calore - S00149

Offense: Breach / Breach of trust with fraudulent intent, value more than \$2,000 but less than \$10,000

Offense Code: 3423

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-13-0230(A)

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the County/ Municipality of

The accused is to be arrested and brought before me to be dealt with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of judge

Date: _____

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to defendant LIONEL BLUE on 5/13/20

Signature of Constable (K7248)

RETURN WARRANT TO:

Beaufort County General Sessions PO Box 1128 102 Ribaut Road, Rm. 208 Beaufort, SC 299011128

2 ORIGINAL ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Beaufort County Municipality of

Beaufort

Personally appeared before me the affiant Andrew D Calore who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Lionel Odell Blue

is within this county and state on or about 11/1/2019

State of South Carolina for ordinance of Beaufort County Municipality of Beaufort

in the following particulars

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Breach / Breach of trust with fraudulent intent, value more than \$2,000 but less than \$10,000

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts.

During the time frame of November 2019 through March 2020, Lionel Blue did willfully and unlawfully commit the offenses of Breach of Trust with Fraudulent Intent. During the aforementioned time frame, Blue was employed with Speedway as the General Manager and was entrusted to manage the finances properly at the business. Throughout his employment, Blue stole \$1,245 from the business which included currency from different aspects within the business. Along with this and with the intent to defraud, Blue also passed 425 state lottery game tickets, which he had not paid for, costing the business a total loss of \$6,889.71 and a loss to the South Carolina Education Lottery \$3,591.00. Under Miranda, Blue confessed to his wrongdoing. This offense occurred at William Hilton Parkway, 11H1, Beaufort County, SC 29928. The affiant and others are witnesses to prove the same.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA Beaufort County Municipality of Beaufort

Affiant's Address 2001 Duke St Beaufort, SC 29902

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 11/1/2019 defendant Lionel Odell Blue

did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of

Beaufort County Municipality of Beaufort) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Breach / Breach of trust with fraudulent intent, value more than \$2,000 but less than \$10,000

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as soon thereafter as is practicable. Sworn to and subscribed before me on 5/12/2020

Signature of Issuing Judge Drew A. Laughlin Judge Code 7380

(L.S.)

Judge's Address Post Office Box 840 Bluffton, SC 29910- Judge's Telephone (843)255-5610

Issuing Court Magistrate Municipal Circuit

ORIGINAL ORIGINAL ORIGINAL ORIGINAL ORIGINAL ORIGINAL ORIGINAL

ARRESTED by
SCOTT

Charge _____
On _____ **5-13-20** _____
Type and amount _____ **\$ 5000** _____
Name of Surety _____

PRELIMINARY HEARING held by

Judge _____
or _____
Defendant Attorney _____
Decision _____

DISPOSITION before

Judge _____
by _____
(indicate jury trial, bench trial, plea, trial, pro se, etc.)
Disposition _____
Sentence _____

JURORS

WITNESSES

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____

CODEFENDANTS



2020 MAY 14 AM 8:26
CLERK OF COURT
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF COUNTY, S.C.

WITNESSES

Beaufort County Sheriff

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

2020A0710300141

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

Foreperson of Grand Jury
Date:

VERDICT

Foreperson of Petit Jury
Date:
INDICT

DOCKET NO. 2020GS0700992

The State of South Carolina
County of Beaufort

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
January Term 2026

THE STATE

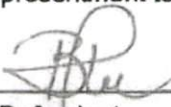
vs.

LIONEL ODELL BLUE

Indictment For
Breach of Trust With Fraudulent
Intent

SC Code: 16-13-230(A)
CDR Code: 3422

After being fully advised as to my legal rights, I hereby waive presentment to the Grand Jury.



Defendant

I _____
hereby appear in my own proper person and plead guilty to the within indictment or to

Defendant

Witness:

C.C.C. PLS. and G.S.

RECEIVED
FEB 23 2026
SC Court of Appeals

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF BEAUFORT)

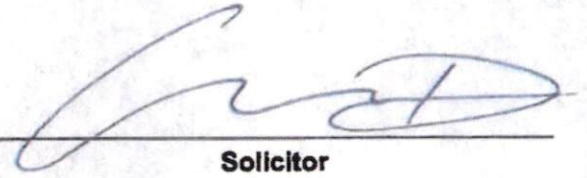
INDICTMENT
2020GS0700992

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on January 29, 2026, the Grand Jurors of Beaufort County present upon their oath:

Breach of Trust With Fraudulent Intent

That in Beaufort County, South Carolina, on or about November 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020, the Defendant, LIONEL ODELL BLUE, did commit a breach of trust with a fraudulent intention or hired or counseled another to commit a breach of trust with a fraudulent intention and the amount was two thousand dollars or less, all in violation of Section 16-13-230(A), et al. of the Codes of Law of South Carolina.

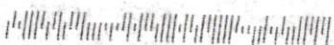
Against the peace and dignity of the State, and contrary to the statute in such case made and provided.



Solicitor

OFF

1905
P.O. Box 525
Beaufort, SC 29901-0525



CERTIFIED MAIL



9569 0710 5270 3392 2217 60



US POSTAGE
ZIP 29906
02 4R
\$ 012.14⁰
0000385353 FEB 19 2026

RECEIVED

FEB 23 2026

SC Court of Appeals

The S.C. Court of Appeals
Post Office Box 11629
Columbia, South Carolina 29211