

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS
CLERK OF COURT

2026 MAR -9 12 2026
APPEAL FROM LANCASTER COUNTY
Court of General Sessions
CLERK OF COURT
LANCASTER, SC

RECEIVED
MAR 12 2026
SC Court of Appeals

Paul M. Burch, Circuit Court Judge

Case No(s): 2025-GS-29-00130

The State of South Carolina,

Respondent.

v.

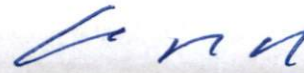
D'Vonte Demeatress Watson,

Appellant.

NOTICE OF APPEAL

D'Vonte Demeatress Watson appeals his conviction and sentence in this case. The sentence was imposed by the Honorable Paul M. Burch on March 4, 2026. Appellant argues that the Lancaster County Family Court erred in transferring jurisdiction of this matter to Lancaster County General Sessions Court and, therefore, the General Sessions Court lacked jurisdiction to accept Appellant's guilty plea.

Date: March 9, 2026



M. Ryan Payne, Esq.
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803-797-5009
Attorney for Appellant

Other Counsel of Record:
Melissa McGinnis, Esq.

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Attorney for Respondent
(803) 416-9367

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IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

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Appellant.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I certify that I have served the Notice of Appeal on the State of South Carolina by personally delivering a copy of it to its attorney of record, Melissa McGinnis, Deputy Solicitor, at her office at the Lancaster County Courthouse, 104 N. Main Street, Lancaster, South Carolina, 29720 on March 9, 2026

Date: March 9, 2026



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M. RYAN PAYNE, LLC

FILED
OFFICE OF
CLERK OF COURT

2026 MAR -9 March 9, 2026
P 3:34



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

RECEIVED
MAR 12 2026
SC Court of Appeals

RE: State of South Carolina vs. D'Vonte Demeatress Watson
2025-GS-29-00130

Ms. Kitchings,

Enclosed for filing is the Notice of Appeal in above case. Please be advised that with this letter I am filing:

1. Proof of Service of the Appeal on the State
2. Statement Pursuant to Rule 203(d)(1)(B)(4)

This is an appeal from a retained criminal case, however, I anticipate that Appellate Defense will handle the appeal. I am copying them with this letter and the enclosed documents.

Sincerely,

M. Ryan Payne

Enclosures

cc: Melissa McGinnis, Deputy Solicitor, Attorney for Respondent
Appellate Defense Division, SC Commission of Appellate Defense

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