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SC Court of Appeals

**THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals**

APPEAL FROM SUMTER COUNTY

Court of Common Pleas
Third Judicial Circuit
The Honorable R. Kirk Griffin
Acting Circuit Court Judge

**Civil Action No.: 2022-CP-43-01389
Appellate Case No.: 2025-001006**

**Sumter County,
Respondent,**

v.

**L.A. Express Logistics, LLC and Willie S. Spann, III,
Appellants.**

**REPLY TO RESPONDENT'S RETURN IN OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO
REINSTATE APPEAL**

Appellants, L.A. Express Logistics, LLC and Willie S. Spann, III, respectfully submit this Reply to Respondent's Return in Opposition to the Motion to Reinstate Appeal, and would show unto this Honorable Court as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

This Reply is submitted in response to Respondent's assertion that Appellants failed to comply with the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules and have not demonstrated good cause for reinstatement. Respectfully, Respondent's position is incomplete and fails to account for Appellants' good faith efforts to comply, as well as the circumstances constituting excusable neglect.

II. GOOD FAITH EFFORT TO COMPLY WITH RULE 207

Contrary to Respondent's assertions, Appellants did not ignore the requirements of Rule 207, SCACR. Appellants made a timely and good faith effort to request the trial transcript prior to October 13, 2025, including initiating communication with the court reporter via email.

Despite these efforts, Appellants did not receive a response from the court reporter within the expected timeframe. This lack of response contributed directly to the delay in securing the transcript and was outside the control of Appellants.

Appellants, proceeding pro se, relied upon reasonable efforts and available means to comply with procedural requirements and acted diligently under the circumstances.

III. EXCUSABLE NEGLIGENCE AND EQUITABLE CONSIDERATIONS

Any delay in perfecting the appeal was not the result of willful disregard of the rules, but rather constitutes excusable neglect. South Carolina courts have long recognized that procedural rules should not operate to defeat a litigant's right to appellate review where good faith efforts have been made.

Appellants respectfully submit that:

- They acted in good faith to comply with appellate requirements;
 - Any delay was attributable, in part, to lack of response from the court reporter;
 - As pro se litigants, Appellants should be afforded some measure of leniency in navigating complex appellate procedures.
-

IV. RESPONDENT HAS SUFFERED NO PREJUDICE

Respondent has not demonstrated any actual prejudice resulting from the delay. The appeal has not advanced to briefing, and reinstatement would not impair Respondent's ability to fully present its arguments.

South Carolina appellate courts favor resolving cases on their merits rather than on procedural technicalities, particularly where no prejudice results to the opposing party.

V. INTEREST OF JUSTICE

Dismissal of this appeal would result in a harsh and inequitable outcome, depriving Appellants of their right to appellate review despite their good faith efforts to comply. Reinstatement, by contrast, serves the interests of justice and ensures that the case is resolved on its substantive merits.

VI. CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, Appellants respectfully request that this Honorable Court:

1. Reject Respondent's arguments in opposition;
 2. Find that good cause and excusable neglect exist; and
 3. Reinstate the appeal in the interest of justice.
-

Respectfully submitted,

L.A. Express Logistics, LLC
Willie S. Spann, III
Appellants, Pro Se

Willie S Spann, III
5160 Highway 15 N

sumter SC, 29153
803-556-3262
williespann30@gmail.com

Dated: March 20, 2026

Willie Spann III

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SC Court of Appeals

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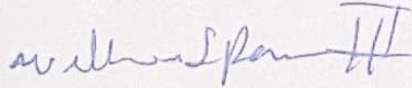
I hereby certify that I have this day served a true and correct copy of the foregoing **Reply to Respondent's Return in Opposition to Motion to Reinstate Appeal** upon counsel for the Respondent by depositing same in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

G. Murrell Smith, Jr.
Post Office Box 580
Sumter, SC 29151-0580
murrell@smithrobinsonlaw.com

Austin T. Reed
3200 Devine Street
Columbia, SC 29205
austin.reed@smithrobinsonlaw.com

This the 20 day of March, 2026.

Willie S. Spann, III
5160 Highway 15 N



Sumter SC 29153

Williespann30@gmail.com

Appellant, Pro Se

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SC Court of Appeals

FORM 7
PROOF OF SERVICE OF A NOTICE OF APPEAL

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM Sumter COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

The Honorable Kirk Griffin, Circuit Court Judge

Case No. 2022 - CP - 43 - 01389

LA Express Logistics and
Willie Sparr III

Appellant/Respondent,

Sumter County

v.

Appellant/Respondent.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I certify that I have served the Notice of Appeal on Austin Tyler Reed by depositing
a copy of it in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, on March 20, 2026 addressed to,
(Name) (Date)

Austin Tyler Reed 3200 Devine Street
Columbia, SC 29205

Date: 3-20-2026

si m... III
Address: 5160 Hwy 15 N
Sumter, SC 29153

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SC Court of Appeals

FORM 7
PROOF OF SERVICE OF A NOTICE OF APPEAL

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM Sumter COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

The Honorable Kirk Griffin, Circuit Court Judge

Case No. 2022 - CP - 43 - 01389

LA Express Logistics and
Willie Spain III

Appellant/Respondent,

Sumter County

v.

Appellant/Respondent.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I certify that I have served the Notice of Appeal on George Murrell Smith Jr by depositing
(Name)
a copy of it in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, on March 20, 2024 addressed to,
(Date)

George Murrell Smith Jr. P.O. Box 580
Sumter, SC 29151-0580

Date: 3-20-2024

s/ Willie Spain III
Address: 5160 Hwy 15 N
Sumter, SC 29153