

# The South Carolina Court of Appeals

James M. Harley, Appellant,

v.

South Carolina Department of Employment and  
Workforce and Bradshaw Automotive Group, Inc.,  
Respondents.

Appellate Case No. 2024-001795

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## ORDER

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On October 21, 2024, Appellant filed a notice of appeal. On November 19, 2024, Appellant's counsel, Jack E. Cohoon, moved to be relieved as counsel for Appellant. On January 13, 2025, this court relieved Attorney Cohoon and held the appeal in abeyance for ninety days. Thereafter, this court extended the time for finding new counsel until May 14, 2025. Appellant, proceeding pro se, then sought an extension of time in which to file his initial brief and designation of matter, which was granted until August 11, 2025. Thereafter, Appellant filed his initial brief and designation of matter on August 11, 2025, Respondents filed their initial brief and designation of matter, and Appellant filed a reply brief. On January 6, 2026, Appellant filed a record on appeal.

On January 14, 2026, Respondents filed a joint motion to dismiss, arguing Appellant had failed after multiple extensions of time, to file a record on appeal that complies with the Appellate Court Rules. Alternatively, Respondents seek an order striking the January 6, 2026 record on appeal.

On January 27, 2026, Appellant filed a motion seeking (1) to stay all briefing deadlines, (2) leave to amend and supplement the record on appeal, (3) leave to amend the briefs filed, and (4) leave to file a reply to Respondents' motion to dismiss. Appellant explained he was still working on retaining counsel and anticipated doing so within the next few weeks. On January 28, 2026, Appellant filed a "Supplemental Reply to Respondents' Motion to Dismiss," maintaining his

January 27, 2026 requests and explaining documentation in support of his requests would be filed. On February 3, 2026, Appellant filed a "Motion to Supplement and Cure Record on Appeal." On February 10, 2026, Appellant filed an amended record on appeal. On February 5, 2026, Respondent South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (SCDEW) filed a return, maintaining its request for the case to be dismissed.

On February 11, 2026, Appellant moved to strike portions of Respondent SCDEW's return. On February 19, 2026, Respondents renewed their motion to dismiss and alternative request to strike the record on appeal.

On March 2, 2026, Adam Ruffin, Esquire, appeared on Appellant's behalf. That same day, Appellant, via counsel, moved to file an amended initial brief and designation of matter, indicating he would serve and file an amended initial brief and designation of matter within thirty days of this court's decision. Respondents filed a joint return, opposing the motion.

After careful consideration, we deny Respondents' January 14, 2026 and February 19, 2026 joint motions to dismiss. However, we grant the alternative request to strike the January 6, 2026 record on appeal. Further, although we grant Appellant's January 27, 2026 and February 3, 2026 requests to file an amended record on appeal, we decline to accept the February 10, 2026 record on appeal because it does not comply with the Appellate Court Rules. Within twenty days of the date of this order, Appellant shall serve and file an amended recorded on appeal that complies with this court's rules. Additionally, we deny Appellant's January 27, 2026 and March 2, 2026 requests to file an amended initial brief and designation of matter. Finally, we deny Appellant's February 12, 2026 motion to strike portions of Respondent SCDEW's return and decline to rule on Appellant's January 27, 2026 request for leave to file a reply to Respondents' joint motion to dismiss as moot.

  
J.  
FOR THE COURT

Columbia, South Carolina

cc:

Sarah M Gable, Esquire

Valerie Michelle McMellan, Esquire

Benjamin Thomas Cook, Esquire

Adam Sinclair Ruffin, Esquire

**FILED**  
**Apr 16 2026**