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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

APR 16 2026

In The Court of Appeals SC Court of Appeals

Appeal from Horry County

Honorable Eugene P. Warr, Jr., Circuit Court Judge

THE STATE,

RESPONDENT,

VS

RAY EDWARD CHESTNUT,

APPELLANT.

APPELLANT CASE NO. 2025-001447

MOTION TO EXPEDITE APPEAL

Comes Now the Appellant, Ray Edward Chestnut,  
and respectfully moves this Honorable court to  
expedite review of the above-captioned appeal.

In support thereof, Appellant states as follows:

1. Appellant's appeal is currently pending before this court and is fully briefed, including Appellant's pro se submissions accepted by the court.

2. This appeal raises substantial issues, including but not limited to the trial court's denial of Appellant's motion to relieve trial counsel despite a demonstrated breakdown in the attorney-client relationship.
3. As previously noticed to this court, the trial court subsequently granted Appellant's motion to relieve trial counsel following post-trial proceedings, confirming the legitimacy of the conflict raised prior to trial.
4. Additionally, attorney Carla Todd - whom Appellant specifically requested as substitute counsel during pretrial proceedings - has since been appointed to represent Appellant in related pending criminal charges.
5. Appellant now faces imminent and irreparable harm due to a pending Family court proceeding. Specifically, Appellant has a scheduled hearing on May 14, 2026 at 8:30 am, in the matter of SCOSS vs. Lauren Tucker, Ray Edward Chestnut, and Pamela Wright, case No. 2025-DR-26-0304,

as evidenced by the attached correspondence (Exhibit A).

6. The outcome of Appellant's criminal appeal directly impacts his ability to meaningfully participate in and protect his parental and legal interests in that Family court proceeding.

7. Absent expedited review, Appellant will be forced to proceed in Family court under circumstances that may cause permanent and irreversible consequences, including adverse determinations affecting parental rights involving his two (2) year old son.

8. Appellant submits that this constitutes irreparable harm warranting expedited consideration by this Court.

9. Expediting this appeal will not prejudice the Respondent and will serve the interests of justice by ensuring timely resolution of substantial legal issues affecting Appellant's liberty and family rights.

WHEREFORE, Appellant respectfully requests that this court expedite consideration and disposition of this appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

151 Ray Chestnut

Ray Edward Chestnut

Appellant, Pro Se

SCDC # 304094

Kirkland Correctional Institution

4344 Broad River Road

Columbia, SC 29210

April 10, 2026

EXHIBIT - A  
( Family court Hearing Notice )

# Heather M. Cannon, LLC

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Attorney At Law  
Certified Mediator  
905 Bell Street  
Conway, South Carolina 29526  
E-mail: [cannonhm@hotmail.com](mailto:cannonhm@hotmail.com)  
Telephone: (843) 488-2426 - Facsimile: (843) 488-2428

April 2, 2026

~~Ray Edward Chestnut, 00304094~~  
Kirkland Correctional Institute  
4344 Broad River Rd.  
Columbia, SC 29210

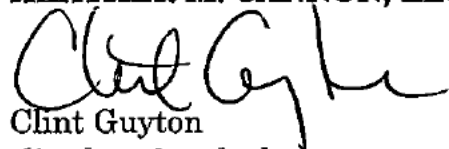
**Re: SCDSS vs. Lauren Tucker, Ray Edward Chestnut, and Pamela Wright**  
**Case No.: 2025-DR-26-0304**

Dear Mr. Chestnut:

Please let this letter inform you that your next scheduled hearing date is **May 14, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.** for the above-referenced matter. Please call or email me with any questions or concerns.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,  
HEATHER M. CANNON, LLC



Clint Guyton

[clint.hmc@outlook.com](mailto:clint.hmc@outlook.com)

For Heather M. Cannon

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing "Motion to Expedite Appeal" was served upon the parties addressed below by via U.S. mail with appropriate pre-paid postage on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026.

Mark Reynolds Farthing, Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General

P.O. Box 11549  
Columbia, SC 29211

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APR 16 2026

SC Court of Appeals

W. Chandler Norville, Appellate Defender  
South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense

P.O. Box 11589  
Columbia, SC 29211

151 Ray Chestnut  
Ray Edward Chestnut

# COVER LETTER

Ray Edward Chestnut #304094  
Kirkland Correctional Institution  
4344 Broad River Road  
Columbia, SC 29210

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APR 16 2026

April 10, 2026

SC Court of Appeals

Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings, Clerk  
South Carolina Court of Appeals  
1220 Senate Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

RE: State vs. Ray Edward Chestnut  
Appellate case No. 2025-001447

Dear Clerk:

Please find enclosed for filing Appellant's Notice of Supplemental Authority and Procedural Development and Motion to Expedite Appeal, along with Exhibit A in support of the motion, and certificates of service.

Appellant respectfully requests that these filings be filed and made part of the appellate record for the court's consideration.

A copy of these filings has been served upon the office of the Attorney General and Defense Counsel.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ray Chestnut  
Ray Edward Chestnut

cc:

Mark Reynolds Farthing, Esquire

W. Chandler Norville, Esquire

Ray Edward Chestnut #304094  
Kirkland Correctional Institution  
4344 Broad River Road  
Columbia, SC 29210

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SC Court of Appeals

Attn: clerk of court  
South Carolina Court of Appeals  
1220 senate street  
Columbia, SC 29201

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APR 16 2026

SC Court of Appeals

\* LEGAL MAIL \*

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