

RECEIVED

Apr 17 2026

S.C. SUPREME COURT

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Supreme Court

APPEAL FROM SPARTANBURG COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

J. Mark Hayes, II, Circuit Court Judge

Case No. 2017-CP-42-00219
Appellate Case No. 2025-000346

Jo Ann Blackwell, Michelene Brooks, and Samuel H. Owens,
Jr., individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, Respondents,

v.

Mary Black Health System, LLC, d/b/a Mary Black Memorial
Hospital; CHSPSC, LLC; Professional Account Services, Inc.....Petitioners.

JOINT STATUS REPORT

Petitioners Mary Black Health System, LLC, d/b/a Mary Black Memorial Hospital; CHSPSC, LLC; and Professional Account Services, Inc. (collectively, “Petitioners”) and Respondents Jo Ann Blackwell, Michelene Brooks, and Samuel H. Owens, Jr. (collectively, “Respondents”) respectfully submit this Joint Status Report in compliance with the Court’s Order dated December 17, 2025.

Since filing their last Joint Status Report, the Parties filed a Joint Motion for Partial Remand with the Court of Appeals in the Second Appeal of this action.¹ The Court of Appeals issued an order granting that motion and remanding the case to the circuit court on March 23, 2026. The parties also exchanged additional revisions to the proposed Class Settlement Agreement and

¹ Appellate Case No. 2024-001546.

related documents. The parties have agreed upon and finalized those documents, and the agreement will be fully executed in the very near future.

In conjunction with finalizing the Class Settlement Agreement, the parties have also finalized the proposed joint motions to the circuit court, including a Joint Motion for a HIPAA Qualified Protective Order regarding the disclosure of protected health information for the prospective members of the settlement class and a joint motion for preliminary approval of the Class Settlement Agreement. The parties plan to file the Joint Motion for a HIPAA Qualified Protective Order in the very near future as well.

After the circuit court enters an appropriate HIPAA Qualified Protective Order, the parties intend to file their joint submission in the circuit court so that it may consider preliminary approval of the Class Settlement Agreement and authorize the Claims Administrator to proceed with providing notice to the Settlement Class. After the circuit court issues an order preliminarily approving the Class Settlement Agreement, it will need to schedule a fairness hearing, and the parties will jointly move the circuit court to enter an order granting final approval of the Class Settlement Agreement. Subject to the circuit court's availability, the parties anticipate obtaining final approval and the dismissal of the action in 2026.

The parties will continue to provide this Court with status updates every 30 days—or sooner if events warrant.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Katon E. Dawson Jr.

James Lynn Werner (SC Bar No. 6029)
Katon E. Dawson, Jr. (SC Bar No. 101167)
Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP
1221 Main Street, Suite 1100
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 255-8000
jimwerner@parkerpoe.com
katondawson@parkerpoe.com

Attorneys for Petitioners

s/Marghretta H. Shisko

John B. White, Jr. (S.C. Bar No. 5996)
Marghretta H. Shisko (S.C. Bar No. 100106)
Griffin L. Lynch (S.C. Bar No. 72518)
John B. White, Jr. P.A.
291 S. Pine Street
P.O. Box 2465 (29304)
Spartanburg, SC 29302
jwhite@johnbwhitelaw.com
mshisko@johnbwhitelaw.com
glynch@johnbwhitelaw.com

John S. Simmons (S.C. Bar No. 10260)
Rachel G. Peavy (S.C. Bar No. 69397)
Simmons Law Firm, LLC
1711 Pickens Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 779-4600
jsimmons@simmonsfirm.com
rpeavy@simmonsfirm.com

Attorneys for Respondents

April 17, 2026