

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
In The Court of Appeals

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SC Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM FAIRFIELD COUNTY  
Court of Common Pleas  
Brian M. Gibbons, Circuit Court Judge

Appellate Case No. 2026-000263  
Case No. 2025-CP-20-00274 & 2025-CP-20-00275

Estate of Robert E. Powers, Jr., Jennifer D. Powers, Personal  
Representative, ..... Appellants

v.

The Hon. Bradley Caulder as an individual, Law Office of Barbara  
E. Brunson, as guardian ad litem for Robert Edward Powers, Jr.,  
Barbara Brunson, individual, Family Services, Inc., d/b/a Origin  
SC, as Conservator for Robert E. Powers, Jr., Caprice Atterbury, as  
an individual, Traci Strickland, as an individual, Leslie P. Taylor,  
as Guardian for Robert E. Powers, Jr., Leslie P. Taylor, as  
Guardian for Robert E. Powers, Jr., Leslie P. Taylor, individual,  
Attorney Brian Dumas, individual, and Attorney Brandon Keith  
Poston, individual, ..... Respondents

**MEMORANDUM OR RETURN OF BRIAN DUMAS RESPONDENT IN RESPONSE TO  
ORDER DATED APRIL 9, 2026**

Respondent Brian Dumas opposes the ability of Appellant Jennifer D. Powers (hereinafter Appellant), to file or act in this appeal as she is not an “aggrieved party” entitled to appeal as she was never a party in the probate proceeding and has no order adjudicating any “right” she may have had, and the Estate of Robert E. Powers, Jr. (the Estate) even if it were a true party, which is denied, cannot be represented by a non-lawyer, the Appellant.

**A. Jennifer Powers, Appellant, is not an aggrieved party.**

Rule 201 (b), SCACR mandates that “ Only a party aggrieved by an order, judgment, sentence or decision may appeal”. Appellant makes no allegation of, nor can she point to any evidence in the record that demonstrates she was ever named as a party in her personal capacity,

served as a party, or recognized by either the Probate Court or Fairfield County Circuit Court (“Circuit Court”) as a litigant distinct from the Estate. Unless Appellant can point to some direct right or interest that has been adversely affected by a ruling in the probate court, she has no right to appeal. *Bivens v Knight*, 254 S.C. 10, 173 S.E. 2d 150 (1970). This was amplified by *Beaufort Realty Co., Inc. v. Beaufort County*, 346 S.C. 298, 551 S.E.2d 588 (2001) where it is made clear that she must have a substantial grievance, a denial of some personal or property right or the imposition on her of a burden or obligation. Appellant has not alleged and cannot show such in this matter.

**B. The Estate of Robert E. Powers Jr. is not a party to this appeal.**

The original matter subject to this “appeal” is a probate matter styled “In The Matter of the Estate of Robert E. Powers, Jr.”. Appellant, a nonlawyer, cannot represent the separate entity of a probate estate. *Brown v. Coe*, 365 S.C. 137, 142, 616 S.E.2d 705, 708, *order clarified*, 365 S.C. 664, 620 S.E.2d 323 (2005) (holding that a nonlawyer personal representative could not prepare and file appellate briefs on behalf of estate).

**CONCLUSION**

For the reasons set forth above, Respondent Brian Dumas requests that the Court find that Appellant is neither an aggrieved party entitled to appeal nor is the Estate of Robert E. Powers Jr. a proper party to this appeal, as no attorney filed nor is prosecuting the appeal, and dismiss this appeal.

By: /s/Brian Dumas  
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Columbia, South Carolina  
April 19, 2026