

RECEIVED

Apr 27 2026

SC Court of Appeals

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

Appeal from Jasper County

Honorable Robert J. Bonds, Circuit Court Judge

THE STATE,

RESPONDENT,

V.

JOHN STEVEN REYNOVEL METZLER,

APPELLANT

APPELLATE CASE NO. 2025-000413

PETITION FOR COST WAIVER ON
EXPEDITED TRANSCRIPT REQUEST

Pursuant to Rule 240, SCACR, the undersigned counsel for Appellant requests a cost waiver in order to expedite the process of obtaining the transcript in the above titled appeal. A timely transcript order was placed by Appellate Defense (hereinafter referred to as "this Office"), in the case and numerous (eight) inquiries regarding the status of the same were submitted subsequently by this Office. Ultimately, Court Administration assigned the transcription of the case to a subcontractor. However, the burdensome time delay in obtaining this transcript would not be the fault of this Office; and because appellate delays might trigger grounds invoking a due process violation, this Office is requesting that the transcription by the subcontractor be expedited along with a waiver of the cost to expedite. Excessive delays in processing an appeal violate due process. Rheuark v. Shaw, 628 F.2d 297 (5th Cir. 1980); United States v. Johnson, 732 F.2d 379 (4th Cir. 1984); U.S. v. Antoine, 906 F.2d 1379 (9th Cir. 1990); Green v.

Washington, 917 F. Supp. 1238 (1993). In support of this petition, the undersigned counsel would present to this Court the following information outlined below.

1. Appellant was convicted of first degree criminal sexual conduct and kidnapping per trial by jury held during the February 2025 term of the Jasper County General Sessions Court before Judge Robert J. Bonds, who sentenced him to an aggregate thirty (30) years imprisonment.

2. On February 27, 2025, Appellant filed a timely Notice of Appeal. Because Appellant is indigent, this Office assumed representation of Appellant for the purposes of perfecting his direct appeal.

3. On May 14, 2025, this Court acknowledged receipt of the Notice of Appeal and assigned this case an appellate case number, thus beginning the timeline for ordering the transcript of the trial.

4. On June 13, 2025, this Office timely requested the transcript in the case through the South Carolina Judicial Branch Transcript Portal. The automated e-mail confirming receipt of the transcript request is attached to this petition as Exhibit A.

5. On September 23, 2025, this Court issued a letter informing undersigned counsel that the transcript was overdue.

6. On October 14, 2025, this Office sent a late letter to the Court Administration seeking confirmation in writing as to the status of the transcript and filed same with this Court.

7. On October 31, 2025, the Court Administration submitted the following three extensions for the assignee to prepare and deliver the transcript: October 31, 2025 - September 16, 2025; October 31, 2025 - October 16, 2025; and October 31, 2025 - November 16, 2025.

8. On December 3, 2025, this Office sent a second late letter to Court Administration and filed same with this Court. This Office filed subsequent late letters on January 16, 2026, February 3, 2026, February 17, 2026, March 11, 2026, March 25, 2026, and April 14, 2026. No return correspondence was received from Court Administration.

9. Chapter XIV, Section A of the South Carolina Court Reporter Manual states in relevant part:

[W]henver it appears to Court Administration, based on the number of pending pages, or extension requests or any other reason, that a court reporter cannot prepare a transcript within a reasonable period of time, Court Administration may require the court reporter to turn over primary and back-up tapes to another court reporter for production of the transcript.

South Carolina Court Reporter Manual p. 23.

10. Chapter XIV, Section D of the South Carolina Court Reporter Manual states in relevant part:

[A] court reporter has 60 days in which to prepare a transcript. After this initial 60-day period, extension requests must be made in 30-day increments. Extensions should be requested only during the 10-day period preceding the applicable deadline. . . . Court Administration may grant a maximum of three 30-day extensions. Additional requests for extension will not be allowed except by order of the Chief Justice.

South Carolina Court Reporter Manual p. 26.

11. On April 23, 2026, this Office contacted Court Administration inquiring as to the status of the transcript and asking if the request had been reassigned. This correspondence is attached to this petition as Exhibit B.

12. On April 23, 2026, an automated e-mail confirming receipt of a transcript request directed to a court reporting subcontractor was sent to this Office. This correspondence is contained in Exhibit C, pp. 2-4.

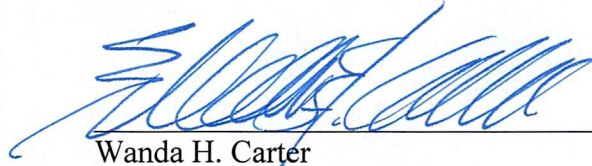
13. On April 23, 2026, in response to the notice of reassignment, this Office contacted Court Administration requesting that the transcript be expedited at no additional cost due to the age of the request. This correspondence is contained in Exhibit C, p. 2.

14. On April 23, 2026, in response to the request to expedite, Court Administration directed this Office to contact the subcontractor with questions. This correspondence is contained in Exhibit C, p. 2.

15. Although this Office acknowledges that a subcontractor has no duty to waive the cost of expediting a transcription at our request, on April 23, 2026, this Office contacted said subcontractor inquiring as to expediting production of the transcript. Said subcontractor agreed to the expedited production, but added that this Office must assume the fee to expedite. This correspondence is contained in Exhibit C, p. 1-2.

WHEREFORE, 318 days have passed since this Office placed a timely order for said transcript in the case. Also, after Court Administration approved the maximum allowable extensions to produce the transcript, the matter was submitted to an assigned Court Reporter with a due date of November 16, 2025. Thereafter, this Office submitted seven (7) letters asking for Court Administration to provide status updates on the transcript before the transcription was then reassigned to a subcontractor. Please note that over a year has passed since appellant's trial. Thus, in light of this burdensome undue delay in securing the transcript, which again is due to no fault of this Office, and in an attempt to avoid further excessive delays in the appeal process, which would trigger a due process violation claim, the request to expedite the transcription of the same by this Office would be deemed reasonable and likewise the request for a waiver of cost to expedite would be deemed reasonable as well. Hence, the submission of this petition requesting the waiver of cost to expedite the transcription of appellant's trial.

WHEREFORE, based on the forgoing information outlined above, counsel for appellant would ask for a cost waiver on the expedited transcript request order placed in the case.



Wanda H. Carter
Chief Appellate Defender

South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense
Division of Appellate Defense
PO Box 11589
Columbia, SC 29211-1589
ATTORNEY FOR APPELLANT

This 27th day of April, 2026.

From: [White, Della](#)
To: [Court Of Appeals Filings](#)
Cc: [Mark Farthing](#); [Caroline Collins](#)
Subject: 2025-000413 Metzler, John transcript request
Date: Friday, June 13, 2025 11:53:40 AM

***** EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside the organization. Please exercise caution before clicking any links or opening attachments. *******

Good afternoon,

Below is the transcript request documentation requested through the Transcript Portal today.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you very much.

Della White

From: Transcripts@sccourts.org <Transcripts@sccourts.org>
Sent: Friday, June 13, 2025 11:52 AM
To: White, Della <dwhite@sccid.sc.gov>
Subject: [External] Transcript Request for Docket Number 2023GS2700215

Greetings,

Please accept this email and the **summarized Transcript Request shown below** as confirmation that the online transcript request that you submitted has been received by our office. You should receive communication from a transcriptionist within five (5) business days with an estimated cost for production.

If you need further assistance, please contact us at transcripts@sccourts.org.

Regards,

Court Administration

Summarized Transcript Request ID(s): **571701427**

Requester Information:

Name: Della White
Entity: Agency SCCID

Phone Number: (803) 734-1330

Email: dwhite@sccid.sc.gov

Address: 1330 Lady Street Columbia, SC 29201

Is the requester a party on the case? No

Does the requester represent a party? Yes John Metzler

Transcript Information:

Docket Number: 2023GS2700215

Court Type: Circuit

County: Jasper

Case Caption: The State of South Carolina vs Metzler, John Steven Rey

Appeal Pending? Court of Appeals

Death Penalty? No

Start Date of Proceeding: 2/18/2025

End Date of Proceeding: 2/20/2025

Presiding Judge: Bonds, Robert J.

Court reporter daily assignments:

2/18/2025 (Tuesday): Williams, Kymberlee Mignanelli

2/19/2025 (Wednesday): Williams, Kymberlee Mignanelli

2/20/2025 (Thursday): Williams, Kymberlee Mignanelli

Opposing Counsel and/or other parties information:

(Attorney) Patrick A. Hall

(Defendant) John Steven Rey Metzler

Next hearing date: *Date not entered*

Portion of proceeding to be transcribed: Entire Hearing

Delivery Information:

Delivery Timeframe: Regular Delivery (60 days)

Delivery Method: PDF/Email

Delivery Timeframe: Court Appointed Counsel

Appeals Attorney: SCCID

Email: dwhite@sccid.sc.gov

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**White, Della**

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**From:** White, Della  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 23, 2026 8:55 AM  
**To:** Holmes, Tammie; Court Of Appeals Filings  
**Cc:** Transcripts; Williams, Kymberlee; Mark Farthing; Caroline Collins  
**Subject:** RE: 2025-000413 Metzler, John status letter 10

Good morning,

Hope you are well. Has this transcript request been reassigned? It was originally requested on June 13, 2025. As of today's date, our office has not been notified of the status of this request. Please let us know.

Thank you,

Della White

---

**From:** Court Of Appeals Filings <ctappfilings@sccourts.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2026 10:55 AM  
**To:** White, Della <dwhite@sccid.sc.gov>; Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>; Court Of Appeals Filings <ctappfilings@sccourts.org>  
**Cc:** Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>  
**Subject:** [External] RE: 2025-000413 Metzler, John status letter 9

The Court has received your filing. A stamped copy is attached for your records.

Thank you!

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**From:** White, Della <dwhite@sccid.sc.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2026 10:48 AM  
**To:** Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>; Court Of Appeals Filings <ctappfilings@sccourts.org>  
**Cc:** Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>  
**Subject:** 2025-000413 Metzler, John status letter 9

**\*\*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside the organization. Please exercise caution before clicking any links or opening attachments. \*\*\*

Good afternoon,

Please find attached for filing the status letter in the above-referenced case.

Opposing Counsel is copied on the email.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you,

Della White  
SC Commission on Indigent Defense  
1330 Lady Street, Suite 401  
P.O. Box 11589  
Columbia, SC 29201  
Office: 803-734-1330

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White, Della

From: Kevin Dehlinger <kdehlinger@LegalEagleInc.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2026 4:05 PM
To: White, Della; Holmes, Tammie
Cc: Transcripts
Subject: RE: [External] UPDATED: Transcript Request for Docket Number

Della,

Always happy to help. The SCJB does not incur the extra expense to expedite the transcript. Legal Eagle would have to pay our transcribers a higher fee to expedite it while charging the standard rate. That is probably why they asked you to reach out to us.

That being said, I am sure we can help you. How quickly do you need this back? It being a three-day trial, I believe we can get this done by May 15th. Is that a quick enough turnaround? Thank you.



Kevin Dehlinger
Director of Operations

M (864) 444-4219 | P (864) 467-1373
E kdehlinger@legaleagleinc.com

107 LeGrand Blvd., Greenville, SC 29607
www.LegalEagleInc.com



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From: White, Della <dwhite@sccid.sc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2026 3:52 PM
To: Kevin Dehlinger <kdehlinger@LegalEagleInc.com>; Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>
Cc: Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>
Subject: FW: [External] UPDATED: Transcript Request for Docket Number

Hi Kevin,

I am not sure why Court Admin ask me to reach out to you about expediting this request when you just received the request from them.

EXHIBIT C

The originally request was made on **June 12, 2025**, and it is just being reassigned. Seems to me it should be expedited at this point.

Please see below. I appreciate all you do!!!

Thank you,

Della White

From: Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2026 3:44 PM
To: White, Della <dwhite@sccid.sc.gov>; Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>; Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>
Subject: RE: [External] UPDATED: Transcript Request for Docket Number

This was assigned to Legal Eagle on today. Please feel free to reach out to them if you have any questions.
Thank you

From: White, Della <dwhite@sccid.sc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2026 3:41 PM
To: Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>; Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>
Subject: RE: [External] UPDATED: Transcript Request for Docket Number

***** EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside the organization. Please exercise caution before clicking any links or opening attachments. ***

Can this please be expedited since it was originally ordered June 12, 2025- at no extra cost?

From: Transcripts@sccourts.org <Transcripts@sccourts.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2026 3:30 PM
To: White, Della <dwhite@sccid.sc.gov>
Subject: [External] UPDATED: Transcript Request for Docket Number

Greetings,

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Regards,

Court Administration

Summarized Transcript Request ID(s): **571701427**

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Is the requester a party on the case? No

Does the requester represent a party? Yes John Metzler

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County: Jasper

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End Date of Proceeding: 2/20/2025

Presiding Judge: Bonds, Robert J.

Court reporter daily assignments:

02/18/2025: Contract Circuit, LE

02/19/2025: Contract Circuit, LE

02/20/2025: Contract Circuit, LE

Opposing Counsel and/or other parties information:

(Attorney) Patrick A. Hall

(Defendant) John Steven Rey Metzler

Next hearing date: *Date not entered*

Portion of proceeding to be transcribed: Entire Hearing

Delivery Information:

Delivery Timeframe: Regular Delivery (60 days)

Delivery Method: PDF/Email

Delivery Timeframe: Court Appointed Counsel

Appeals Attorney: SCCID

Email: dwhite@sccid.sc.gov

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EXHIBIT C

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Apr 27 2026

SC Court of Appeals

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

Appeal from Jasper County

Honorable Robert J. Bonds, Circuit Court Judge

THE STATE,

RESPONDENT,

V.

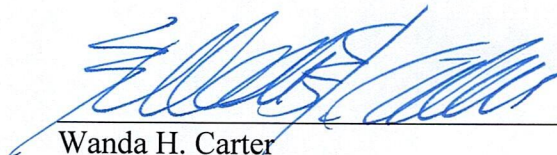
JOHN STEVEN REYNOVEL METZLER,

APPELLANT

APPELLATE CASE NO. 2025-000413

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to Rule 262(a)(3) and Rule 262(c)(3), SCACR, the undersigned hereby certifies a true copy of the Petition to Waive the Cost of Expediting the Transcript in the above-referenced case has been served upon Mark Reynolds Farthing, Esquire, at the primary e-mail address listed in the Attorney Information System (AIS); and on John Metzler, #396594, at Ridgeland Correctional Institution, PO Box 2039, Ridgeland, SC 29936, this 27th day of April, 2026.



Wanda H. Carter
Chief Appellate Defender
South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense
Division of Appellate Defense
PO Box 11589
Columbia, SC 29211-1589

ATTORNEY FOR APPELLANT

Warren, Kaylynn

From: Warren, Kaylynn
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2026 3:12 PM
To: Mark Farthing
Cc: Carter, Wanda; Caroline Collins
Subject: 2025-000413 The State v. John Steven Reynovel Metzler
Attachments: 2025-000413 The State v. John Steven Reynovel Metzler Petition for Cost Waiver on Expedited Transcript Request.pdf

Good Afternoon,

Attached for service is a Petition for Cost Waiver on Expedited Transcript Request which will be filed today, April 27, 2026, with the Court of Appeals via email filing.

Respectfully,

Kaylynn

Kaylynn Warren

Administrative Assistant

South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense

Division of Appellate Defense

(803) 734-1330

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Apr 27 2026

SC Court of Appeals