

RECEIVED

May 29 2026

SC Court of Appeals

RUFFIN LAW FIRM, LLC
APPELLATE LITIGATION

Adam Sinclair Ruffin
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Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 470-5629
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May 29, 2026

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings
Clerk of the South Carolina Court of Appeals
PO Box 11629
Columbia, SC 29211

Re: State v. David Fields
Appellate Case No. 2025-000437

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

It has been almost three months since my last letter to the Court advising that the transcript in this case had not been delivered. Volume 1 of the transcript was delivered on March 26. Volumes 2 – 4 have still not been delivered. The transcript is many months overdue and to the best of my knowledge no extension has been requested or granted by the Chief Justice as required under Rule 607(e), SCACR.

I renew my request that this Court ensure prompt delivery of the transcript at no cost to Mr. Fields. I have attached email correspondence between me and the court reporter over the last three months. The emails show a pattern of the court reporter promising to deliver the transcript “today” or “this week” but not doing so.

Incredibly, this morning I received an email from the court reporter indicating that she will never complete the transcript and that it will be assigned to a different court reporter. This notification comes more than one year after the initial transcript request was made and after many months of misrepresentations made by the court reporter regarding her progress on the transcript. This should be unacceptable to this Court.

Respectfully, and regrettably, I request the Court take some action to bring the court reporter into compliance with this Court’s rules.

Sincerely,

s/Adam Ruffin
Adam Sinclair Ruffin
Ruffin Law Firm, LLC

cc: Mark Farthing, Esquire
Kymberlee Williams
Tammie Holmes
South Carolina Court Administration



State v David Fields

From Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

Date Fri 2026-05-29 7:04 AM

To Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>

Cc Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>; Budreau, Leah <lbudreau@sccourts.org>

Good morning:

Due to my current workload, I will be unable to complete this transcript. It will be turned over to court administration for completion. They will be contacting you when it is reassigned.

Thank you.

Kymberlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR
State of South Carolina
Official Circuit Court Reporter III
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit
(843) 575-4339

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**Re: David Fields**

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**From** Williams, Kimberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

**Date** Wed 2026-05-27 1:45 PM

**To** Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>

Understood. Thank you.

Kimberlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR  
State of South Carolina  
Official Circuit Court Reporter III  
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit  
(843) 575-4339

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**From:** Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2026 1:43 PM

**To:** Williams, Kimberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>; Aries Brown <ariestbrown@gmail.com>

**Cc:** Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>; Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>; Mark Farthing <mfarthing@scag.gov>

**Subject:** Re: David Fields

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Okay thank you. Since you have committed to having it ready tomorrow. I will wait until Friday morning before notifying the Court. It has been nearly 3 months since I last updated them and to the best of my knowledge no further extension has ever been requested or granted by the Chief Justice as required.

Adam

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**From:** Williams, Kimberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2026 1:32:43 PM

**To:** Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>; Aries Brown <ariestbrown@gmail.com>

**Cc:** Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>; Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>; Mark Farthing

<mfarthing@scag.gov>

**Subject:** Re: David Fields

I understand your frustration now.  
Please bear with me for a few more days.  
I have committed to court administration to have it ready tomorrow.  
Since everyone is copied on this email, I will copy everyone when it's ready.  
Thank you!  
Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

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**From:** Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2026 1:12:43 PM

**To:** Aries Brown <ariestbrown@gmail.com>; Williams, Kimberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

**Cc:** Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>; Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>; Mark Farthing <mfarthing@scag.gov>

**Subject:** Re: David Fields

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Hey Kimberlee I also would like an update please. For months you have been telling us the transcript will be delivered. What is going on? Months ago you said the transcript was already completed. Please just be honest with us. Instead of telling us it will be delivered today or this week please just give us an honest estimation.

Adam

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**From:** Aries Brown <ariestbrown@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2026 6:22 AM

**To:** Williams, Kimberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>; Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>

**Subject:** David Fields

Good Morning

Hope all is still going well with your recovery. I know you ask us to be patient but how much longer. You stated that it would be done 2 weeks ago and no results. This is becoming a little confusing at this point Mr fields just wants to continue this process

Thank you

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Re: david fields

From Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>

Date Thu 2026-05-14 8:41 AM

To Williams, Kimberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

Cc Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>; Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>; Mark Farthing <mfarthing@scag.gov>

Hey Kimberlee,

Any update on this? Thanks!

Adam

From: Williams, Kimberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 10:53 AM

To: Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>

Subject: david fields

Touching base. Working from the hotel in Charleston today.

We are going to get this ready for you today. I'm hoping by lunchtime, but it might be a little later than that.

Thanks, Adam!

Kimberlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR

State of South Carolina

Official Circuit Court Reporter III

Fourteenth Judicial Circuit

(843) 575-4428

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**Re: Transcripts David Fields**

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**From** Williams, Kimberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

**Date** Mon 2026-04-13 9:19 AM

**To** Aries Brown <ariestbrown@gmail.com>

**Cc** Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>

Good morning. Happy Monday. Please be patient a little bit longer. I am clearing out my transcript backlog before I go back to work in a few weeks. Sorry for the delay, Aries. Mr. Ruffin will contact you later in the week when the transcript is ready.

Hope you are doing well. Glad to hear Mr. Fields is doing as well as can be expected under his circumstances.

Have a great day! 😊

Kymerlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR  
State of South Carolina  
Official Circuit Court Reporter III  
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit  
(843) 575-4428

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**From:** Aries Brown <ariestbrown@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, April 12, 2026 7:35 PM

**To:** Williams, Kimberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

**Subject:** Transcripts David Fields

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Good Afternoon Kymberlee

Hope all is well and your recovery is coming along well. I spoke with Mr. Fields and he sends his regards to you. He wanted to know when the next set of documents will be sent,

Thank you and continue to get well,

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Re: state v david fields

From Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>
Date Fri 2026-04-03 1:48 PM
To Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>
Cc Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>

Okay thank you for the update. I hope you have a great weekend too!

From: Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2026 1:04 PM
To: Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>
Cc: Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>
Subject: state v david fields

Good afternoon, Mr. Ruffin:

Hope this email finds you well. Updating you on Mr. Fields' transcript.

As you know, Volume 1 has been delivered. I expect to have the last three volumes delivered today. Definitely by Monday morning so Mr. Fields can move forward with his appeal.

Have a great holiday weekend.

Kymberlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR
State of South Carolina
Official Circuit Court Reporter III
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit
(843) 575-4428

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**mr. fields' transcript**

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**From** Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

**Date** Fri 2026-03-27 12:58 PM

**To** Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>

Good afternoon. Not finished yet. All devices are on DND.

Mr. Fields' transcript is all I am focusing on now. I wish to thank you for your patience.

Back to work. I am certain Day 2 will be done today. It is currently over 200 pages. I will send it when it's done.

Best,

Kymberlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR  
State of South Carolina  
Official Circuit Court Reporter III  
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit  
(843) 575-4428

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Re: STATE V FIELDS - VOL I TRANSCRIPT

From Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>
Date Fri 2026-03-27 8:39 AM
To Williams, Kimberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>
Cc Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>

Thank you very much! I did not get volumes 2-4 yet. Did you send those already?

Adam

From: Williams, Kimberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2026 4:50 AM
To: Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>
Cc: Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>
Subject: STATE V FIELDS - VOL I TRANSCRIPT

Volume I.
Volumes 2 - 4 today as well in separate email.

Thank you.

Kimberlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR
State of South Carolina
Official Circuit Court Reporter III
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit
(843) 575-4428

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**Re: Transcripts**

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**From** Williams, Kimberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

**Date** Fri 2026-03-27 1:16 PM

**To** Aries Brown <ariestbrown@gmail.com>

**Cc** Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>

Ms. Brown:

I am updating you on Mr. Fields' transcript. I continue to work closely with Mr. Ruffin.

Again, I wish to express my apologies for not yet having it quite finished.

This is in no way Mr. Ruffin's doing. Mr. Ruffin is a very fine lawyer. We have not met personally, but his attention and professionalism to his clients is unwavering.

I am grateful Mr. Fields has entrusted us with this very important duty of helping him through this appeal process.

I ask you to be patient a bit longer for me to produce his trial transcript. I volunteered to cover Mr. Fields' trial, and I am very glad I did.

Please give my best to Mr. Fields should you speak to him over the weekend.

In the meantime, all of my devices are off, and my weekend will be about Mr. Fields and my part of his appeal equation.

Thank you so much.

**Kymerlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR**

**State of South Carolina**

**Official Circuit Court Reporter III**

**Fourteenth Judicial Circuit**

**(843) 575-4428**

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**From:** Williams, Kimberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 7:02 PM

**To:** Aries Brown <ariestbrown@gmail.com>

**Cc:** adam@ruffinappeals.com <adam@ruffinappeals.com>

**Subject:** Re: Transcripts

Ms. Brown:

Thank you for your email and inquiry about my medical issue. Very much appreciated.

I am not required to respond to your email since Mr. Fields has retained counsel. Mr. Ruffin is doing an outstanding job of representing Mr. Fields, and he is copied on this email so he is aware of this communication.

The chronology of events has gone as follows:

Prior to the guilty verdict, Mr. Fields made a transcript deposit of \$750 as agreed towards his trial transcript if convicted.

When contacted by you after the trial, I explained that I had sent his transcript over to a typist, and I was therefore unable to refund the deposit.

Next, his appeal was formally ordered through the SCCID (indigent defense) office. Once that happened, the 60-day clock started again. Extensions of time were granted during SCCID's representation.

In August of 2025, Mr. Ruffin's representation began. The clock started again. The new due date was October, and extensions were filed and granted. I went out on medical leave in October and then formally on 11-14-25. I remain on medical leave until the end of April.

Notwithstanding all of that, there are transcripts pending that are older than Mr. Fields' appeal. I understand the process is frustrating and confusing. Mr. Ruffin is providing the very best representation to Mr. Fields, and any delays are in no way caused by him. I am committed to having Mr. Fields' transcript completed and ready for review by Wednesday, 3-25-26 by the days' end so Mr. Fields can go forward with his appeal.

A supporting email will be sent to Mr. Ruffin, court administration, and you acknowledging completion of the transcript on Wednesday.

Thank you so much for your continued patience and understanding.

**Kymerlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR**  
State of South Carolina  
Official Circuit Court Reporter III  
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit  
(843) 575-4428

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**From:** Aries Brown <ariestbrown@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 6:18 PM  
**To:** Williams, Kimberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>  
**Subject:** Transcripts

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

On behalf of Mr. Fields I am writing to get an update on the transcripts that have been requested since march 2025. I understand that you are out on medical leave and I pray all is well however, before you went out we have been requesting these documents. Not to mention Mr. Fields paid \$750 before he was incarcerated. When asked for a refund in March of 2025 you stated that it was already sent out being worked on and you could not refund the money. I said ok and waited. Now we are 14 month out and no documents have been received yet. I understand that it takes time and you have a certain amount of time allowed to you, but a whole year with extension after extension is a bit much. Yes, I understand Mr. Fields has a lawyer now but before this lawyer was retained the state was also trying to receive these documents. Mr. Fields would like to understand how can he move forward with his appeal if his lawyer doesn't have the proper paperwork.  
Thank you and once again hope your feeling better.

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Re: 2025-000437 - State v. Fields - Transcript Not Received 3.2.26

From Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>
Date Mon 2026-03-02 12:06 PM
To Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>
Cc Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>; Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>; Mark Farthing <mfarthing@scag.gov>

If the Court denies my request to produce the transcript at no cost, I will pay for it.

I am confused by your email to the Court this morning which suggests that you cannot or will not finish the transcript prior to late April. What happened to delivering it to me in volumes over the weekend? You have had one opportunity after another to finish this. It should have been finished long before you went on medical leave. And in this email to me now you say that you've never had an attorney request a transcript free of charge "after all the work associated with the production of the work product have been completed." So, have you completed the work, or not?

I have cc'd Tammie Holmes, Court Administration, and the Attorney for the State on this email as I think it is best they stay in the loop from here on out.

Adam

From: Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2026 11:46 AM
To: Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>
Subject: Re: 2025-000437 - State v. Fields - Transcript Not Received 3.2.26

Mr. Ruffin:

As indicated on Friday and at other times, this transcript is nearly complete. I have worked nearly 24/7 for many days trying to produce this transcript, especially this weekend, despite the fact that I am on medical leave recovering from surgery and trying to fulfill my transcript responsibilities despite my many limitations surrounding this recovery period.

The issue of funding came to my mind very early this morning. Mr. Fields gave me a trial transcript deposit of \$800 to secure production of his trial transcript. The total cost of this transcript will exceed \$2,500. I planned on discussing the issue of funding with you sometime today before the transcript is delivered. When a defendant obtains outside counsel, the court reporter often requires the entire transcript estimate prior to production.

In this case, I did not require additional funding up front. I knew Mr. Fields was a pro se defendant, and the invoice balance would need to be satisfied prior to delivery. Then Mr. Fields retained your services as the attorney of record to represent him in his appeal. This is the first time I have been in a situation with a large balance outstanding and uncertainty as to the payment of the balance when private counsel is involved. I never gave it any thought prior to

this morning. I didn't think I needed to. I have never had an attorney request a transcript be produced free of charge after all the work associated with the production of the work product have been completed.

My questions are this:

What are the proper billing channels since you are now involved? When will I expect payment of the invoice when submitted?

Additionally, there are three pre-trial hearings extending from 2022 to 2025. Finally, there was a hearing that occurred the week before the trial that needs to be transcribed as well if needed.

Please let me know which, if any, of these additional transcripts you need included for your appeal purposes, and the final invoice will be adjusted.

Respectfully submitted.

Kymerlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR
State of South Carolina
Official Circuit Court Reporter III
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit
(843) 575-4428

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From: Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 10:15 AM
To: Court Of Appeals Filings <ctappfilings@sccourts.org>
Cc: Mark Farthing <mfarthing@scag.gov>; Williams, Kymerlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>; Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>; Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>
Subject: 2025-000437 - State v. Fields - Transcript Not Received 3.2.26

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Good morning,

Please find attached correspondence in the above-referenced appeal. Thank you.

Adam Ruffin
Ruffin Law Firm, LLC
<https://ruffinappeals.com>
adam@ruffinappeals.com

(803) 470-5629



RUFFIN LAW FIRM
APPELLATE LITIGATION

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