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MAY 26 2026

SC Court of Appeals

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
APPEAL FROM RICHLAND COUNTY
Thomas W. McGee, III, Circuit Court Judge

In the Court of Appeals
Court of Common Pleas
Case No. 2018-CP-40-0963

Appellate Case No. _____

Austin Woods Apartments,

Respondent,

v.

Marie Assa'ad-Faltas, MD, MPH,

Appellant.

**NOTICE OF APPEAL, MOTION TO PROCEED ON APPEAL *In Forma Pauperis*,
AND MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL**

Marie Assa'ad-Faltas, MD, MPH, *pro se* hereby timely gives and serves Notice of Appeal from Circuit Judge Thomas W. McGee, III's 23 February 2026 denial of reopening of this case and his 28 April 2026 denial of Appellant's timely motion for reconsideration. Both orders are attached.

Appellant also seeks leave to *continue to proceed i.f.p.* based on the information filed in the Circuit Court, which has not changed substantially but remains true and based on which the Circuit Court granted Appellant leave to proceed *i.f.p.* The proceedings in magistrate's court were not transcribed by any court reporter and were not sent *verbatim* or in summary form by the magistrate.

Appellant moves this Court to appoint counsel for her because: (1) this appeal is meritorious and addresses the law governing quality of residential housing units and of rent affordability which are matters of great importance to a substantial segment, estimated to be 30% or more of South Carolina's population; and (2) denial of appointment of counsel for Appellant while requiring her to be represented by counsel effects a final, severe, and arbitrary denial of her right to meaningful access to the courts of this State on a basis of equality with other similarly-situated litigants.

Sincerely submitted **and served** on 26 May 2026 by hand delivery to Richland County's Clerk of Court and served on Respondent by postage-prepaid first-class U.S. mail properly addressed to The Rental Office at 7648 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29209.

Certificate of Service on Respondent

I, Marie Assa'ad-Faltas, MD, MPH **served** a true copy of this document on 26 May 2026 on Respondent by postage-prepaid first-class U.S. mail properly addressed to The Rental Office at 7648 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29209.

Marie-Thérèse Assa'ad-Faltas, MD, MPH, Defendant/Appellant *pro se* for purposes of this document
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