RECEIVED
JUN 10 2026
SC Court of Appeals

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW COURT

Dennis Maurice Temple, #274802, Appellant, v. South Carolina Department of Corrections, Respondent.	)	Docket No. 25-ALJ-04-0816-AP **ORDER GRANTING RESPONDENT'S MOTION TO DISMISS**

This matter is before the South Carolina Administrative Law Court (ALC or court) pursuant to the Notice of Appeal filed on December 30, 2025 by Dennis Maurice Temple (Appellant), an inmate in the custody of the South Carolina Department of Corrections (Department or Respondent). After the Appellant's Step 1 and Step 2 grievances were filed and denied, he filed a Notice of Appeal with this court because state and federal laws mandate state prisons to provide wash cloths, towels, and shoes to inmates regardless of whether an inmate is indigent or not, and requesting that all inmates receive necessity items twice a year irrespective of their indigent status. The Appellant is not appealing a disciplinary hearing conviction for which he lost good time credit as part of any punishment, nor is he alleging that prison officials have erroneously calculated his sentence, sentence-related credits, or custody status.

On February 25, 2026, the Department filed a Motion to Dismiss pursuant to *Slezak v. S.C. Dep't of Corr.*, 361 S.C. 327, 605 S.E. 2d 506 (2004) and *Skipper v. S.C. Dep't of Corr.*, 370 S.C. 267, 633 S.E.2d 910 (Ct. App. 2006), because the Appellant's appeal does not involve a state-created liberty or property interest. On March 4, 2026, the Appellant filed the Appellant's brief with the court requesting a court order for the Department to provide all inmates with new socks, shoes, wash cloths, towels, underwear, soap, shampoo, and razor for free twice a year, regardless of whether or not an inmate has money in their prison account, and at the state's expense.

DISCUSSION

This court's jurisdiction to hear this matter is derived entirely from the decision of the South Carolina Supreme Court in *Al-Shabazz v. State,* 338 S.C. 354, 527 S.E.2d 742 (2000). This court's appellate jurisdiction in inmate appeals is limited to cases involving denial of state created liberty

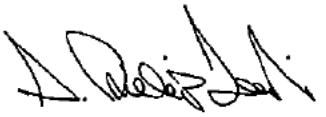
FILED
03/13/2026
SC Admin. Law Court

interests typically involving: (1) cases in which an inmate contends that prison officials have erroneously calculated his sentence, sentence-related credits, or custody status; and (2) cases in which an inmate has received punishment in a major disciplinary hearing as a result of a serious rule violation.[1] *Id.*

When reviewing the Department's decisions in inmate grievance matters, the court sits in an appellate capacity. *Al-Shabazz*, at 756. Consequently, the review in these inmate grievance cases is limited to the Record presented. Pursuant to *Slezak v. S.C. Department of Corrections*, 361 S.C. 327, 605 S.E.2d 506 (2004), the court is to have jurisdiction of all properly perfected inmate appeals but "[s]ummary dismissal may be appropriate where the inmate's grievance does not implicate a state created liberty or property interest." Further, the South Carolina Court of Appeals has opined that where a state-created liberty interest is not implicated in a prisoner appeal, this court should dismiss the appeal. *Skipper v. S.C. Dep't of Corr.*, 370 S.C. 267, 633 S.E. 2d 910 (Ct. App. 2006)..

In this case, the Department informed the Appellant that per Department policy, he can only file a grievance for issues that directly affect the Appellant and not the entire inmate population. In addition, records indicate that the Appellant is not currently indigent and is not entitled to receive any of the above items free of charge. The Appellant is not appealing the loss of a state created liberty or property interest and as such, this is a case in which the court must adhere to the traditional "hands off" doctrine regarding judicial involvement in internal prison matters. *See Pruitt v. State*, 274 S.C. 565, 266 S.E.2d 779 (1980); *Al-Shabazz v. State*, 338 S.C. 354, 527 S.E.2d 742 (2000) (emphasis supplied). Therefore, based on the foregoing, the Department's Motion to Dismiss is **GRANTED** and this appeal is hereby **DISMISSED.**

IT IS SO ORDERED.



S. Phillip Lenski
Administrative Law Judge

March 13, 2026
Columbia, South Carolina

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that the undersigned has this date served this order in the above entitled action upon all parties to this cause by depositing a copy hereof, in the United State[illegible] postage paid, [illegible] Mail Service addr[illegible] the name[illegible] attorney(s) [illegible] March 2026

[illegible] Judicial Law Clerk

[1] The court does have limited jurisdiction in some property matters, the authority for which need not be cited here.