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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

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COUNTY OF BERKELEY

NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

LEAH GUERRY DUPREE
CLERK OF COURT
BERKELEY COUNTY, SC

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

**ORDER ON REMAND REGARDING
AUTHENTICITY OF AFFIDAVIT**

vs.

Murder, Kidnapping

GARY LAFETTE GRANT,

Indictment 2007-GS-080319

DEFENDANT.

Indictment 2007-GS-080318

This is the case of the State of South Carolina, Respondent, versus Gary Lafette Grant, Appellant, Appellate Case Number 2025-002357.

THIS MATTER comes before this Court on the order of the Court of Appeals filed May 20, 2026. The parties filed a joint motion asking to hold the appeal in abeyance while remanding to the circuit court for the limited purpose of allowing the circuit court to accept such testimony as is necessary to determine the authenticity of an affidavit reportedly made by one Kareem King, and to determine the availability of any potentially admissible testimony contained therein as it would relate to the claims of the Appellant's new trial motion.

Based upon the Court of Appeals limited order of remand, this Court finds as follows:

1. Kareem King submitted an affidavit to the Court of Appeals dated March 3, 2026. In this affidavit, King alleges he wanted to attend Appellant's hearing before this Court on September 29, 2025, to inform this Court of information that neither Mr. Grant nor his attorney knew about.

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SC Court of Appeals

2. He further alleges he spoke with someone at the Berkeley County Clerk of Court's office named Leah Dupree, who advised him not to come and stated that Mr. Grant would not need him.
3. Leah Dupree is the Clerk of Court for Berkeley County.
4. King does not state in his affidavit the date or time this conversation took place, nor does he state whether this conversation took place in person or over the telephone.
5. Ms. Dupree testified that she did not talk to Mr. King prior to the September 29, 2025, hearing nor is she aware that anyone in her office talked to him.
6. Ms. Dupree provided evidence that, starting September 28, 2025, she was out of town the entire week of September 29, 2025, at the annual Clerk of Court's convention.
7. The essence of King's affidavit alleges that King received a 22-year sentence because he entered into a plea agreement with the prosecutor, Blair Jennings, which was conditioned upon King stating that Gary Grant was the trigger man.
8. King alleges that he complied and gave such a statement.
9. King alleges that Mr. Jennings repeatedly stated he could not allow Gary Grant to win his trial.
10. King alleges that days before Mr. Grant's trial, Mr. Jennings met with him and another defendant, Kerry Hollins, and coached them on what to say in court. Hollins appears to be known as Hollis in some of the exhibits.
11. King alleges they were instructed that if either were asked whether they had been promised anything or made a deal, they were to answer "no" despite the alleged existence of an agreement.

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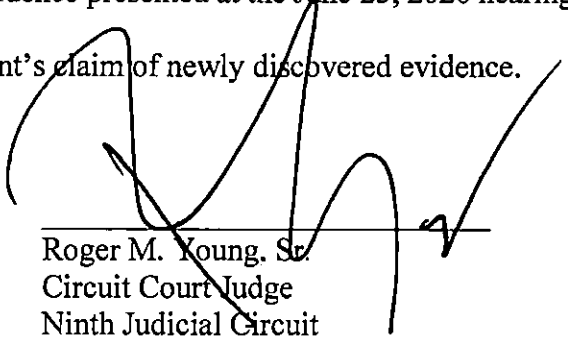
12. King alleges he agreed to cooperate because he feared receiving a life sentence. He states that every statement he made implicating Gary Grant was false and was made solely to secure the plea agreement offered by the prosecution.
13. In his affidavit King acknowledges that he did not testify at Grant's trial because no one came to transport him. He alleges he still received the agreed upon sentence of 22 years in exchange for his written statement and cooperation.
14. King alleges the reason he had not come forward earlier with this information was because the person who was actually involved in the killing (a person named Reginald Hamilton who is now deceased), had threatened to kill his mother if he revealed the truth.
15. King was properly subpoenaed by the State to attend the June 25, 2026, hearing to authenticate his affidavit and/or testify about the allegations contained therein.
16. King did not attend or otherwise make an appearance at the June 25, 2026, hearing.
17. The Appellant in this matter testified that he did not know that Mr. King was trying to attend the September 29, 2025, hearing date nor was he aware of Mr. King's allegations until after that hearing.
18. Mr. Kerry Hollins was not subpoenaed by either party and did not testify at the June 25, 2026 hearing.
19. According to the testimony provided at the June 25, 2026, hearing, Mr. Hollins finished the sentence he received after Appellant's conviction and is incarcerated on new charges.
20. The former Assistant Solicitor Blair Jennings was in trial on June 25, 2026, but was available to testify by Webex if needed. Neither side called on him to testify.

Based upon the evidence produced at the June 25, 2026, hearing, this Court finds there is no basis to determine that the affidavit purported to be from a person named Kareem King to the

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Court of Appeals is authentic other than it appears to be a declaration before a Notary Public of South Carolina under seal. The Notary Public was not called to testify. Kareem King was properly subpoenaed to attend the June 25, 2026 hearing and did not appear. As to the allegations that he made in the affidavit that Grant had no involvement in the murder, King did not testify at Mr. Grant's trial. Therefore, his allegations that he was lying about Grant's involvement could not have impacted the jury's verdict since it was not considered by it in any way. As to his hearsay allegations that Hollins was offered the same deal and lied at trial about Grant's involvement, Hollins was not called to testify at the June 25, 2026 hearing to corroborate or refute King's allegation. Finally, there was no evidence presented to refute the Clerk of Court's denial that she neither talked to King nor told him he did not need to attend the September 29, 2025, hearing.

THEREFORE, I find that there is nothing to support the authenticity of Kareem King's affidavit nor is there any admissible testimony contained in the body of that affidavit. Furthermore, I find there was no potentially new admissible evidence presented at the June 25, 2026 hearing for this Court to consider on the issue of the Appellant's claim of newly discovered evidence.



Roger M. Young, Sr.
Circuit Court Judge
Ninth Judicial Circuit

June 29, 2026
Berkeley County, SC