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Jul 01 2026

SC Court of Appeals

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF CHARLESTON

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

vs.

VIRDELL SHANTA MERCER,

Defendant

) IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA

) COURT OF APPEALS

) Indictment: 2026-GS-10-04383

) Warrant: 2025A1010204358

) Charge: Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine

) Base or Meth

)

)

)

) REQUEST FOR REPRESENTATION

) ON APPEAL

)

)

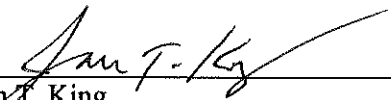
)

)

On behalf of the request of the above-named Defendant, to be represented by the South Carolina Commission of Appellate Defense, the undersigned attorney would show unto this Honorable Court that:

1. He is the attorney for the defendant-appellant in the above captioned case. The defendant-appellant was placed in custody immediately following conviction and sentence and was not available to personally sign this Request.
2. The defendant-appellant was represented by the Charleston County Public Defender's Office as an indigent, pursuant to the Defense of Indigent Act.
3. The defendant-appellant has been informed that he may request assistance from the South Carolina Commission of Appellate Defense in perfecting his appeal.
4. A timely Notice of Appeal has been filed on the defendant's-appellant behalf.
5. The defendant-appellant has been informed that nothing requires that office to pursue this appeal unless that office's Chief Attorney is satisfied that there is arguable merit to this appeal and that he cannot afford to hire an attorney.

At this time, the defendant-appellant requests the aid of the South Carolina Commission of Appellate Defense in perfecting his appeal to the South Carolina Court of Appeals.


Jason T. King
Special Assistant Public Defender
Charleston County Public Defender

Charleston, South Carolina

Dated: 7-1, 2026.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CHARLESTON

SENTENCE ORDER

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

STATE vs.

Virdell Shanta Mercer

AKA: Virdell Mercer

RACE: B

SEX: M

SSN: [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED]

) INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2026-GS-10-04383

) AWW#: 2025A1010204358

) Date of Offense: 07/27/2025

) S.C Code§: 44-53-0375(C)(1)(a)

) CDR Code #: 0450

) Range of Offense: Traff Meth/Crack 10g but <28g (3 years - 10 years & \$25,000)

In disposition of the above indictment comes now the Defendant who was CONVICTED OF ☐ or ☒ PLEADS

TO: Dist/PWID/Manuf Cocaine Base or Meth

Range of Offense Pled: (NMT 15 years &/or NMT \$25,000)

In violation of § 44-53-0375(B)(1) of the S.C. Code of Laws, bearing CDR Code # 3014

☒ NON-VIOLENT

☐ VIOLENT

☐ SERIOUS

☐ MOST SERIOUS

☐ MANDATORY GPS

☐ § 17-25-45

(CSC w/minor 1st or CSC w/minor 3rd)

The charge is: ☐ As indicted

☐ Lesser Included Offense

☒ Defendant Waives Presentment to Grand Jury

The plea is: ☐ w/o Rec/Negotiations ☒ Negotiated 5 years susp. 4 years probation ☐ Recommendation _____

/s Hunt Russell

102360

/s Jason Thomas King

68630

Solicitor

SC Bar #

Attorney for Defendant

SC Bar #

The Defendant is committed to the ☒ SCDC ☐ County Detention Center ☐ Home Incarceration Program

for a determinate term of 5 days/months/years/Time Served ☐ YOANTE _____ years and/or shall pay a fine

of \$ _____; provided that upon the service of 78 days/months/years/Time Served and or payment

of \$ _____ plus costs and assessments as applicable*; balance is suspended with probation for 4 months/years

and subject to SCDPPPS standard conditions of probation, which are incorporated by reference.

The sentence shall run ☐ CONCURRENT or ☐ CONSECUTIVE to sentence on: _____

☒ The Defendant is to be given credit for time served pursuant to S.C. Code § 24-13-40 to be calculated and applied by SCDC

78

days/months

☐ To include time spent on monitored house arrest prior to trial and sentencing

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

☐ PTUP _____

☐ No Contact with Victim

☐ Domestic Violence Intervention Program

☐ Hold for Inpatient Treatment

☐ Sex Offender Registry pursuant to S.C. Code § 23-3-430

☐ SAC/MHC if necessary

☐ Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect pursuant to S.C. Code § 17-25-135

☐ Other: _____

☐ RESTITUTION See Separate Order (20% per S.C. Code §24-21-490(B))

§14-1-206 (Assessments 107.5%)

§14-1-211 (A)(1) Conv. Surcharge)

§14-1-211 (A)(2)(DUI Surcharge)

§56-5-1995 (DUI Assessment)

§56-1-286 (DUI Breath Test)

§14-1-212 (Law Enforcement Funding)

§14-1-213 (Drug Court Surcharge)

§34-11-70(b)and(c), and 34-11-90(c)and(d) (Admin Fraud Check Court Costs)

§50-21-114 (BUI Breath Test Fee)

§56-5-2942(J) (Vehicle Assessment)

3% to County (if paid in installments)

☒ Appointed PD or appointed other counsel. Proviso requires \$500 to be paid to Clerk during probation and shall be collected before any other fees

☐ §17-3-45(B) Unpaid Application Fee to be paid to the Public Defender Fund

Restitution

\$

FINE:

\$

\$100

\$

\$100

\$

\$12

\$

\$25

\$

\$25

\$

\$150

\$

\$41

\$

\$50

\$

\$40/ea

\$

TBD

\$

\$500

\$

\$40

\$

TOTAL

\$

/s Shelly Lott
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

DCRP
Court Reporter

27 92
Judge Code

JUN 25 2026
Sentence Date

[Signature]
Presiding Judge

SCCA217B
01/27/2025

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SC Court of Appeals

ARREST WARRANT

2025A1010204358

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County ☐ Municipality of

Charleston

THE STATE

against

Virdell Shanta Mercer

Address

Phone SSN

Sex M Race B Height 6 Weight 200

DL State SC DL #

DOB Agency ORI # SC0100000

Prosecuting Agency Charleston County Sheriff

Prosecuting Officer Robert W Curtis, Jr - S02323

Offense Drugs / Trafficking in meth. or cocaine base - 10 g or more, but less than 28 g - 1st offense

Offense Code 0450

Code/Ordinance Sec 44-53-0375(C)(1)(a)

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the
☐ County ☐ Municipality of

The accused

is to be arrested and brought before me to be
dealt with according to the law

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to
defendant on

Signature of Constable or Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
Charleston County Judicial Center
100 Broad Street, Suite 100
Charleston, SC 29401

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County ☐ Municipality of

Charleston

AFFIDAVIT

ORIGINAL

Printed name of
Judge or Magistrate
and Title
DatePersonally appeared before me the affiant Robert W Curtis, Jr
being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Virdell Shanta Mercer
did within this county and state on or about 7-27-2025 violate the criminal laws of the
State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County ☐ Municipality of Charleston)
in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Drugs / Trafficking in meth. or cocaine base - 10 g or more, but less than 28 g - 1st offense

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit
the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County ☐ Municipality of

Charleston

Affiant's Address

Affiant's Telephone

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 7-27-2025 defendant Virdell Shanta Mercer
did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of
☒ County ☐ Municipality of Charleston) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Drugs / Trafficking in meth. or cocaine base - 10 g or more, but less than 28 g - 1st offense

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or
her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as
soon thereafter as is practicable.
Sworn to and subscribed before me

on 7-28-2025

Signature of Issuing Judge

(L.S.)

Amanda Haselden

Judge Code 7412

Judge's Address

Judge's telephone

Issuing Court

☒ Magistrate☐ Municipal☐ Circuit

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CHARLESTON

SC Court of Appeals

OCA# 2025-008718

AFFIDAVIT

Personally appeared before me, one [Signature] who, first being duly sworn, deposes and says that

VIRDELL SHANTA MERCER

did within this county and state on the 27th day of July 2025, violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina in the following particulars:

**DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE
TRAFFICKING METHAMPHETAMINE
VIOLATION OF SECTION 44-53-375**

The Affiant states that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime(s) set forth, and that such probable cause is based on the following facts:

That on July 27, 2025, at 2033 hours, while at North Highway 17 and Rutledge Road (McClellanville), within the county and state aforesaid, the defendant, **Virdell Shanta Mercer**, did violate section **44-53-375** of the South Carolina Code of Laws of 1976, as amended, **Trafficking Methamphetamine**, in that he did willfully, unlawfully, have in his possession and complete control, 12.3 grams of a clear crystal-like substance that field tested presumptive for methamphetamine.

Facts to establish the same are that Deputy Curtis initiated a traffic stop on a 2002 Chevrolet Silverado, bearing SC: [REDACTED] that was observed failing to maintain its lane of travel. The defendant was found to be the driver and sole occupant of the vehicle. The defendant provided consent for a search of the vehicle. During the search a grey draw-string bag was located under the driver's side sun visor. Inside the bag was a clear plastic bag that contained approximately 6.3 grams of a clear crystal-like substance. Also inside the bag were 2 folded paper towels containing a further 6 grams of the same clear crystal-like substance. The crystal-like substance field tested presumptive for methamphetamine. Along with this a small scale was located during the search. The total weight of the suspected methamphetamine was 12.3 grams which per statute is prima-facie evidence for trafficking methamphetamine.

This is based on an official investigation conducted by Deputy Curtis of the Charleston County Sheriff's Office. All of which is against the form of the statute as such cases made and provided.

Sworn to, Subscribed before me
this 28 day of July 2025.

[Signature]
Signature of Judge

[Signature]
Affiant

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

BAIL set by

WITNESSES

Judge Judge Amanda S. Haselden
 on July 28, 2025
 Type and Amount \$50,000/\$
 Name of Surety _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____
 Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____

PRELIMINARY HEARING held by

Judge _____
 on _____
 Defendant Attorney _____
 Decision _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____
 Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____

DISPOSITION before

Judge _____
 on _____
 by _____
 (indicate jury trial, bench trial, plea not pros., etc.)
 Disposition _____
 Sentence _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____
 Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____

JURORS

Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____
 Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____

CODEFENDANTS



FILED
 2025 JUL 30 PM 1:43
 JULIE J. ARMSTRONG
 CLERK OF COURT