



SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
Office of General Counsel

HENRY McMASTER, Governor
JOEL E. ANDERSON, Interim Director

RECEIVED

Jul 06 2026

SC Court of Appeals

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

July 6, 2026

James Edward Johnson, # 353643
Evans Correctional Institution
1A-0187
610 Highway 9 West
Bennettsville, South Carolina 29512

RE: James Edward Johnson, Jr., # 353643 v. South Carolina Department of Corrections
Appellate Case No. 2025-001423

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Pursuant to the Court's Order dated July 6, 2026, enclosed you will find all of the documents designated by the Respondent in this appeal.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Christina Catoe Bigelow
Deputy General Counsel
South Carolina Department of Corrections

cc: The Honorable Jenny A. Kitchings
Clerk of Court, S.C. Court of Appeals
Post Office Box 11629
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

The South Carolina Court of Appeals

James Edward Johnson, Jr., #353643 Appellant,

v.

South Carolina Department of Corrections, Respondent.

Appellate Case No. 2025-001423

ORDER

On March 11, 2026, Respondent filed a motion to require Appellant to file a corrected record on appeal because the record on appeal "fail[ed] to contain all matter designated by Respondent." On April 23, 2026, this court ordered Appellant to serve and file an amended record on appeal "that includes all the documents designated by each party in the respective designations of matter to be included in the record on appeal." On June 1, 2026, Appellant filed a "motion to take judicial notice and request for extension of time." In his motion, Appellant expressed difficulty in obtaining the designated items and requested more time to serve and file the record on appeal.

After careful consideration, we grant Appellant's request for an extension of time to serve and file the record on appeal. Within thirty days of the date of this order, Respondent shall provide Appellant with all documents designated by Respondent. Within sixty days of the date of this order, Appellant shall serve and file an amended record on appeal. Failure to comply will result in dismissal of this appeal.



FOR THE COURT J.

Columbia, South Carolina

FILED
Jul 06 2026

cc:

James E. Johnson, Jr., 353643

Lauren Boswell Stevens, Esquire

Christina Catoe Bigelow, Esquire

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW COURT

GENERAL COUNSEL

James Johnson, #353643

Docket No. 24-ALJ-04-0618-AP

Appellant,

**ORDER GRANTING
MOTION TO DISMISS**

v.

South Carolina Department of Corrections,

Respondent.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

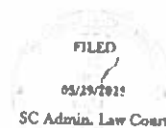
This matter is pending before the South Carolina Administrative Law Court ("ALC" or "Court") pursuant to an appeal filed by James Johnson¹ ("Appellant"), an inmate housed with the South Carolina Department of Corrections ("Department").

On August 25, 2024, Appellant submitted a Step 1 Grievance complaining about the Department's grooming policy. Specifically, he complained that men were required to have shaven heads while women were not. Appellant comments that "[t]his unequal treatment is intentional and/or purposeful sexually discriminatory and serves no legitimate penological interest. This policy also is a violation of the equal protection clause of the 14th amendment of the constitution of the U.S. and similar State laws." His requested action was that the "male grooming policy be revised so it would be equal to the female policy. Allowing male inmates permission to grow head hair more than one inch and similar hairstyles." The Warden denied the Step 1 Grievance on July 5, 2024 and Appellant received the decision the same day.

Appellant filed a Step 2 Grievance on July 5, 2024, restating his grievance as follows:

SCDC policy OP-22.13(1.1, 1.1.1, 1.2) are clear violations of SC 24-13-10, Article I section 19, and Article 8 of the US constitution, equal protections clause of the 14th amendment of the US constitution, as well as ACA/CAC standards (see OP-22.15) in that the separate grooming policy for male / female inmates is unequal, intentional and/or purposeful sexually discriminatory, and serves no legitimate penological interest. Any staff performing the forementioned conduct (see kiosk#24-03539700) is also in violation. I once again request the appropriate official to amend said

¹ The Court noted the original caption contained an incorrect inmate number for Appellant. Accordingly, the caption has been amended here to reflect the correct inmate number.



policy to allow both male / female policy to be the least obstructive for both inmates.

The Responsible Official denied the Step 2 Grievance on August 7, 2024, explaining in part that “[p]olicy revisions may be requested by SCDC Administrators, inmates are not authorized to request the same.” Appellant received that decision on August 26, 2024

On September 11, 2024, Appellant filed a Notice of Appeal. The Department filed a motion to dismiss on November 12, 2024. It argues that Appellant’s underlying grievance does not implicate a state-created liberty interest, and that dismissal is therefore appropriate pursuant to *Slezak v. South Carolina Department of Corrections*, 361 S.C. 327, 605 S.E.2d 506 (2004).

On November 27, 2024, the Court received two documents, one purporting to be a “Response to Motion to Dismiss / Motion for Summary Judgment” and one purporting to be a motion to amend. On December 2, 2024, the Court received yet another motion from the Appellant. These documents were not initially processed because they were deemed to lack the required signature. *See* SCALC Rule 6(A) (“all documents filed with the Court shall be signed with an original signature”). While a signature appears in the signature block of these submission, the signature block reads ““(signed by Karissa Ochs, PoA, AiF).” The certificates of service accompanying these materials were also signed as follows” “Karissa M. Ochs (PoA, AiF for James E. Johnson, Jr.).” These signatures are neither the original signature of Appellant nor are they the signature of legal counsel. To date, no attorney has filed a notice of appearance in this matter on behalf of Appellant.

The Court contacted Appellant by letter regarding the deficiency. The Court subsequently received correspondence from Appellant dated May 15, 2025, in which Appellant argues that the individual who signed written submissions on his behalf holds his power of attorney. Appellant argues that pursuant to S.C. Code Sections 62-8-212(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), and (6), the holder of his power of attorney is legally authorized to take legal steps such as bringing an action or seeking an injunction. Appellant therefore asserts that his attorney in fact is authorized to sign motions and other papers in this proceeding, and that the Court should accept the filings he has submitted.

Appellant’s argument fails to distinguish between the authority to institute an action and authority to conduct the practice of law. While a power of attorney authorizes an attorney-in-fact to take actions such as instituting legal proceedings, it does not authorize a non-lawyer to act as a lawyer. To do so would be to permit an end run around the requirement that attorneys be

licensed to protect the public. Accordingly, an attorney-in-fact who signs legal pleadings pursuant to a power of attorney may commit the unauthorized practice of law. *See, e.g., Johns v. County of San Diego*, 114 F.3d 874, 876 (9th Cir. 1997); *Weber v. Garza*, 570 F.2d 511, 514 (5th Cir. 1978); *Securities & Exch. Comm'n v. White*, No. 8:11-944-HMH-KFM, 2011 WL 1544202, at *3-4 (D.S.C. Apr.22, 2011) (noting that even if family member holds power of attorney for party, non-lawyer cannot represent pro se party without violating law regarding unauthorized practice of law); *Christiansen v. Melinda*, 857 P.2d 345, 346-49 (Alaska 1993); *Jones v. Brooks*, 97 A.3d 97, 103-04 (D.C. 2014); *In re Conservatorship of Riebel*, 625 N.W.2d 480, 481-83 (Minn. 2001); *Eby v. Johnston L. Off., P.C.*, 138 Nev. 660, 669, 518 P.3d 517, 526 (Nev. App. 2022) (inmate purported to authorize a non-lawyer to litigate a civil suit on his behalf by virtue of a power of attorney); *Fravel v. Stark Cty. Bd. of Revision*, 575, 728 N.E.2d 393, 394 (Ohio 2000) (non-attorney operating under a power of attorney engages in the unauthorized practice law when he prepares and files a complaint with a board of revision on behalf of a taxpayer); *Kohlman v. W. Pa. Hosp.*, 652 A.2d 849, 850-52 (Pa. Super. Ct. 1994); *see also* SCALC Rule 8(A); accord S.C. Code Ann. § 40-5-310 (2011) ("No person may practice or solicit the cause of another in a court of this State unless he has been admitted and sworn as an attorney.")

The Court therefore concludes that Appellant's submissions may not be considered, and the Department's motion is presently before the Court.

DISCUSSION

The Court generally has jurisdiction to hear inmate appeals that have been properly filed and served. *See* S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-600(D) (Supp. 2024); *Allen v. S.C. Dep't of Corr.*, 439 S.C. 164, 170, 886 S.E.2d 671, 674 (2023) ("[T]he ALC has subject matter jurisdiction over inmate grievance appeals that have been properly filed."); *Slezak v. S.C. Dep't of Corr.*, 361 S.C. 327, 331 605 S.E.2d 506, 507 (2004); *Al-Shabazz v. State*, 338 S.C. 354, 369, 527 S.E.2d 742, 750 (2000).

However, the Court may summarily dismiss an inmate's appeal when the appeal does not implicate "state-created" liberty or property interests. *See Slezak*, 361 S.C. at 331, 605 S.E.2d at 507 (explaining summary dismissal is appropriate when "the inmate's grievance does not implicate a state-created liberty or property interest"); *id.* (explaining the Due Process Clause is only offended when an inmate is subjected to "atypical and significant hardships in relation to ordinary incidents of prison life" (citing *Sandin v. Conner*, 515 U.S. 472, 484 (1995))); *Skipper v. S.C. Dept.*

of Corr., 370 S.C. 267, 272-74, 633 S.E.2d 910, 913-14 (Ct. App. 2006). "Courts traditionally have adopted a 'hands off' doctrine regarding judicial involvement in prison disciplinary procedures and other internal prison matters, although they must intercede when infringements complained of by an inmate reach constitutional dimensions." *Al-Shabazz*, 338 S.C. at 382, 527 S.E.2d at 757. The Department argues that no state-created liberty or property interest is affected by the Department's decision.

An inmate claiming a protected interest must have a legitimate claim of entitlement to it. *Allen v. S.C. Dept. of Corr.*, 434 S.C. 114, 118–19, 862 S.E.2d 268, 270 (Ct. App. 2021), *reh'g denied* (Sept. 8, 2021), *cert. granted* (Apr. 5, 2023), *aff'd as modified*, 439 S.C. 164, 886 S.E.2d 671 (2023). Protected liberty interests can arise from two main sources: (1) the Constitution can create a liberty interest when a condition or restraint is so egregious as to implicate the Due Process Clause itself, or (2) state law or department policy can establish a protectible liberty interest. *Bazzetta v. McGinnis*, 430 F.3d 795, 801 (6th Cir. 2005); *Allen*, 434 S.C. at 118-19, 862 S.E.2d at 270-71. South Carolina courts, however, have emphasized that the focus of the Administrative Law Court should fall on the second category – state-created liberty or property rights. *See, e.g., Allen*, 439 S.C. at 171, 886 S.E.2d at 674 (the Administrative Law Court may summarily dismiss "an inmate's grievance it does not implicate a *state-created* liberty or property interest sufficient to trigger procedural due process protection") (emphasis added); *Skipper*, 370 S.C. at 279, 633 S.E.2d at 917 ("ALC should have dismissed [inmate's] appeal given his grievance did not implicate a *state-created* liberty interest") (emphasis added). State-created liberty interests are generally limited to freedom from restraint which, while not exceeding the sentence in such an unexpected manner as to give rise to protection by the Due Process Clause of its own force, nonetheless impose atypical and significant hardship on the inmate in relation to the ordinary incidents of prison life. *Sandin*, 515 U.S. at 484.

To assess whether a liberty interest is created under these circumstances, courts must engage in factual inquiry. *Miller v. Selsky*, 111 F.3d 7, 9 (2d Cir.1997); *see, e.g., Wright v. Coughlin*, 132 F.3d 133, 137 (2d Cir.1998); *Sealey v. Giltner*, 116 F.3d 47, 52 (2d Cir.1997) (noting the "desirability of fact-finding before determining whether a prisoner has a liberty interest in remaining free from segregated confinement"); *Brooks v. DiFasi*, 112 F.3d 46 (2d Cir.1997); *Wright v. Miller*, 973 F.Supp. 390, 394 (S.D.N.Y.1997) ("district courts are required to make

factual findings with respect to the conditions of confinement at issue in each case”); *Williams v. Keane*, No. 95 Civ. 0379, 1997 WL 527677 at 5–6 (S.D.N.Y. Aug.25, 1997) (Peck, M.J.).

Here, Appellant alleges that the Department’s grooming policy is unlawful sexual discrimination and should be revised to treat male and female inmates the same. If Appellant’s grievance is viewed as a request to compel the Department to change its policy, the grievance does not implicate a state-created liberty or property interest. Appellant has not pointed the Court to any state statute, regulation, or mandatory Department policy which would entitle him to demand the relief requested. Given that Appellant is relaying on Department policies, the Court takes note that the Department’s policy GA-01.01 Policies, Publications, and Forms (Feb. 1, 2022) provides in section 8.3 that “*Employees may submit recommended changes to the Responsible Authority over said policy.*” (emphasis added). Even under this policy, employees can only make recommendations for consideration and it does not appear inmates can insist on modification of policy.²

Because the Court concludes that Appellant’s claim does not implicate a state-created interest, summary dismissal is appropriate.³

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Department’s motion is **GRANTED** and this appeal is **DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE**.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.



The Honorable Robert L. Reibold
Administrative Law Judge

May 29, 2025
Columbia, South Carolina

² If Appellant’s grievance is viewed as a request to declare the Department’s policy unconstitutional, then the Court lacks the power to grant Appellant’s request. The Court does not have authority to rule on facial challenges to constitutionality. See e.g., *Video Gaming Consultants, Inc. v. S.C. Dep’t of Rev.*, 342 S.C. 34, 38, 535 S.E.2d 642, 644 (2000) (“ALJs have no authority to pass upon the constitutionality of a statute”); *Dorman v. Dep’t of Health and Envtl. Control*, 350 S.C. 159, 171, 565 S.E.2d 119, 126 (Ct. App. 2002) (“ALJs cannot rule on a facial challenge to the constitutionality of a regulation or statute”).

³ The Court renders no opinion on the validity or invalidity of any claims Appellant may possess under *federal* law. However, our courts have indicated that the Administrative Law Court should address only those interests which are created by state law or policy.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Jared Thompson, hereby certify that I have on this date served this order upon all parties to this cause by depositing a copy hereof in the United States mail, postage paid, or by electronic mail, to the address provided by the party(ies) and/or their attorney(s).



Jared Thompson
Judicial Law Clerk

May 29, 2025
Columbia, South Carolina

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW COURT**

James Johnson, #353643	)	Docket No.: 24-ALJ-04-0618-AP
	)	[Grievance No.: MCCI 296-24]
Appellant,	)	
	)	<i>Hon. Robert L. Reibold</i>
v.	)	
	)	
South Carolina Department of Corrections,	)	RESPONDENT'S MOTION TO
	)	DISMISS
Respondent.	)	
	)	

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

This matter is before the Administrative Law Court (“ALC” or “Court”) pursuant to the appeal of James Johnson (“Appellant”), an inmate incarcerated with the South Carolina Department of Corrections (“SCDC” or “Department”). On June 25, 2024, Appellant filed a Step One Grievance alleging the grooming policy for the male inmates violates the Equal Protection Clause and requests that the policy be revised such that the policy is similar in nature to the grooming policy for the females.¹ This grievance was investigated and denied on July 5, 2024. Thereafter on July 5, 2024, Appellant filed a Step Two Grievance.² The Step Two Grievance was investigated and denied on August 7, 2024. This appeal followed.

STANDARD OF REVIEW

The ALC’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). When reviewing SCDC’s decisions in inmate grievance matters, the ALC sits in an appellate capacity. *Id.* at 377, 527 S.E.2d at 754. Recently the South Carolina Supreme Court clarified the Administrative Law Court’s jurisdiction as:

¹ A copy of the Step One Grievance is attached for the Court’s and parties’ convenience.

² A copy of the Step Two Grievance is attached for the Court’s and parties’ convenience.

[t]hat the ALC has subject matter jurisdiction over inmate grievance appeals that have been properly filed. *(internal citations omitted)* . . . [h]owever, the ALC is not required to hold a hearing in every matter and may summarily dismiss an inmate's grievance if it does not implicate a state-created liberty or property interest sufficient to trigger procedural due process guarantees. The ALC may not grant an inmate relief from an erroneous administrative decision by SCDC, however, unless the inmate demonstrates the error deprived him of due process... *(internal citations omitted)*

Allen vs. S.C. Dep't of Corr., 439 S.C. 164, 170-71, 886 S.E.2d 671, 674 (2023).

“The requirements of procedural due process apply only to the deprivation of interests encompassed by the Fourteenth Amendment’s protection of liberty and property.” *Al-Shabazz*, 338 S.C. at 369, 527 S.E.2d at 750 (*quoting Board of Regents of State Colleges. v. Roth*, 408 U.S. 564, 569, 92 S.Ct. 2701, 2705 (1972)). SCDC interprets *Slezak* as encouraging, for the sake of judicial economy, the ALC to summarily dismiss inmate cases that do not involve a state-created liberty or property interest. *Slezak v. S.C. Dep't of Corr.*, 361 S.C. 327, 605 S.E.2d 506 (2004) (holding that the ALC “may summarily dismiss those appeals that do not implicate an inmate’s *state created* liberty or property interest”) (*emphasis added*). The South Carolina Court of Appeals has interpreted *Slezak* to mean that where a state-created liberty interest is not implicated in a prisoner appeal, a judge of the ALC “should” dismiss the appeal. *Skipper v. S.C. Dep't of Corr.*, 370 S.C. 267, 633 S.E.2d 910 (Ct. App. 2006).

ARGUMENT

This case should be dismissed under *Slezak* and *Skipper*. This case is based on appellant’s allegation that the male grooming policy is in violation of the Equal Protection Clause. *See Step One Grievance*. Appellant is requesting SCDC’s grooming policy for male inmates be changed. *See Step One and Two Grievance*. Appellant has no state-created liberty or property interest in having changes made to SCDC policy. Additionally, Appellant does not claim that Respondent erroneously calculated his sentence, sentence-related credits, or custody status, and Appellant’s

claim does not involve the loss of a state-created liberty interest in a major disciplinary hearing. Because Appellant's allegations do not implicate a state-created liberty or property interest sufficient to trigger procedural due process guarantees this case should be dismissed.

CONCLUSION

Because the case does not implicate a state-created liberty or property interest this case should be dismissed.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Stevens

Lauren Stevens

Staff Attorney

South Carolina Department of Corrections

PO Box 21787

Columbia, South Carolina 29221-1787

November 8, 2024
Columbia, South Carolina

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
INMATE GRIEVANCE FORM
STEP 2

STEP 2 DUE
7/13/24

INMATE NAME: James E. Johnson
SCDC NUMBER: 353643
INSTITUTION: McCI
HOUSING UNIT: F4-B-218
WORK ASSIGNMENT: Ward Keeper

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2024

INMATE GRIEVANCE

Office Use Only
Grievance No. MCCL-0296-24
Code: General
Policy PL/GA
Disc. Hear.
Class.
Date Received 7/15/24
IGC Initials J.E.

INMATE'S REASON FOR APPEAL (state specific dissatisfaction): SCDC policy OP-22-13 (1.1, 1.1.1, 1.2) are clear violations of SC 24-13-10, Article 1 section 19, and Article 8 of the US constitution, equal protections clause of the 14th amendment of the US constitution, as well as ACA/CAC standards (see OP-22.15) in that the separate grooming policy for male/female inmates is unequal, intentional and/or purposeful sexually discriminatory, and serves no legitimate penological interest. Any staff performing the forementioned conduct (see KiosK#24-03539700) is also in violation. I once again request the appropriate official to amend said policy to allow both male/female policy to be the least obstructive for both inmates.

James E. Johnson 7-5-24
Grievant Signature Date

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL'S DECISION AND REASON:

I have reviewed your concern. In your grievance you state on 6/4/24 that the Agency Search Team conducted a search of the F4 Dorm at McCormick Correctional Institution and forced inmates to have their hair cut to the scalp. You further state that SCDC's policy OP.22.13 Inmate Grooming Standards is sexually discriminatory, serves no penological interest, and is a violation of the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment. You request that the male grooming policy be revised so that it is equal to the female policy and allow males to grow their hair more than one inch in length. An investigation concluded that inmates were out of compliance with SCDC grooming standards. Pursuant to OP-22.13 Inmate Grooming Standards "Inmates will not be allowed to grow or style their hair in any manner other than that authorized in this policy. Inmates may be given forced haircuts or shaves by security staff only if they refuse to comply with the haircut and shave policy." Policy revisions may be requested by SCDC Administrators, inmates are not authorized to request the same. You have not shown that SCDC Staff have failed to perform their job duties properly. You are advised to follow SCDC rules, policies, and procedures.

Therefore, your grievance is denied.

You may appeal this decision under the South Carolina Administrative Procedures Act to the South Carolina Administrative Law Court. In order to appeal, you must complete the attached Notice of Appeal Form (Form) and submit it as instructed on the Form within thirty (30) days of receipt.

W. Allen 8-7-24
Signature Date

The decision rendered by the responsible official exhausts the appeal process of the Inmate Grievance Procedure. I hereby acknowledge receipt of the official's response and understand this is the Agency's final response to this matter.

Grievant Signature

Date

IGC Signature

Date

(SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING STEP 2 GRIEVANCE FORM

1. Complete form in its entirety, writing only in the space provided for inmate use.
2. State your specific reason for further appeal. Do not submit any new issues for review.
3. Submit this completed form with your original Step 1 attached, to the Institutional Grievance Coordinator within five (5) days of your receipt of the Warden's decision. Do not write in the space provided for the responsible official.
4. The decision rendered by the responsible official exhausts the appeal process of the SCDC Inmate Grievance Procedure.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

INMATE GRIEVANCE FORM

STEP **Warden's Area**
McCormick Correctional

INMATE NAME: <u>James E Johnson</u>	OFFICE USE ONLY
SCDC NUMBER: <u>353643</u>	Grievance No. <u>MCCL-0296-24</u>
INSTITUTION: <u>McCormick</u>	Code: General <u>PL/GA</u>
HOUSING UNIT: <u>F4 B side</u>	Policy _____
WORK ASSIGNMENT: <u>none</u>	Disc. Hear. _____
	Class. _____
	PREA _____
	Date Received <u>07/02/24</u>
	IGC Initials <u>J.T.</u>

STATEMENT OF GRIEVANCE (Indicate the date of incident, and if the grievance is a challenge to SCDC Policy, specify which policy. Include supporting documentation and attach answered RTSM or Kiosk reference number.)

Kiosk # 24-03539700

On June 4th, 2024, the burgundy team, cent team, contraband, as well as Warden and A/W Terry conducted a search of dorm F4. During this search inmate/s were forced to cut their hair to the scalp. This above mentioned action was done under the grooming policy Op-22.1.1, 1.1.1. Scdc has separate policy for grooming for the female inmates (see Op-22.1.2, etc) This unequal treatment is intentional and/or purposeful sexually discriminatory, and serves no legitimate penological interest. This policy also is a violation of the equal protection clause of the 14th amendment of the constitution of the U.S. and similar State laws.

6-25-24

James E Johnson
Grievant Signature Date

ACTION REQUESTED: I request the male grooming policy be revised so it would be equal to the female policy. Allowing male inmates permission to grow head hair more than one inch and similar hairstyles (see Op-22.1.2) to male inmates collar.

ACTION TAKEN BY IGC: ☒ PROCESSED ☐ UNPROCESSED ☐ OTHER

..... PLEASE SEE WARDEN'S DECISION ON REVERSE SIDE

Ms. Thomas 7.3.24
IGC Signature Date

(CONTINUE ON REVERSE SIDE)

WARDEN'S DECISION AND REASON:

Johnson, James #353643

MCCI-0296-24

I have reviewed your concern. In your grievance you stated on June 1, 2024, Agency Search Teams, Contraband, and the Wardens conducted a search of Unit F4. You stated that during this time, inmates that were not in compliance with SCDC grooming standards were forced to receive haircuts. Lastly, you allege that the grooming standards are sexually discriminatory and serve no legitimate penological interest. You are requesting that the male grooming standards be revised so that they are equivalent to female grooming standards. An inquiry into your claims has been made. Pursuant to SCDC Policy OP-22.13, Inmate Grooming Standards, "To promote safety, security, and sanitation within the SCDC and to facilitate the identification of inmates, the SCDC will establish and strictly enforce standards of personal grooming for all inmates. The Division Director of Operations/Designee will be responsible for establishing personal grooming standards for all inmates and for submitting them to the Agency Director for approval prior to their implementation. Inmate grooming standards will be applicable to all inmates assigned to the custody of the Department of Corrections. All SCDC employees are responsible for enforcing inmate grooming standards. Inmates who fail to comply with established personal grooming standards may be subject to reclassification and reassigned to more restrictive housing in order to promote the safety and security of the Agency. The Agency Director reserves the right to modify personal grooming standards at any time to enhance the safety, security, and sanitation requirements of the SCDC and/or to facilitate the identification of inmates." You have not shown that SCDC Staff have failed to perform their job duties properly.

Therefore, your grievance is denied.

If you disagree with this Warden's Decision (denied), you may file an appeal by completing SCDC Inmate Grievance Form 10-5A, provided to you while serving you this Decision, and placing it in the Grievance Box at your local correctional institution within five (5) days of your receipt of this Decision.

Alw S. Long 7/5/24
Warden Signature Date

☐ I accept the Warden's decision and consider the matter closed.

☒ I do not accept the Warden's decision and wish to appeal.

James E. Johnson 7-5-24
Grievant Signature Date

R. Thomas 7-5-24
IGC Signature Date

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING STEP 1 GRIEVANCE FORM

1. An informal resolution shall be attempted prior to the filing of Step 1 by sending an Inmate Request to Staff Member (RTSM) form or Kiosk reference number to the appropriate supervisor. A copy of the answered RTSM must be attached to the grievance when the grievance is filed.
2. Complete each section in its entirety writing only in the space provided for inmate use. No additional pages will be permitted.
3. Only one (1) issue is to be addressed on each form.
4. Submit the completed form by placing it in the Grievance Box at your institution within eight (8) working days of the date on the RTSM response; policy grievances can be filed at any time. Disciplinary and Classification Review appeals must be submitted within five (5) working days of the hearing/review. Do not write in the space provided for the Warden's response.
5. If you are not satisfied with the Warden's decision, you may appeal to the appropriate responsible official within five (5) days of your receipt of the Warden's decision, by placing your Step 2 appeal form in the Grievance Box at your institution.