

Willis Phillips

P.O. Box 333

Bowman, S.I. 29015

~~RE: [unclear]~~

RE Willis Phillips v Orangeburg Co
Appellate Case No. 2026-001253

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SC Court of Appeals

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1 BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA
2 WORKERS' COMPENSATION FULL COMMISSION
3 CASE NO.: 2410892

4 WILLIS PHILLIPS,
5 Claimant,
6 vs.
7 ORANGEBURG COUNTY,
8 Employer,
9 and
10 SC ASSOCIATION OF
11 COUNTIES SIF,
12 Carrier,
13 Defendants.)

14 A P P E L L A T E H E A R I N G

15 DATE: Monday, April 13, 2026
16 TIME: 1:50 p.m.
17 LOCATION: Via CourtCall
18 BEFORE: Commissioner Aisha Taylor, Chair
19 Commissioner T. Scott Beck
Commissioner Cynthia Dooley

20 REPORTED BY: Megan Rish Brown
21 South Carolina Court Reporter

22 ABC REPORTING SERVICE
23 257 Summerland Avenue
24 Batesburg, South Carolina 29006
25 1-803-532-5255
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Page 2

PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

1 APPEARANCES:

2

3 WILLIS PHILLIPS, PRO SE (in person)

4

5 ATTORNEY FOR THE DEFENDANTS
6 ORANGEBURG COUNTY AND SC ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES SIF:



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Page 2

PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

1 APPEARANCES:

2

3 WILLIS PHILLIPS, PRO SE (in person)

4

5 ATTORNEY FOR THE DEFENDANTS
6 ORANGEBURG COUNTY AND SC ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES SIF:7 WILLSON JONES CARTER & BAXLEY, PA
8 BY: WILLIAM H. LYON, ESQUIRE
4922 O'Hear Avenue, Suite 301
9 North Charleston, South Carolina 29405

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Page 3

PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

1 THE COURT REPORTER: All right. Today's date



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Page 3

PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

1 THE COURT REPORTER: All right. Today's date
 2 is Monday, April 13, 2026. This is South Carolina
 3 Workers' Compensation Case Number 2410892. This is the
 4 case of Willis Phillips, pro se Claimant, versus
 5 Orangeburg County Employer and South Carolina
 6 Association of Counties SIF.

7 The Appellate is the Claimant, pro se. The
 8 Respondent is represented by William H. Lyon. Each
 9 side is allowed 10 minutes for oral argument and the
 10 Appellate 3 minutes in reply. You are requested to
 11 argue the grounds of exception and stay within the
 12 record.

13 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: All right.
 14 Mr. Phillips, thank you for your patience --

15 MR. PHILLIPS: Hi.

16 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: -- this afternoon while
 17 we were getting started. Before we start your time, I
 18 want to review with you obviously your right to have an
 19 attorney.

20 MR. PHILLIPS: All right.

21 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: All right. It is my
 22 understanding that you wish to proceed today
 23 representing yourself?

24 MR. PHILLIPS: Yes, ma'am.

25 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Okay. All right.

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3/15

Page 4

PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

1 Well, I am happy to go forward as well then. You will
 2 have 10 minutes to give your argument as --

3 MR. PHILLIPS: All right.

4 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: -- Ms. Brown has
 5 stated, and then Mr. Lyon will have 10 minutes, and
 6 then you'll have 3 minutes to have the last word.

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PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

1 Well, I am happy to go forward as well then. You will
2 have 10 minutes to give your argument as --

3 MR. PHILLIPS: All right.

4 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: -- Ms. Brown has
5 stated, and then Mr. Lyon will have 10 minutes, and
6 then you'll have 3 minutes to have the last word.
7 Okay?

8 MR. PHILLIPS: All right.

9 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: All right. Very good.
10 All right. Please proceed. Thank you, sir.

11 MR. PHILLIPS: Well, the first thing I want
12 to proceed is Mr. Lyon offered me \$500 to make this go
13 away, and on -- and when he said that I -- I told him
14 something to make stuff good, this come from the doctor
15 of -- with Orangeburg County push it under the rug with
16 the highway patrol, but the hospital tell me to call
17 the highway patrol where I had had the accident was hit
18 and run, and that another county employee hit me and the
19 mirror came off and hit my head, and every now and then
20 I still get a ringing in my ear. And then this from the
21 doctor, a doctor that restating about my knee messed
22 up.

23 When I was showing them my knee -- see, since
24 the truck was banging on my knee so bad, I can't hold
25 this leg straight, and on this side I was showing him

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4/15

Page 5

PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

1 where the marks was on my leg, but the marks ain't
2 there no more because I don't drive the truck, and the
3 damage still there. And this one -- this the one
4 from -- this the one from the knee doctor, and this one
5 from the -- a licensed doctor, and this is the one from
6 Latosha Corley explaining the accident happened on the
7 2nd and not the 25th, and he was talking about I showed



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4/15

Page 5

PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

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2 there no more because I don't drive the truck, and the
3 damage still there. And this one -- this the one
4 from -- this the one from the knee doctor, and this one
5 from the -- a licensed doctor, and this is the one from
6 Latosha Corley explaining the accident happened on the
7 2nd and not the 25th, and he was talking about I showed
8 them something on the phone. These the x-rays, but
9 Lexington Brain and Spine put it on my phone in case
10 you all didn't have no way to open to see -- want to
11 see it?

12 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: No, sir. The video is
13 fine.

14 MR. PHILLIPS: All right. See -- I can see
15 it right there on the phone.

16 THE SECURITY OFFICER: Let me see your phone.

17 MR. PHILLIPS: All right. Hold up. Take
18 the -- let me get it back right.

19 THE SECURITY OFFICER: Sir?

20 MR. PHILLIPS: Uh-huh. Oh, and this has
21 been -- Social Security put me on disability on the
22 20th of the --

23 Oh, you've got to take it?

24 THE SECURITY OFFICER: Yes.

25 MR. PHILLIPS: Why? I can't use it?

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5/15

Page 6

PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

1 THE SECURITY OFFICER: Yes. You'll get it
2 right back in a second.

3 MR. PHILLIPS: Well, they put me under --



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< 260413HE



5/15

Page 6

PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

1 THE SECURITY OFFICER: Yes. You'll get it
2 right back in a second.

3 MR. PHILLIPS: Well, they put me under --
4 they said I was working while I was injured, and
5 every time -- I turned it in to my supervisor like you
6 supposed to, not Mr. Teddy Wolfe. Not -- he will
7 not turn it in, but I tell him about it. He was
8 telling me about he got hemorrhoids, and he didn't turn
9 nothing in. And I told him again, and he told me to go
10 to Martin Marietta and tell them, and when I went to
11 Martin Marietta, they tell me to start documenting
12 every time I tell him, because he will not turn it in.

13 I told him on the 10th, the 24th, 23. I told
14 him the 2nd, the 15, 2024. I told him on the 3rd, the
15 19th, 2024, and I told him on the 7th of 2024, and
16 every time I got out of that truck, he wouldn't turn it
17 in.

18 If he talking about this hemorrhoid messed up
19 and this and that, so Charles Williams couldn't -- and
20 I ain't never even seen that man but one time, and then
21 I got a quote -- text from him that he sent me back to
22 work, because I've been off work. So it wasn't --
23 it wasn't my fault.

24 I did what I was supposed to do, and they
25 didn't want to turn it in to the doctor, and I have all

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6/15

Page 7

PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

1 that on the record first except only thing had would
2 have been work -- I mean, the Social Security put me on
3 disability, and they -- the Social Security guy said if
4 I had kept on working like that, I might have gotten
5 paralyzed because all that bouncing and rocking in the



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6/15

Page 7

PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

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2 have been work -- I mean, the Social Security put me on
3 disability, and they -- the Social Security guy said if
4 I had kept on working like that, I might have gotten
5 paralyzed because all that bouncing and rocking in the
6 truck. All that energy goes to your spine, and your
7 spine act like a cushion, and the last one I hit on
8 July the 2nd, that's the one that did it -- did it to
9 work, and you see it right on the thing, because the
10 pain was so great they thought I was going to have a
11 stroke or a heart attack. They sent me to a heart
12 doctor, and my -- my practitioner gave me extra blood
13 pressure pills.

14 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Okay.

15 MR. PHILLIPS: Huh?

16 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I have a question. So
17 the mirror incident, that looks like that happened back
18 in 2014?

19 MR. PHILLIPS: Yeah, but I told them that,
20 but they said they would -- talking about they couldn't
21 find it, so that's why I brought that.

22 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Okay.

23 MR. PHILLIPS: They trying to say I was lying
24 trying to make myself look good.

25 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Okay.

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7/15

Page 8

PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

1 MR. PHILLIPS: That's why I brought that
2 paper that -- I got it from the hospital and brought
3 it.

4 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Okay.



PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

1 MR. PHILLIPS: That's why I brought that
2 paper that -- I got it from the hospital and brought
3 it.

4 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Okay.

5 MR. PHILLIPS: They tell like they couldn't
6 find it, because the County swept it under the rug.
7 The man hit me and kept on going and left me on the
8 side of the road, and the hospital want to call the
9 highway patrol, but the County said don't do it.

10 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: When was the last time
11 you went to the doctor for this injury?

12 MR. PHILLIPS: The last -- talking about last
13 time I went to -- to the spine doctor was on the 24th
14 of July, and they gave me another shot and they said I
15 got to wait until it get really, really bad to come
16 back. So I got to go back now. They never did call me
17 back to get a shot.

18 See, the other shots they would give me
19 because I'm a diabetic. They was making my sugar
20 levels that would go up, so now I got to wait
21 until they give me another appointment to go back until
22 the pain gets great again.

23 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: These --

24 MR. PHILLIPS: Then -- and that's a quick
25 fix. Sooner or later I'm going to have to have surgery

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< 260413HE



9/15

Page 9

PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

1 on my -- on my -- on my disc. Them just quick fix, so
 2 that ain't over with, and if -- and even if just
 3 like -- see, even if they replace the disc and put
 4 artificial discs in my back, it going to still be messed
 5 up the rest of my life.

6 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Mr. Phillips, do you
 7 know whether this medical record from November of '26
 8 from Dr. Craig, was that in the -- was that in the
 9 record, the evidence at the time --

10 MR. PHILLIPS: The first time --

11 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: -- of your hearing?

12 MR. PHILLIPS: -- yes.

13 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Okay.

14 MR. PHILLIPS: All that was there. The
 15 evidence the first time.

16 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Okay. Very good. Very
 17 good. All right. You still have 4 minutes. Is there
 18 anything else?

19 MR. PHILLIPS: That's all I can say.

20 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Okay. Thank you, sir.
 21 All right. Mr. Lyon?

22 MR. LYON: Thank you, Commissioner. We're
 23 here today asking that the hearing commissioners' order
 24 be affirmed in its entirety and all benefits be denied.
 25 A review of the order shows the hearing commissioner

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9/15

Page 10

PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

1 found that Mr. Phillips alleged a repetitive trauma
 2 injury involving his knees, his hip, and his back, and
 3 as he stated earlier, from repetitively bouncing in his
 4 truck.

5 As you know, the applicable statute, Section



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Page 10

PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

1 found that Mr. Phillips alleged a repetitive trauma
2 injury involving his knees, his hip, and his back, and
3 as he stated earlier, from repetitively bouncing in his
4 truck.

5 As you know, the applicable statute, Section
6 42-1-172 requires medical evidence that establishes
7 causation between the alleged injuries and the
8 repetitive work activities. At the time of the
9 hearing, Mr. Phillips did not submit any medical
10 evidence to satisfy the Statute 42-1-172 to establish
11 medical causation within a reasonable degree of medical
12 certainty that his alleged bouncing around in the truck
13 caused him to have these injuries. Without that
14 evidence, we believe the commissioner's ruling was
15 correct in denying benefits as a matter of law.

16 The record shows that Mr. Phillips has had
17 long-standing lower back issues as well as right knee
18 issues, and again, there was no evidence -- medical
19 evidence submitted at the time of the hearing to
20 establish an aggravation of those preexisting
21 conditions under 42-9-35. Absent that, again, as a
22 matter of law, the commission would have to deny all
23 benefits in the claim. And the record amply reflects
24 that Mr. Phillips has acknowledged that he's claiming a
25 repetitive trauma injury and not a specific injury by

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12/15

Page 11

PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

1 accident.

2 Page 14 of the hearing transcript, he notes
3 again -- he was asked whether or not he was claiming
4 one specific incident, and he says, no, that it's over
5 a period of time. If you look at page 15 of the
6 transcript, lines 1 through 6, again, he affirmatively
7 indicates that what he's alleging is a repetitive

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Page 11

PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

1 accident.

2 Page 14 of the hearing transcript, he notes
3 again -- he was asked whether or not he was claiming
4 one specific incident, and he says, no, that it's over
5 a period of time. If you look at page 15 of the
6 transcript, lines 1 through 6, again, he affirmatively
7 indicates that what he's alleging is a repetitive
8 trauma injury. The fact is Mr. Phillips did not submit
9 the requisite evidence needed to establish causation,
10 and that's why the hearing commissioner denied his
11 claim.

12 We believe the hearing commissioner's
13 findings are supported by the evidence in the record,
14 and we would ask the panel to fully affirm the denial
15 of benefits in this case. Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: All right. Thank you.
17 All right. Mr. Phillips, you have 3 minutes for
18 rebuttal if you have anything further.

19 MR. PHILLIPS: Well, in the first hearing,
20 I -- I -- it was -- I told him this I gave you all. It
21 was not said over a period of time. If you look at
22 what was said in the court documents and what he's
23 saying, it's not the same thing.

24 He's telling -- he's telling untrue what he's
25 saying, and I gave him all the evidence I have right

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11/15

Page 12

PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

1 there, what I'm showing you right now for that, and
2 they still trying to go by the 25th. No. That did not
3 happen on the 25th.

4 My injury happened on the 2nd, and if you
5 read that, it will tell you that the truck caused that,

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< 260413HE



Page 12

PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

1 there, what I'm showing you right now for that, and
 2 they still trying to go by the 25th. No. That did not
 3 happen on the 25th.

4 My injury happened on the 2nd, and if you
 5 read that, it will tell you that the truck caused that,
 6 what the doctor wrote. That's what he's trying to say,
 7 and he tried to say that he got me talking to everyone
 8 of my -- my doctor. He just went and got some records
 9 and putting on it what he said, because when he talking
 10 about injured my back, that was a pulled muscle, and
 11 when he was talking about my -- my leg, that was
 12 because of my diabetic -- my diabetes, and it was
 13 taking it out of there.

14 He did not talk to no doctor. He went and
 15 got the records from the hospital, and he put what he
 16 want to put into the record. That's not what the
 17 doctor said, so he trying to assume what he want to
 18 assume.

19 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I'm looking at this
 20 record from November where you saw Dr. Craig. How
 21 did -- how did you pay for this medical treatment?

22 MR. PHILLIPS: I had to pay for it myself.

23 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Okay. All right. So
 24 you picked Dr. Craig on your own?

25 MR. PHILLIPS: No, because when I went to the
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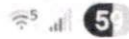
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Page 13

PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

1 emergency room, they tell me I had to go to a specialist,
 2 so the only way you can get in to a specialist, you've
 3 got to go to your primary care doctor. When I went to
 4 my primary care doctor, she set up the appointment for
 5 me to go to Lexington Brain and Spine, and she set up
 6 the appointment for me to go to Dr. Craig. And the

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Page 13

PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

1 emergency room, they tell me I had to go to a specialist,
2 so the only way you can get in to a specialist, you've
3 got to go to your primary care doctor. When I went to
4 my primary care doctor, she set up the appointment for
5 me to go to Lexington Brain and Spine, and she set up
6 the appointment for me to go to Dr. Craig. And the
7 reason I haven't been back to Dr. Craig yet, because
8 they was giving me shots in my back, and they didn't
9 want to give me too many shots interfering with each
10 other, so that's why I didn't go back to him yet.

11 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Okay. The medical
12 record here from Dr. Craig says, He reports
13 experiencing pain in both knees and his left hip, which
14 he attributes to the shaking and rocking motion of his
15 truck while driving. It does say you recall an incident
16 where the left knee hit the side of the truck causing
17 the hip to start hurting.

18 MR. PHILLIPS: Yeah, because the seat was
19 like this all the time, and the back seat always
20 hitting me in the back of the leg, and that's
21 the KM the truck. It was tight, and the --
22 where they got it made where the -- where the motor of
23 the -- for the window come out on the door, every time
24 the truck bounce up and down, this knee was hitting
25 that.

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13/15

Page 14

PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

1 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Okay.

2 MR. PHILLIPS: And, you know, where the
3 spine -- because every time it bounce up and down, the
4 spine is like a shock absorbing in your body. It was
5 absorbing all the energy --

6 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes, sir.

7 MR. PHILLIPS: -- and when you hit a pothole,

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13/15

Page 14

PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

1 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Okay.

2 MR. PHILLIPS: And, you know, where the

3 spine -- because every time it bounce up and down, the

4 spine is like a shock absorbing in your body. It was

5 absorbing all the energy --

6 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes, sir.

7 MR. PHILLIPS: -- and when you hit a pothole,

8 all the energy of that truck, it goes straight to your

9 spine, so that was what had my spine -- my -- this all

10 jacked up.

11 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Okay. All right. Any

12 other questions for Mr. Phillips?

13 COMMISSIONER DOOLEY: None from me.

14 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: All right. Thank you,

15 sir.

16 MR. PHILLIPS: All right.

17 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: That concludes this

18 matter.

19 (WHEREUPON, the taking of this hearing was

20 concluded at approximately 2:03 p.m.)

21

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Page 15

PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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4 I, Megan Rish Brown, Court Reporter and

5 Notary Public for the State of South of South Carolina

at Large, do hereby certify that I reported the hearing



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20 concluded at approximately 2:03 p.m.)

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Page 15

PHILLIPS V. ORANGEBURG COUNTY 4/13/2026

1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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3

4 I, Megan Rish Brown, Court Reporter and
 5 Notary Public for the State of South Carolina
 6 at Large, do hereby certify that I reported the hearing
 7 on the 13th day of April, 2026; and that the foregoing
 8 14 pages constitute a true and correct transcription of
 9 the said hearing.

10 I further certify that I am neither attorney
 11 nor counsel for, nor related to or employed by, any
 12 parties connected with this action, nor am I
 13 financially interested in said cause.

14 I further certify that the original of said
 15 transcript shall be hereafter sealed and delivered to
 16 Commissioner Aisha Taylor, 1333 Main Street, Columbia,
 17 South Carolina.

18 Witness my hand, I have hereunto affixed my
 19 official seal this 22nd day of June, 2026, at Lexington
 20 County, South Carolina.

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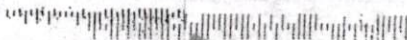
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32

Megan Rish Brown, Court Reporter,
 Notary Public
 State of South Carolina at Large
 My Commission expires:
 10/18/2028

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