

The South Carolina Court of Appeals

Lauren R. LaRoque, Appellant,

v.

Freedom Mortgage, Respondent.

Appellate Case No. 2026-001553

ORDER

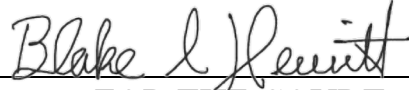
On July 14, 2026, Appellant filed a notice of appeal¹ and a "motion for supersedeas" to "stay ejectment pending appeal." On July 16, 2026, Appellant provided an "unsworn declaration of witness Troy Nissen in support of emergency petition for writ of supersedeas." Also on July 16, 2026, Appellant provided this court with the order on appeal,² in which the master-in-equity denied her motion to "vacate and void the sale proceedings." The master determined Appellant "failed to properly appeal or request a hearing pursuant to the [South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure]," and refused to "accept Appellant's untimely filed motion." The master referred to a prior "[o]rder dated June 30, 2026[,] wherein it denied a similar motion seeking to set aside the sale filed by counsel for [Appellant]." On July 17, 2026, Appellant provided a "supplemental declaration in support of emergency motion for stay," in which she stated her eviction was set to occur on July 20, 2026; thus, consideration of her motion to stay constituted an emergency.

The order on appeal is a master's decision that Appellant's motion to stay proceedings was untimely. Imposing a stay of that order would provide no relief. For that reason, after careful consideration, we deny Appellant's motion to stay as moot. *See Mathis v. S.C. State Highway Dep't*, 260 S.C. 344, 346, 195 S.E.2d 713, 715 (1973) ("A case becomes moot when judgment, if rendered, will have no practical legal effect upon existing controversy. This is true when some event

¹ Appellant provided a proof of service showing she served her notice of appeal on Respondent on July 16, 2026.

² The order on appeal is dated July 1, 2026.

occurs making it impossible for reviewing Court to grant effectual relief."); *Byrd v. Irmo High Sch.*, 321 S.C. 426, 430, 468 S.E.2d 861, 864 (1996) ("Before any action can be maintained, there must exist a justiciable controversy."); *id.* at 431, 468 S.E.2d at 864 ("This Court will not pass on moot and academic questions or make an adjudication where there remains no actual controversy.").



J.

FOR THE COURT

Columbia, South Carolina

FILED
Jul 20 2026

cc:

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Kenneth Gregory Wooten, III, Esquire