

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
Administrative Law Court

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Jul 23 2026

SC Court of Appeals

RALPH K. "TRIPP" ANDERSON, III
Chief Judge

JANA E. SHEALY
Clerk



June 10, 2026

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Lori Heffner Gibson
4694 Westwind Drive
Rock Hill, SC 29732

Re: South Carolina Department of Public Health v. Lori Heffer Gibson, Docket No. 25-ALJ-07-0285-CC

To Lori Heffner Gibson,

The above matter was originally before the Court pursuant to a request for contested case hearing filed by Lori Heffer Gibson (Respondent). In her request, Respondent listed an attorney, Christopher A. Wellborn, and stated that he was representing her in this matter. Thereafter, the Court issued an Order for Prehearing Statements. However, Respondent failed to comply with that Order. As a result, the South Carolina Department of Public Health filed a Motion to Dismiss arguing the case should be dismissed for failure to comply with the Court's order. Respondent did not respond to the Motion to Dismiss. Therefore, the Court issued an Order of Dismissal on January 27, 2026. Months later, Respondent filed a Motion to Vacate the Dismissal and Reinstate Appeal, asserting that she mistakenly listed Mr. Wellborn as her attorney in this appeal and therefore, she never received notice of deadlines or hearings which led to the dismissal of her appeal. Respondent's Motion to Vacate was denied on May 20, 2026. Therefore, this appeal was closed.

Nonetheless, on May 28, 2026, Respondent filed a Motion for Reconsideration (Motion) requesting the Court reconsider its May 20, 2026 Order denying her Motion to Vacate and repeal its January 27, 2026 Order of Dismissal. Along with the Motion, Respondent included a letter from Mr. Wellborn in which he asserts the following:

I am writing **on behalf of my client**, Lori-Heffner-Gibson, who is seeking to appeal the decision rendered against her in administrative hearing before the South Carolina Department of Public Health. She filed a Request for and Notice of Appeal of that decision on September 11, 2025. **At the time the notice was filed, she listed me as her counsel.** Subsequent to this filing, **I did not receive any**

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correspondent from the Administrative Law Court regarding this Appellate's request. It is my understanding that she still seeks to appeal the original decision of the Department of Public Health.

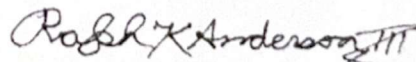
(emphasis added).

Respondent asserts this is an "attestation from attorney Christopher Wellborn, confirming under oath that he was never retained for this administrative proceeding, therefore he never filed an appearance, and did not receive or monitor the scheduling orders in this case." Although Respondent's case is closed, the Court will address some arguments presented by Respondent in her Motion to ensure the record is complete concerning this Court's actions.

First, as provided above, Mr. Wellborn submitted a letter, not a sworn affidavit attesting to the circumstances of this appeal. Second, Mr. Wellborn never stated he was not retained by Respondent; in fact, Mr. Wellborn stated the opposite: Respondent was his client and she had listed him as attorney when she filed her request with the Court. Nowhere did Mr. Wellborn state that he was not representing her at the ALC; instead, he argued he did not receive any correspondence from the Court. Lastly, Mr. Wellborn was properly served multiple notices from this Court as well as filings submitted by the Department. Indeed, the Court mailed the notice of assignment to Mr. Wellborn's listed mailing address on the South Carolina Bar's Attorney Information System (AIS) on September 23, 2025; the Department filed at least three documents with the Court that provide Mr. Wellborn was served a copy of those documents at his email and mailing address listed on AIS; and the Court issued an Order for Prehearing Statements that was served on Mr. Wellborn at the email address listed on AIS as well as the letter submitted with Respondent's Motion. Moreover, Mr. Wellborn and Respondent were both served a copy of the Order of Dismissal on January 27, 2026.

In sum, although the Court hopes the above facts clarify the Record, Respondent's Motion is being returned to her because the Motion was improperly made.

Sincerely,



Ralph King Anderson, III
Chief Administrative Law Judge

CC:
Office of General Counsel
S.C. Department of Public Health
P.O. Box 2046
West Columbia, South Carolina 29171

Christopher A. Wellborn, Esq.
1169 Ebenezer Road
Rock Hill, SC 29732

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Stephanie Armada, hereby certify that I have 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).



Stephanie Armada
Judicial Law Clerk

June 10, 2026
Columbia, South Carolina