

July, 15, 2026

The State of South Carolina
in the Court of appeals

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JUL 23 2026
SC Court of Appeals

Michael Thomas
Appellant,

Doc No: 26-ALJ-04-0276-AP
Grievance No: MCC10066-26

v.
SCDC
Respondent,

Appeal

The appellant "Michael Thomas" appeals the (order of dismissal) of the Honorable Crystal M. Rookard, dated on July, 10, 2026. Appellant recieved written notice of entry of this order (order of dismissal) on July, 15, 2026.

July, 15, 2026

Michael Thomas 329390

Michael Thomas
MCI F4-B234
386 Redemption Way
McCormick, SC 29899

Cheron Hless
Administrative Coordinator
Office of General Counsel
South Carolina Department of Corrections
4444 Broad River Rd
Po. Box 21787
Columbia, SC 29221
(803) 896-3922

Appel Argument:

on 1/6/2026 Appellant Michael Thomas wrote a Request To Staff member (RTSM) via Kios reference # _____

Asking security to go to the law library Cause he had an open Case. Case # 2026-000205.

Security responded on 1/26/2026, saying that the Law Library is available on your tablet.

However Appellant wrote the Major via Kios on 1/16/2026 asking for a tablet Cause he did not have one, reference # (26-04244772).

The appellant wrote the Major again on 5/21/2026 asking for a tablet. reference # (26-04404859).

The appellant then wrote the Warden Palmer on 6/11/2026 asking for a tablet reference # (26-04429723).

on January 28, 2026 Appellant filed a step one grievance arguing that he was being denied access to the Law library, and the Court's on March 2, 2026 his step one grievance was denied. Thereafter, on March 5, 2026 appellant filed a step two grievance again ~~arguing~~ arguing the same issues. On April 1, 2026 his step two grievance was denied also. On June 4, 2026 Appellant filed his initial brief.

On June 24, 2026, the Department filed a motion to Dismiss (motion) claiming that appellant's claims do not implicate a state-created liberty or property interest, and that appellant was not being denied

access to the Law library as the Law Library is available on the tablet, After done already sent attachments ~~_____~~ of

Request to Staff member (RTSM) with his brief as evidence showing him asking security numerous times for a tablet Cause he did not have one. Being that appellant was denied access to the Law library and did not have a tablet so he could access the Law library to do research to fight his case, case # 2026-000205, that Case was dismiss, which caused a state-created liberty or property interest.

10 A: C-2.1 Inmate Access to Courts

Inmates have a constitutional right of access to the Court's. Correctional facility authorities shall assist inmates in the preparation and filing of meaningful legal papers by providing inmates with adequate law libraries or adequate assistance from persons trained in the law.

See, (Lewis v. Casey June 24, 1996.) See, (Harris v. Young August 16, 1983)

Appellant wrote an opposition to respondent's (motion to dismiss) on July 9, 2026 after receiving it from his institution on June 9, 2026 however The honorable Rockard filed an (order of Dismissal) on July 16, 2026 not even hear Appellant's opposition.

Therefore Appellant appeal this decision

July 15, 2026

Michael Thomas 329390

Michael Thomas

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Certificate of service

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SC Court of Appeals

I, Michael Thomas hereby certify that I have this date served this order (Appeal) 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).

July 15, 2026

Michael Thomas
Michael Thomas

LEGAL MAIL
MAIL ROOM

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

INMATE GRIEVANCE FORM

STEP 1

INMATE NAME: <u>Michael Thomas</u>		OFFICE USE ONLY	
SCDC NUMBER: <u>329390</u>	Warden's Area	Grievance No. <u>McCl-066-26</u>	
INSTITUTION: <u>M.C. I</u>	McCormick Correctional	Code: General <u>LI/IS</u>	
HOUSING UNIT: <u>F4-A 278</u>	JAN 30 2026	Policy _____	
WORK ASSIGNMENT: <u>N/A</u>	RECEIVED	Disc. Hear. _____	
		Class. _____	
		PREA _____	
		Date Received <u>13 Feb 26</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.) on Jan 6, 2026

I wrote a staff Request to Security ask them could I go to the Law Library Cause I had open cases and need help they denied me that access.

RTSM# 26-04230517 = 1/6/2026

Response date 1/26/2026
The Law library is available on your tablet

Michael Thomas Jan 28, 2026
Grievant Signature Date

ACTION REQUESTED: That this change and all prisoners are allowed the adequate access and time needed to the law library

ACTION TAKEN BY IGC: ☒ PROCESSED ☐ UNPROCESSED ☐ OTHER

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

Thomas 02 MAR 26
IGC Signature Date

(CONTINUE ON REVERSE SIDE)

WARDEN'S DECISION AND REASON:

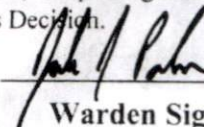
Thomas, Michael #329390

MCCI-0066-26

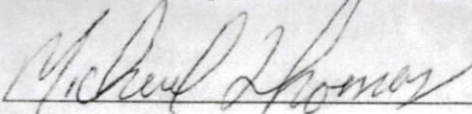
I have reviewed your concern. In your grievance, you state that you have a pending court case and have not been granted access to the physical Law Library. You request that institutional procedures be modified to allow all inmates access to the Law Library as needed. Records reflect that you are currently housed in Unit F4, which is a restricted movement dorm. Pursuant to SCDC Policy OP-22.08, Controlled Inmate Movement, "In order to ensure the orderly and safe movement of inmates within SCDC institutions and to promote positive inmate behavior, SCDC institutions designated by the Agency Director will develop and implement controlled movement schedules and limited movement (close custody) schedules that govern daily inmate participation in programs and in leisure and non-program activities." Your housing assignment is subject to these controlled movement guidelines. Be advised that Westlaw is available to inmates at no cost through the institutional tablet system. Westlaw provides a broad range of legal reference materials and research tools, in many instances offering more comprehensive resources than those available in the physical Law Library. This resource is intended to provide inmates meaningful access to legal materials while institutional safety and security measures remain in place. There is no indication that actions taken in your case are inconsistent with applicable policy or procedure.

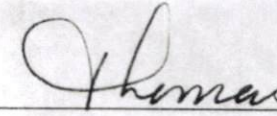
Therefore, your grievance is denied.

If you disagree with this Warden's Decision (Decision), 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.

 3-2-26
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.

 3/3/26
Grievant Signature Date

 03MAR26
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.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
INMATE GRIEVANCE FORM
STEP 2

RETURN BY:
08 MAR 26

INMATE NAME: Michael Thomas

SCDC NUMBER: 329390

INSTITUTION: M.C.I.

HOUSING UNIT: F4-A 278

WORK ASSIGNMENT: N/A

Office Use Only
Grievance No. MCCT-066-24
Code: General 11/15
Policy _____
Disc. Hear. _____
Class. _____
Date Received 05 MAR 26
IGC Initials T.T.

INMATE'S REASON FOR APPEAL (state specific dissatisfaction): on 05 Mar 2026

I wrote a staff Request to Security asking them
Could I go to the Law Library Cause I have an open
Case and I need help they denied me that access

Michael Thomas 3/5/26
Grievant Signature Date

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL'S DECISION AND REASON:

I have reviewed your concern. In your grievance you state you sent a request to staff to security asking if you could go to the law library because you had open cases and they denied you access. You request that all inmates be allowed adequate access and time needed to use the law library. An investigation concluded that you were not denied access but were instructed to use the law library resources that are available on your tablet. Pursuant to SCDC policy GA-01.03: Inmate Access To The Courts "Inmates who can demonstrate a pending court deadline will be given priority to use the law library over inmates with no such deadlines. NOTE: Priority access permits access to accommodate legitimate deadlines. However, inmates should manage their deadlines such that there is ample time for access to be scheduled. Scheduling should afford all inmates an opportunity for access." You have failed to provide any evidence to prove that SCDC Staff have performed their job duties inconsistent with applicable policy and procedure.

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 fill out the attached Notice of Appeal Form (Form) and submit it as instructed on the form within 30 days of receipt.

W. Dine Nlan 4-1-26
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.

Michael Thomas 4/24/26
Grievant Signature Date

Thomas 21 APR 24
IGC Signature Date

(SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS)

Michael Thomas 329390
MCI FY-B234
386 Redemption Way
McCormick SC 29899

RECEIVED

JUL 21 2026

MCCI
MAILROOM

SC court of appeals
Jenny Abbott Kitchings, Clerk
P.O. Box 11629
Columbia, SC 29211

RECEIVED

JUL 23 2026

SC Court of Appeals