

Jul 29 2026

SC Court of Appeals

**THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS**

APPEAL FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

WCC File No. 2207041

Appellate Case No. 2025-001248

Walter R. Hoover, Jr., Claimant, Appellant,

v.

Tractor Supply Company, Employer, and Starr Specialty Insurance Company, Carrier, Respondents.

**APPELLANT'S RETURN IN OPPOSITION TO RESPONDENTS' MOTION
TO DISMISS**

Appellant Walter R. Hoover, Jr., appearing pro se, respectfully opposes Respondents' Motion to Dismiss. The appeal should not be dismissed because Appellant continuously attempted to comply, Respondents' counsel's office actually received the substantive Supplemental Record, the Court now possesses one complete unbound original, and any remaining issue is technical and correctable without prejudice. Appellant is also financially unable to pay any filing fee associated with this response or a related request for relief and respectfully requests waiver of any such fee.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

1. On June 24, 2026, the Court ordered Appellant to serve and file a Supplemental Record containing the Full Commission hearing transcript and Respondents' complete APA submissions within ten days.
2. On July 2, 2026, Appellant attempted to submit the Supplemental Record electronically. Despite several attempts, Appellant could not make the complete PDF attach as a PDF rather than an external link, and the Court received only one page. Appellant did not intentionally submit an incomplete record.
3. Appellant continued preparing the complete materials. On July 6, 2026, he shipped Respondents' paper copy by UPS Ground to counsel's Mount Pleasant office. The receipt identifies the contents as documents, shows a weight of two pounds, thirteen and six-tenths ounces, and provides Tracking Number 1ZF201G00302092652.
4. UPS records show that the package was delivered inside Respondents' counsel's office on July 7, 2026, at 10:08 a.m., and was received by 'Michelle.'
5. The package contained the Full Commission transcript and Respondents' complete APA submissions. The later version filed with the Court differed only in limited front matter, including case-identification and cover pages and the Certificate of Service.
6. On July 8, 2026, the Court issued additional correspondence requiring both an original record, which could be filed electronically or as an unbound paper copy, and one separate bound paper copy. Appellant responded that same day, explained that he could not afford the additional copying, binding, and mailing costs, and requested guidance. Respondents' counsel was copied.

7. Appellant lives more than one hour from the Court. After repeated electronic attachment attempts failed, Appellant arranged transportation and traveled to Columbia to hand-deliver one complete loose, unbound paper original on July 17, 2026.

8. The July 8 correspondence expressly permitted the original to be filed electronically or as an unbound paper copy. Appellant could not afford the separate additional bound copy.

9. Respondents filed their Motion to Dismiss on July 22, 2026. The Motion broadly states that Respondents had not been served, but it does not specifically deny receipt of the UPS package delivered to counsel's office on July 7.

10. Appellant acknowledges that the Certificate associated with the July 2 attempted filing does not accurately describe the later July 6 UPS shipment and July 7 delivery. Appellant relies on the UPS receipt and proof of delivery as the accurate evidence of what occurred.

11. Appellant is financially unable to pay any filing fee associated with this response or a related motion for relief without sacrificing funds needed for basic living expenses.

ARGUMENT

I. Appellant acted continuously and in good faith.

The chronology does not show abandonment or intentional disregard. Appellant attempted electronic filing on July 2, shipped Respondents the substantive record on July 6, obtained documented delivery on July 7, immediately responded to the Court's July 8 correspondence, and arranged transportation to travel more than one hour and hand-deliver one complete unbound original on July 17. These actions demonstrate diligence and good faith.

II. Respondents actually received the substantive materials.

The UPS evidence shows delivery to Respondents' counsel's office before the Motion to Dismiss was filed. The delivered package contained the Full Commission transcript and Respondents' complete APA submissions - the substantive materials required by the June 24 Order. The limited differences in front matter did not alter or omit the ordered materials.

Respondents' Motion does not specifically deny receipt of the July 6 UPS package. Its broader statement that Respondents had not been served should therefore be considered together with the documented July 7 delivery.

III. Any remaining issue is technical and caused no substantive prejudice.

Appellant recognizes that the Court may determine that the delivery method, lack of binding, front-matter differences, or inaccurate Certificate did not satisfy every technical requirement. Those matters can be corrected. They do not establish that Respondents lacked the transcript or APA submissions.

Respondents have not identified any missing substantive material, lost argument, altered record, or other prejudice that cannot be cured through a corrected Certificate and electronic transmission of the final version.

IV. Correction, fee relief, and practical compliance are appropriate instead of dismissal.

The Court has one complete unbound original, and Respondents received the substantive materials. Dismissal would terminate appellate review over correctable issues of form, method, binding, and proof of service.

Appellant is prepared to file an amended or supplemental Certificate accurately describing the July 6 UPS shipment and July 7 delivery and to transmit the final Supplemental Record electronically

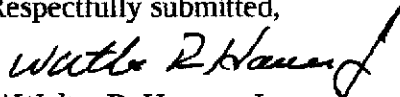
if directed or authorized. Because Appellant cannot afford the separate bound copy or any filing fee associated with this response or related relief, he requests waiver or modification of those requirements rather than additional time that would not solve the financial problem.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Appellant respectfully requests that this Court:

1. deny Respondents' Motion to Dismiss;
2. recognize the documented July 6 UPS shipment and July 7 delivery of the substantive Supplemental Record to Respondents' counsel's office;
3. accept the one complete loose, unbound original filed with the Court on July 17, 2026;
4. permit Appellant to file an amended or supplemental Certificate accurately describing the shipment and delivery;
5. authorize electronic transmission of the final Supplemental Record to Respondents' counsel;
6. waive any filing fee associated with this response or related request for relief because Appellant is financially unable to pay it;
7. waive or modify the requirement for the separate additional bound Court copy because Appellant is financially unable to pay the copying and binding expense; and
8. grant any other relief the Court considers just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,



s/ Walter R. Hoover, Jr.

Walter R. Hoover, Jr.

Appellant, Pro Se

6194 Dogwalla Road

Whitmire, South Carolina 29178

Telephone: (803) 394-3047

Email: whooverjr@gmail.com

Date: July 29, 2026

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

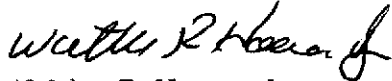
I certify that on July 29, 2026, I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Appellant's Return in Opposition to Respondents' Motion to Dismiss by depositing a copy in the United States Mail, first-class postage prepaid, and by transmitting a courtesy copy by email, addressed as follows:

FROM:

Walter R. Hoover, Jr.
6194 Dogwalla Road
Whitmire, South Carolina 29178
whooverjr@gmail.com

TO:

Claudia J. Piechota, Esquire
Holder Padgett Littlejohn + Prickett, LLC
945 Houston Northcutt Boulevard
Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 29464
cpiechota@hplplaw.com



s/ Walter R. Hoover, Jr.

Walter R. Hoover, Jr.

Appellant, Pro Se

6194 Dogwalla Road
Whitmire, South Carolina 29178
whooverjr@gmail.com

PS - Documents were sent
as one continuous attachment
on 7/29/2026

RECEIVED

Jul 29 2026

SC Court of Appeals

EXHIBIT LIST

Exhibit A - UPS shipment receipt for Tracking Number 1ZF201G00302092652.

Exhibit B - UPS tracking history and proof of delivery showing delivery on July 7, 2026, at 10:08 a.m., received by 'Michelle.'

Exhibit C - South Carolina Court of Appeals correspondence dated July 8, 2026.

Exhibit D - Appellant's July 8, July 17, and July 21 correspondence requesting guidance and explaining financial inability.

EXHIBIT A

UPS shipment receipt - Tracking No. 1ZF201G00302092652

SHIP DATE:
Mon 6 JUL 2026

EXPECTED DELIVERY DATE:
TUES 7 JUL 2026 EOD

SHIP FROM:
WALTER HOOVER, JR
6194 DOGWALLA RD
Whitmire SC 29178
(803) 622-0650

SHIP TO:
HOLDER, PADGETT, LITTLEJOHN & PRICK
ATTN: CLAUDIA JULIA PIECHOTA
945 HOUSTON NORTHCUTT BLVD
MOUNT PLEASANT SC 29464-3468
Business

SHIPMENT INFORMATION:
UPS Ground Commercial
2 lb 13.6 oz actual wt
8.000 lb billable wt (dim wt)
Dims: 13.00x13.00x7.00 in Store Packed
DV=\$100.00
Pack and Ship Guarantee

Tracking Number: 1zF201G00302092652
Shipment ID: MMARH352517UT
Ship Ref 1: - -
Ship Ref 2: - -

DESCRIPTION OF GOODS:
DOCUMENTS

SHIPMENT CHARGES:

Ground Commercial	16.46
Service Options	0.00
CMS Processing Fee	0.22

SHIPPED THROUGH:
The UPS Store #7783
NEWBERRY, SC 29108-4133

Total	\$16.68
-------	---------

COMPLETE ONLINE TRACKING: Enter this address in your web browser to track:
<http://theupsstore.com> (select Tracking, enter Shipment ID #) SHIPMENT
QUESTIONS? Contact SHIPPED THROUGH above.
NEED PACKAGE HELP? (lost/damaged). Provide details so we can help:
<https://online.ups.com/help>

Shipment ID: MMARH352517UT



EXHIBIT B

UPS tracking and proof of delivery



Tracking | UPS

ups.com



Proof of Delivery



07/22/2026 5:51 P.M. EST

Dear Customer,

This notice serves as proof of delivery for the shipment listed below.

Tracking Number

1ZF201G00302092652

Service

UPS Ground

Delivered On

07/07/2026 10:08 A.M.

Delivered To

MOUNT PLEASANT, SC, US

Shipped / Billed On

07/06/2026

Received By

MICHELLE

Delivery Location

Inside Delivery

Sincerely,

UPS

Tracking results provided by UPS as of
07/22/2026 5:51 P.M. EST

Please print for your records, as delivery
details are available for a limited time.

Close >

EXHIBIT C

South Carolina Court of Appeals correspondence dated July 8, 2026



The South Carolina Court of Appeals

JENNY ABBOTT KITCHINGS
CLERK

CATHERINE S. HARRISON
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

POST OFFICE BOX 11029
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29211
1220 SENATE STREET
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201
TELEPHONE: (803) 734-1890
FAX: (803) 734-1839
www.sccourts.org

July 8, 2026

Walter R. Hoover, Jr.
6194 Dogwalla Road
Whitmire SC 29178

Ms. Claudia Julia Piechota, Esquire
945 Houston Northcutt
Charleston SC 29464

Re: Walter R. Hoover, Jr. v. Tractor Supply Company
Appellate Case No. 2025-001248

Dear Mr. Hoover and Counsel:

The Court has determined a need exists for one (1) bound copy of the record on appeal and all final briefs. The additional copies must comply with the binding and cover color requirements specified by Rule 267 of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules (SCACR).

Accordingly, the appellant(s) must file an original record on appeal and final brief(s), in either electronic or unbound paper form, as well as one (1) bound paper copy of each. All other parties must file an original final brief and one (1) bound paper copy. **The bound copies are due to be served and filed at the same time as the original record on appeal and final briefs.**

The correct caption for this appeal should read as follows on the record on appeal and all final briefs:

Walter R. Hoover, Jr., Claimant, Appellant,

v.

**Tractor Supply Company, Employer, and Starr Specialty Insurance
Company, Carrier, Respondents.**

We request large parcels such as bound paper copies of the record on appeal and all final briefs be sent directly to the Court via the street address: **1220 Senate Street, Columbia, SC 29201.**

Very truly yours,

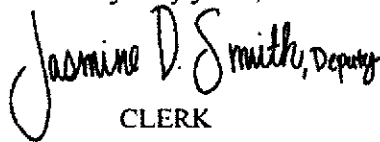
Handwritten signature of Jasmine D. Smith in cursive script.
CLERK

EXHIBIT D

Appellant correspondence requesting guidance and explaining financial inability



Walter R. Hoover, Jr. v. Tractor Supply Company- 2025-001248

1 message

Walter Hoover,Jr <whooverjr@gmail.com>
To: Court Of Appeals Filings <ctappfilings@sccourts.org>
Cc: Claudia Piechota <cpiechota@hplplaw.com>, claudia.julia.piechota@gmail.com

Wed, Jul 8, 2026 at 5:05 PM

I received the Court's letter about the bound copy and service copies.

I'm writing because I need guidance on what to do next. I am not able to pay the extra costs for copying, binding, mailing, service copies, or any filing fee that may be needed to ask for relief from those costs.

Can you please let me know the proper way to ask the Court for a waiver, modification, or more time for these costs?

I absolutely intend to follow the Court's instructions and just need to know the correct next step.

Thank you.
[Quoted text hidden]

 **image001.png**
104 KB



Walter R. Hoover, Jr. v. Tractor Supply Company- 2025-001248

1 message

Walter Hoover, Jr <whooverjr@gmail.com>

Fri, Jul 17, 2026 at 10:10 AM

To: Court Of Appeals Filings <ctappfilings@sccourts.org>

Good morning,

I am following up on my email below.

I have now prepared the Court's bound copy of the Supplemental Record on Appeal, but I remain financially unable to print, bind, and mail an additional approximately 190-page copy to Respondents. Respondents' counsel previously declined electronic service.

I have the complete Supplemental Record prepared as a single PDF attachment and respectfully request immediate guidance as to whether I may serve Respondents electronically or whether another no-cost method of service is available.

I am prepared to deliver the Court's bound copy and do not wish to delay or fail to comply with the Court's instructions.

Thank you.

{Quoted text hidden}

2 attachments



image001.png

104 KB



Hoover_Supplemental_Record_No_Certificate_of_Service.pdf

24 MB