

Jul 29 2026**SC Court of Appeals**

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In the Supreme Court

APPEAL FROM BEAUFORT COUNTY
Robert J. Bonds, Circuit Court Judge

Lower Court Case Nos.
2019-GS-07-01436, 2019-GS-07-01437, 2019-GS-07-01438,
2019-GS-07-01441, 2019-GS-07-01442,
2023-GS-07-01601, 2023-GS-07-01602, 2023-GS-07-01603

The State, Respondent,

v.

David Fields, Jr., Appellant.

Appellate Case No. 2025-000437

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF MANDAMUS

David Fields filed his notice of appeal with the Court of Appeals on March 5, 2025. The transcript of his case has still not been produced. Undersigned counsel respectfully petitions this Court to issue a writ of mandamus to compel production of the transcript in this case within ten days at no cost to Mr. Fields. Undersigned also moves this Court to order the court reporter to refund the \$750 deposit for the transcript paid by Mr. Fields more than one year ago. Undersigned further requests that the court reporter be required to obtain approval from the Chief Justice to produce the transcript out of time in accordance with Rule 607(e), SCACR. Finally, undersigned requests that this Court advise the court reporter that her continued failure to produce the transcript will result in her being held in contempt.

Legal Framework

This Court has the power to issue a writ of mandamus. *Edwards v. State*, 383 S.C. 82, 95, 678 S.E.2d 412, 419 (2009); *see also* S.C. Const. Art. V, § 5 (“The Supreme Court shall have power to issue writs or orders of . . . mandamus”); S.C. Code § 14-3-310. “The writ of mandamus is the ‘highest judicial writ known to the law.’” *Knight v. Austin*, 396 S.C. 518, 522, 722 S.E.2d 802, 804 (2012) (quoting *Sanford v. S.C. State Ethics Comm’n*, 385 S.C. 483, 493, 685 S.E.2d 600, 605 (2009)). “The primary purpose of a writ of mandamus is to enforce an established right and to enforce a corresponding imperative duty created or imposed by law.” *Porter v. Jedziniak*, 334 S.C. 16, 18, 512 S.E.2d 497, 497 (1999). “To obtain a writ of mandamus requiring the performance of an act, the applicant must show 1) a duty of respondent to perform the act, 2) the ministerial nature of the act, 3) the applicant’s specific legal right for which discharge of the duty is necessary, and 4) a lack of any other legal remedy.” *Redmond v. Lexington Cty. Sch. Dist. No. 4*, 314 S.C. 431, 437, 445 S.E.2d 441, 445 (1994).

“[A criminal] defendant’s right to appeal is authorized by statutes and appellate court rules of procedure.” *State v. Rearick*, 417 S.C. 391, 398, 790 S.E.2d 192, 196 (2016); *see* S.C. Code §18-1-30; Rule 201, SCACR. In criminal appeals from the court of general sessions, the appellant is required to order the transcript of the lower court proceedings within thirty days of service of the notice of appeal. Rule 207(a)(1), SCACR.

Rule 607(d) of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules requires court reporters to deliver a transcript “no later than sixty (60) days after the date of the request.” *See also* Rule 207(a)(2), SCACR. Rule 607(e) allow a court reporter to request additional time if they anticipate “continuous engagement in the performance of other official duties which make it impossible to prepare a transcript” within the sixty days. “The Office of Court Administration may grant up to

three extensions for a total of up to ninety (90) days.” *Id.* However, “[e]xtensions in excess of ninety (90) days shall not be allowed except by order of the Chief Justice.” *Id.* Furthermore, “[t]he willful failure of a court reporter to comply with the provisions of this Rule shall constitute contempt of court enforceable by order of the Supreme Court.” Rule 607(j), SCACR.

Timeline

The timeline of the court reporter’s failure to produce the transcript in this case is jarring. It has been more than one year since the transcript in this case was initially requested by the Office of Appellate Defense. (Exhibit 1 – Initial Transcript Order). On June 5, 2025, the court reporter requested and received her first thirty-day extension. (Exhibit 2 – First Extension Order). On July 23, 2025, the Court of Appeals sent Appellate Defense a letter indicating that the transcript was overdue and that Appellate Defense had ten days to provide an update regarding the status of the transcript. (Exhibit 3 – First Transcript Overdue Letter). On August 6, 2025, Appellate Defense sent the Court of Appeals a letter notifying the Court that it had not received the transcript or a request for an extension from the court reporter. (Exhibit 4 – First Transcript Not Received Letter).

On August 7, 2025, I filed a motion to substitute counsel as I had been retained by Mr. Fields. (Exhibit 5 – Motion to Substitute Counsel). On August 8, 2025, Tammie Holmes sent an email to the court reporter requesting that she provide Appellate Defense with an update on the late transcript. (Exhibit 6 – Tammie Holmes Email). The Court of Appeals granted my motion to substitute counsel on August 20, 2025. (Exhibit 7 – Order Substituting Counsel).

The day after my motion to substitute counsel was granted, I submitted a transcript request form through the transcript request portal. (Exhibit 8 – Ruffin Transcript Order). The court reporter obtained her second extension order on October 31, 2025, which gave her until November 21,

2025¹. This put the due date for the transcript almost eight months after the initial request by Appellate Defense on March 28, 2025. (Exhibit 9 – Second Extension Order).

The Court of Appeals sent me a transcript overdue letter on December 3, 2025, because the court reporter had not complied with the November 21 deadline. (Exhibit 10 – Second Transcript Overdue Letter). That same day, I responded to the Court of Appeals advising them that the reason I had not notified them of the late transcript was because the day before I had received notification that the court reporter had requested an extension until January 21, 2026. (Exhibit 11 – Ruffin First Transcript Not Received Letter). This request was a sixty-day extension request. On December 4, 2025, two separate extension orders were granted by Tammie Holmes, one extending the transcript to December 21, 2025, and a second extension extending the transcript to January 21, 2026. (Exhibit 12 – Third Extension Order; Exhibit 13 – Fourth Extension Order).

On January 22, 2026, I sent a letter to the Court of Appeals notifying them that I had not received the transcript and had received a notification that the court reporter had gone on medical leave. (Exhibit 14 – Ruffin Second Transcript Not Received Letter). The court reporter responded to my letter that same day indicating that the transcript would be completed “soon.” (Exhibit 15 – Court Reporter Email). The Court of Appeals did not respond to my letter or take any action that I am aware of to ensure delivery of the transcript.

Another two months went by with no request for additional time by the court reporter, and no action by the Court of Appeals. On March 2, 2026, I sent another letter to the Court of Appeals advising them of the extremely overdue transcript with copies of my correspondence with the court reporter. The emails show the court reporter repeatedly promising to deliver the transcript and

¹ The court reporter and Court Administration appear to have treated my request for the transcript as restarting the 60-day clock entirely—even though my request, like Appellate Defense’s request, was made on behalf of the same party to the case, David Fields.

failing to do so. In that letter, I requested the Court of Appeals to order the court reporter to produce the transcript within ten days and that the transcript be provided at no cost to Mr. Fields. (Exhibit 16 – Ruffin Third Transcript Not Received Letter). Again, the Court of Appeals did not respond to my letter or take any action that I am aware of to ensure prompt production of the transcript.

Almost three months later, on May 29, 2026, still having not received the transcript, a request by the court reporter for an extension, or any correspondence from the Court of Appeals, I sent a fourth letter advising of the overdue transcript. (Exhibit 17 – Ruffin Fourth Transcript Not Received Letter). In that letter, I attached my correspondence with the court reporter, and my client's friend, Aries Brown's correspondence with the court reporter. I specifically draw this Court's attention to the email from the court reporter on March 23, 2026, where she acknowledges having received a down payment of \$750 for the transcript by Mr. Fields. Unbelievably, the court reporter told Ms. Brown that she was unable to refund the \$750 because she had "sent his transcript over to a typist." (Exhibit 17, p. 13). This email came more than one year after Mr. Fields' conviction, more than one year after his payment to her of \$750, and almost one year after the transcript had been ordered by Appellate Defense.

As pointed out in my May 29 letter to the Court of Appeals, that morning I received an email from the court reporter indicating that she would never complete the transcript and that it would be reassigned to a different court reporter. (Exhibit 17). Immediately after I filed my May 29 letter with the Court of Appeals, I received two emails from the court reporter. First, she emailed me to say that she had been ordered by her supervisors to cease all work on all transcripts that were assigned to her. She claimed that her email to me from that morning indicating that the transcript was being reassigned to a different court reporter was because she "did not want to violate a direct order." (Exhibit 18 – Court Reporter Emails). The second email from the court reporter was

directed at Kyle Senn. In that email the court reporter requested “an exception to [Mr. Senn’s] directive” and that she be allowed “the opportunity to complete this transcript over the weekend to avoid further delay to Mr. Fields.” *Id.*

On June 8, 2026, I filed a motion to compel production of the transcript with the Court of Appeals. (Exhibit 19 – Motion to Compel). On June 16, I received an email from Tammie Holmes telling me that the transcript would be reassigned to a different court reporter, and on June 17, I received two automated emails from transcripts@sccourts.org which misleadingly suggested that I requested the transcript that day. I then received an email from Legal Eagle indicating that they had been assigned the transcript and gave an estimated cost of \$4,335 to produce the transcript in sixty days.

I immediately notified the Court of Appeals of this development to emphasize the urgent need for corrective action. (Exhibit 20 – Letter to the Court of Appeals). Because the motion to compel the transcript at no cost was then pending before the Court of Appeals, I could not agree to the payment of \$4,335 to Legal Eagle with a sixty-day delivery time frame. Yesterday, July 28—more than seven weeks after I filed the motion to compel—the Court of Appeals denied the motion “without prejudice to Appellant filing any appropriate motion with the South Carolina Supreme Court.” (Exhibit 21 – Order Denying Motion to Compel).

Argument

Court reporters are required to produce transcripts when they are ordered. Rule 207(a)(2), SCACR; Rule 607(d), SCACR. This is a ministerial and not a discretionary function by a court official. This Court in *Redmond* defined a ministerial duty in this way: “The duty is ministerial when it is absolute, certain, and imperative, involving merely the execution of a specific duty arising from fixed and designated facts. It is ministerial if it is defined by law with such precision

as to leave nothing to the exercise of discretion.” 314 S.C. at 437-38, 445 S.E.2d at 445. The duties and responsibilities of court reporters are well defined with such precision that nothing is left to the reporter’s discretion—especially the mere production of an official transcript.

Mr. Fields is also entitled to appeal his criminal convictions and is required to order and obtain the transcript from the court reporter. *See* S.C. Code §18-1-30; Rules 201 and 207, SCACR. Furthermore, Mr. Fields’ appeal cannot move forward until the transcript is produced. *See* Rule 208(a)(1), SCACR (initial brief of appellant due thirty days after receipt of the transcript). Finally, Mr. Fields has no other legal remedy available to him to move his appeal forward. Yesterday, the Court of Appeals denied Mr. Fields’ motion to compel the transcript leaving him with nowhere else to turn to obtain the transcript in his case.

Accordingly, it is proper for this Court to issue a writ of mandamus compelling production of the transcript in this case. *See Edwards*, 383 S.C. at 97, 678 S.E.2d at 420 (when mandamus is warranted, ‘the judiciary cannot properly shrink from its duty’”) (quoting *Blalock v. Johnston*, 180 S.C. 40, 50, 185 S.E. 51, 55 (1936)). This Court has both the authority and obligation to ensure that court reporters perform their duties so that justice can be served to the citizens and businesses of this State. Rule 607(j), SCACR (The willful failure of a court reporter to comply with the provisions of this Rule shall constitute contempt of court enforceable by order of the Supreme Court”). Without a transcript, there can be no appellate review. And in this case, it appears that without a writ of mandamus, there can be no transcript.

The court reporter in this case has engaged in a pattern of promising to deliver the transcript and failing to do so for more than one year. She has officially received four prior extension orders. The most recent order was issued on December 4, 2025, which granted the court reporter until January 21, 2026. (Exhibit 13). No extension has been requested by the court reporter since

December 2, 2025. The court reporter has not complied with the provisions of Rule 607, SCACR, to put it mildly.

Undersigned requests that this Court grant this petition for a writ of mandamus and order the court reporter to produce the transcript within ten days at no cost to Mr. Fields and refund Mr. Fields the \$750 deposit he paid to her. Undersigned further requests that this Court advise the court reporter that continued failure to produce the transcript will result in her being held in contempt pursuant to Rule 607(j), SCACR.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Adam Ruffin
Adam Sinclair Ruffin
SC Bar No. 101350
1320 Main Street, Suite 300
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 470-5629
adam@ruffinappeals.com

Attorney for David Fields, Jr.

EXHIBIT 1

From: [Williams, Kimberlee](#)
To: [White, Della](#)
Cc: [Transcripts; Court Of Appeals Filings](#)
Subject: state v david fields
Date: Friday, March 28, 2025 4:53:05 PM

Good afternoon. State v. David Fields, 2-24-25 - 2-27-25 is my assignment.

I will add this to the production queue with a due date of 5-28-25.

Thank you for your transcript request.

Kimberlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR
State of South Carolina
Official Circuit Court Reporter III
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit
(843) 575-4428

The message is intended exclusively for the individual or entity to which it is addressed. This communication may contain information that is privileged, confidential or otherwise exempt from disclosure. If you are not the named addressee, you are not authorized to read, print, retain, copy or disseminate this message. If you have received this message in error, please contact me immediately and delete all copies of this message.

RECEIVED

Mar 28 2025

SC Court of Appeals

From: [White, Della](#)
To: [Court Of Appeals Filings](#)
Cc: [Mark Farthing](#); [SC - COLLINS CAROLINE](#)
Subject: The State v. David Fields 2025-000437
Date: Friday, March 28, 2025 2:34:50 PM

*** **EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside the organization. Please exercise caution before clicking any links or opening attachments. ***

Good afternoon,

Below is the transcript request documentation requested through the Transcript Portal today.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you very much.

Della White

From: TranscriptPortal@sccourts.org <TranscriptPortal@sccourts.org>
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 2:33 PM
To: White, Della <dwhite@sccid.sc.gov>
Subject: [External] Transcript Request for Docket Number 2023GS0701602

Greetings,

Please accept this email and the **summarized Transcript Request shown below** as confirmation that the online transcript request that you submitted has been received by our office. You should receive communication from a transcriptionist within five (5) business days with an estimated cost for production.

If you need further assistance, please contact us at transcripts@sccourts.org.

Regards,

Court Administration

Summarized Transcript Request: **Request ID 1402754455**

Requester Information:

Name: Della White
Entity: Agency SCCID

Phone Number: (803) 734-1330

Email: dwhite@sccid.sc.gov

Address: 1330 Lady Street Columbia, SC 29201

Is the requester a party on the case? No

Does the requester represent a party? Yes David Fields

Transcript Information:

Docket Number: 2023GS0701602

Court Type: Circuit

County: Beaufort

Case Caption: The State of South Carolina vs Fields Jr, David

Appeal Pending? Court of Appeals

Death Penalty? No

Start Date of Proceeding: 2/24/2025

End Date of Proceeding: 2/27/2025

Presiding Judge: Bonds, Robert J.

Court reporter daily assignments:

2/24/2025 (Monday): Williams , Kymberlee Mignanelli

2/25/2025 (Tuesday): Williams , Kymberlee Mignanelli

2/26/2025 (Wednesday): Williams , Kymberlee Mignanelli

2/27/2025 (Thursday): Williams , Kymberlee Mignanelli

Opposing Counsel and/or other parties information:

(Attorney) David Fields

(Defendant) David Fields Jr

Next hearing date: *Date not entered*

Portion of proceeding to be transcribed: Entire Hearing

Delivery Information:

Delivery Timeframe: Regular Delivery (60 days)

Delivery Method: PDF/Email

Delivery Timeframe: Court Appointed Counsel

Appeals Attorney: SCCID

Email: dwhite@sccid.sc.gov

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This communication and any attachment thereto is intended only for use by the addressee(s) named herein, and may contain legally privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient of this e-mail, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, utilization, distribution or copying

of this e-mail, and any attachments thereto, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error please notify the Commission on Indigent Defense immediately and permanently delete the original and any copy of any e-mail and any printout thereof. SCCID may be reached by using the email address of the sender, or at 803-734-1343.

**From:** [TranscriptPortal@sccourts.org](mailto:TranscriptPortal@sccourts.org)  
**To:** [Transcripts](#); [Court Of Appeals Filings](#)  
**Subject:** Transcript Request for Docket Number 2023GS0701602  
**Date:** Friday, March 28, 2025 2:33:46 PM

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Greetings,

You are receiving this notice and the **summarized Transcript Request shown below** for the case **The State of South Carolina vs Fields Jr, David**.

Pursuant to Rule 207(a)(1), SCACR, you are being notified that the transcript has been requested on **3/28/2025**. There is no action required.

If you need further assistance, please contact us at [transcripts@sccourts.org](mailto:transcripts@sccourts.org).

Regards,

Court Administration

Summarized Transcript Request: **Request ID 1402754455**

## Requester Information:

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**Name:** Della White  
**Entity:** Agency SCCID  
**Phone Number:** (803) 734-1330  
**Email:** [dwhite@sccid.sc.gov](mailto:dwhite@sccid.sc.gov)  
**Address:** 1330 Lady Street Columbia, SC 29201  
**Is the requester a party on the case?** No  
**Does the requester represent a party?** Yes David Fields

## Transcript Information:

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**Docket Number:** 2023GS0701602  
**Court Type:** Circuit  
**County:** Beaufort  
**Case Caption:** The State of South Carolina vs Fields Jr, David  
**Appeal Pending?** Court of Appeals

**Death Penalty?** No

**Start Date of Proceeding:** 2/24/2025

**End Date of Proceeding:** 2/27/2025

**Presiding Judge:** Bonds, Robert J.

**Court reporter daily assignments:**

2/24/2025 (Monday): Williams , Kymberlee Mignanelli

2/25/2025 (Tuesday): Williams , Kymberlee Mignanelli

2/26/2025 (Wednesday): Williams , Kymberlee Mignanelli

2/27/2025 (Thursday): Williams , Kymberlee Mignanelli

**Opposing Counsel and/or other parties information:**

(Attorney) David Fields

(Defendant) David Fields Jr

**Next hearing date:** *Date not entered*

**Portion of proceeding to be transcribed:** Entire Hearing

## Delivery Information:

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**Delivery Timeframe:** Regular Delivery (60 days)

**Delivery Method:** PDF/Email

**Delivery Timeframe:** Court Appointed Counsel

**Appeals Attorney:** SCCID

**Email:** dwhite@sccid.sc.gov

# **EXHIBIT 2**



**RECEIVED**

**Jun 05 2025**

**SC Court of Appeals**

**The Supreme Court of South Carolina**

TITLE OF CASE ( State of South Carolina  
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( V. 2023GS0701602  
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( David Fields  
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**Notice**

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Upon request and for good cause shown, Kymberlee Williams , Court Reporter, is hereby granted an extension up to and including June 28, 2025 to prepare and deliver the Transcript of Record in the above case.

Tammie Holmes

Court Reporter Manager  
South Carolina Court Administration

Columbia, South Carolina  
06/05/2025

cc: Division of Appellate Defense  
Court of Appeals  
Kymberlee Williams

# **EXHIBIT 3**



## The South Carolina Court of Appeals

JENNY ABBOTT KITCHINGS  
CLERK

CATHERINE S. HARRISON  
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

POST OFFICE BOX 11629  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29211  
1220 SENATE STREET  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201  
TELEPHONE: (803) 734-1890  
FAX: (803) 734-1839  
[www.sccourts.org](http://www.sccourts.org)

July 23, 2025

Mrs. Wanda H. Carter, Esquire  
Appellate Defense  
PO Box 11589  
Columbia SC 29211

Re: The State v. David Fields, Jr.  
Appellate Case No. 2025-000437

Dear Counsel:

Our records indicate that the transcript in the above matter should have been delivered. As of today's date, we have not received any information indicating that the court reporter has been granted an extension. Further, you have not notified us that you have failed to receive the transcript, nor have we received your initial brief.

If you have not yet received the transcript, Rule 207 of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules requires you to contact the Office of Court Administration. The address for Court Administration is as follows:

South Carolina Office of Court Administration  
1220 Senate Street, Suite 200  
Columbia, SC 29201  
[transcripts@sccourts.org](mailto:transcripts@sccourts.org)

Be sure to copy the Court and opposing counsel with all correspondence concerning the transcript.

Please advise the Court of the status of the transcript within ten (10) days of the date of this letter, or your appeal will be dismissed.

Very truly yours,

  
CLERK

cc: Alan McCrory Wilson, Esquire  
Mark Reynolds Farthing, Esquire

# **EXHIBIT 4**

RECEIVED

Aug 06 2025

SC Court of Appeals



Division of Appellate Defense  
1330 Lady Street, Suite 401  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201-3332  
Post Office Box 11589  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211-1589  
Telephone: (803) 734-1330  
Facsimile: (803) 734-1345

Wanda H. Carter, Interim Chief Appellate Defender

August 06, 2025

Ms. Tammie Holmes  
S.C. Court Administration  
1220 Senate Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Ms. Holmes:

The transcript listed below was requested by this office. Pursuant to Rule 207(a)(2), SCACR, the allotted time of sixty (60) days has lapsed to either receive the transcript or an extension to deliver same.

| <u>Court Reporter</u>            | <u>Due Date</u> | <u>Case Name</u>                               |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Kymberlee Mignanelli<br>Williams | 6/28/2025       | The State v. David Fields, Jr.,<br>2025-000437 |

Trial Date(s): Feb. 24-27, 2025

I would appreciate your confirming in writing as to the status of the above-referenced transcript. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

s/Della White  
Administrative Coordinator

cc: S.C. Court of Appeals  
Attorney General's Office  
Kymberlee MignanelliWilliams

# **EXHIBIT 5**

**Aug 07 2025**

**SC Court of Appeals**

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
In the Court of Appeals

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APPEAL FROM BEAUFORT COUNTY  
Robert J. Bonds, Circuit Court Judge

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Lower Court Case Nos.  
2019-GS-07-01436, 2019-GS-07-01437, 2019-GS-07-01438,  
2019-GS-07-01441, 2019-GS-07-01442,  
2023-GS-07-01601, 2023-GS-07-01602, 2023-GS-07-01603

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The State, Respondent,

v.

David Fields, Jr., Appellant.

Appellate Case No. 2025-000437

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MOTION TO SUBSTITUTE COUNSEL

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Undersigned counsel respectfully moves this Court to substitute himself as counsel for Appellant, David Fields, in the above-captioned appeal. Appellant retained undersigned to serve as appellate counsel in place of the Office of Appellate Defense. Undersigned respectfully requests this Court order that undersigned counsel shall represent Appellant, and that the Office of Appellate Defense be relieved. Appellant consents to this request.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Adam Ruffin

Adam Sinclair Ruffin

SC Bar No. 101350

1320 Main Street, Suite 300

Columbia, SC 29201

(803) 470-5629

adam@ruffinappeals.com

Attorney for David Fields, Jr.

**RECEIVED**

**Aug 07 2025**

**SC Court of Appeals**

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
In the Court of Appeals

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APPEAL FROM BEAUFORT COUNTY  
Robert J. Bonds, Circuit Court Judge

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Lower Court Case Nos.  
2019-GS-07-01436, 2019-GS-07-01437, 2019-GS-07-01438,  
2019-GS-07-01441, 2019-GS-07-01442,  
2023-GS-07-01601, 2023-GS-07-01602, 2023-GS-07-01603

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The State, Respondent,

v.

David Fields, Jr., Appellant.

Appellate Case No. 2025-000437

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PROOF OF SERVICE

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Pursuant to Rule 262(c)(3), SCACR, undersigned counsel hereby certifies that a true copy of the motion to substitute counsel in the above-referenced case has been served upon Wanda H. Carter, Alan Wilson, and Mark Farthing at their primary e-mail addresses listed in the Attorney Information System (AIS), this 7<sup>th</sup> day of August 2025. Undersigned also certifies that a true copy has been mailed to Appellant, David Fields, at 990 Wisacky Highway, Bishopville, SC 29010 this 7<sup>th</sup> day of August 2025.

s/Adam Ruffin  
Adam Sinclair Ruffin  
SC Bar No. 101350  
1320 Main Street, Suite 300  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 470-5629  
adam@ruffinappeals.com

Attorney for David Fields, Jr.

# **EXHIBIT 6**

**From:** [Holmes, Tammie](#)  
**To:** [White, Della](#); [Court Of Appeals Filings](#)  
**Cc:** [Williams, Kymberlee](#); [Mark Farthing](#); [Caroline Collins](#)  
**Subject:** RE: 2025-000437 David Fields status letter  
**Date:** Friday, August 8, 2025 1:30:28 AM

---

Good afternoon Kymberlee.

Please send Ms. White the status of the above referenced transcript and copy me on the same.

Thank you,

Tammie M. Holmes  
Court Reporter Manager  
South Carolina Judicial Branch  
1220 Senate Street, Ste. 200  
Columbia, SC 29201  
[tholmes@sccourts.org](mailto:tholmes@sccourts.org)  
803-734-1825

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**From:** White, Della <dwhite@sccid.sc.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 6, 2025 2:50 PM  
**To:** Court Of Appeals Filings <ctappfilings@sccourts.org>; Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>  
**Cc:** Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>; Mark Farthing <mfarthing@scag.gov>; Caroline Collins <ccollins@scag.gov>  
**Subject:** 2025-000437 David Fields status letter

**\*\*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside the organization. Please exercise caution before clicking any links or opening attachments. \*\*\*

Good morning,

Please find attached for filing the status letter in the above-referenced case.

Opposing Counsel is copied on the email.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you,

Della White  
SC Commission on Indigent Defense  
1330 Lady Street, Suite 401  
P.O. Box 11589  
Columbia, SC 29201  
Office: 803-734-1330

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# **EXHIBIT 7**

# The South Carolina Court of Appeals

The State, Respondent,

v.

David Fields, Jr., Appellant

Appellate Case No. 2025-000437

The Honorable Robert J. Bonds

Beaufort County

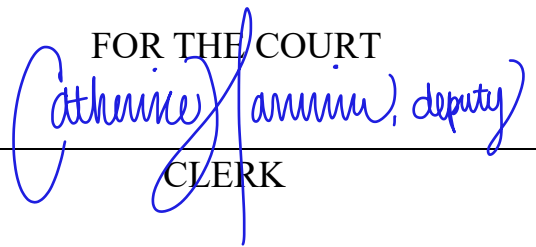
Trial Court Case No. 2019GS0701437, 2019GS0701442,  
2019GS0701436, 2019GS0701441, 2019GS0701438,  
2023GS0701602, 2023GS0701601, 2023GS0701603

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## ORDER

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The Court has received a motion to substitute Adam Ruffin, Esquire as counsel for the Appellant. No return was received. The motion is Granted. Wanda H. Carter, Esquire is relieved as counsel of record. Adam Ruffin, Esquire is counsel of record.

FOR THE COURT  
BY  CLERK

Columbia, South Carolina

cc:

Alan McCrory Wilson, Esquire

Mark Reynolds Farthing, Esquire

Wanda H. Carter, Esquire

Adam Sinclair Ruffin, Esquire

**FILED**  
**Aug 20 2025**

# **EXHIBIT 8**

**From:** [Transcripts](#)  
**To:** [Transcripts](#); [Court Of Appeals Filings](#)  
**Subject:** Transcript Request for Docket Number 2019GS0701437  
**Date:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 10:47:49 AM

---

Greetings,

You are receiving this notice and the **summarized Transcript Request shown below** for the case **The State of South Carolina vs Fields, David Jr.**

Pursuant to Rule 207(a)(1), SCACR, you are being notified that the transcript has been requested on **8/21/2025**. There is no action required.

If you need further assistance, please contact us at [transcripts@sccourts.org](mailto:transcripts@sccourts.org).

Regards,

Court Administration

Summarized Transcript Request ID: **216868126**

## Requester Information:

---

**Name:** Adam Ruffin

**Entity:** *Not entered*

**Phone Number:** (803) 470-5629

**Email:** [adam@ruffinappeals.com](mailto:adam@ruffinappeals.com)

**Address:** 1320 Main Street, Suite 300 Columbia, SC 29201

**Is the requester a party on the case?** No

**Does the requester represent a party?** Yes David Fields

## Transcript Information:

---

**Docket Number:** 2019GS0701437

**Court Type:** Circuit

**County:** Beaufort

**Case Caption:** The State of South Carolina vs Fields, David Jr

**Appeal Pending?** Court of Appeals

**Death Penalty?** No

**Start Date of Proceeding:** 2/24/2025

**End Date of Proceeding:** 2/27/2025

**Presiding Judge:** Bonds, Robert J.

**Court reporter daily assignments:**

2/24/2025 (Monday): Williams, Kymberlee Mignanelli

2/25/2025 (Tuesday): Williams, Kymberlee Mignanelli

2/26/2025 (Wednesday): Williams, Kymberlee Mignanelli

2/27/2025 (Thursday): Williams, Kymberlee Mignanelli

**Opposing Counsel and/or other parties information:**

(Attorney) Courtney Ann Gibbes

(email): cgibbes@bcgov.net

(Defendant) David Jr Fields

(State Attorney) Mark Farthing

(email): mfarthing@scag.gov

**Next hearing date:** *Date not entered*

**Portion of proceeding to be transcribed:** Entire Hearing

## Delivery Information:

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**Delivery Timeframe:** Regular Delivery (60 days)

**Delivery Method:** PDF/Email

**Delivery Timeframe:** Private/Self

# **EXHIBIT 9**



# The Supreme Court of South Carolina

**RECEIVED**

**Oct 31 2025**

**SC Court of Appeals**

( State of South Carolina  
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(  
(  
TITLE OF ( V. 2023GS0701602  
CASE (   
(   
(   
( David Fields  
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(

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## Notice

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Upon request and for good cause shown, Kymberlee Williams , Court Reporter, is hereby granted an extension up to and including November 21, 2025 to prepare and deliver the Transcript of Record in the above case.

Tammie Holmes

Court Reporter Manager  
South Carolina Court Administration

Columbia, South Carolina  
10/31/2025

cc: Adam Ruffin  
Court of Appeals  
Kymberlee Williams

# **EXHIBIT 10**



## The South Carolina Court of Appeals

JENNY ABBOTT KITCHINGS  
CLERK

CATHERINE S. HARRISON  
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

POST OFFICE BOX 11629  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29211  
1220 SENATE STREET  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201  
TELEPHONE: (803) 734-1890  
FAX: (803) 734-1839  
[www.sccourts.org](http://www.sccourts.org)

December 3, 2025

Mr. Adam Sinclair Ruffin, Esquire  
1320 Main Street  
Suite 300  
Columbia SC 29201-2941

Re: The State v. David Fields, Jr.  
Appellate Case No. 2025-000437

Dear Counsel:

Our records indicate that the transcript in the above matter should have been delivered. As of today's date, we have not received any information indicating that the court reporter has been granted an extension. Further, you have not notified us that you have failed to receive the transcript, nor have we received your initial brief.

If you have not yet received the transcript, Rule 207 of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules requires you to contact the Office of Court Administration. The address for Court Administration is as follows:

South Carolina Office of Court Administration  
1220 Senate Street, Suite 200  
Columbia, SC 29201  
[transcripts@sccourts.org](mailto:transcripts@sccourts.org)

Be sure to copy the Court and opposing counsel with all correspondence concerning the transcript.

Please advise the Court of the status of the transcript within ten (10) days of the date of this letter, or your appeal will be dismissed.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jasmine D. Smith, Deputy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CLERK

cc: Alan McCrory Wilson, Esquire  
Mark Reynolds Farthing, Esquire

# **EXHIBIT 11**

RUFFIN LAW FIRM, LLC  
APPELLATE LITIGATION

Adam Sinclair Ruffin  
1320 Main Street, Suite 300  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 470-5629  
adam@ruffinappeals.com

---

**RECEIVED**  
**Dec 03 2025**  
**SC Court of Appeals**

December 3, 2025

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings  
Clerk of the South Carolina Court of Appeals  
PO Box 11629  
Columbia, SC 29211

Re: State v. David Fields  
Appellate Case No. 2025-000437

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

I have not received the transcript in the above-referenced case. However, yesterday I received notification that the court reporter has requested an extension until January 21, 2026. That email is attached to this letter. Thank you.

Sincerely,

s/Adam Ruffin  
Adam Sinclair Ruffin  
Ruffin Law Firm, LLC

cc: Mark Farthing, Esquire

---

**Re: State v David Fields - 2023GS0701602**

---

**From** Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

**Date** Tue 2025-12-02 11:41 AM

**To** ExtensionRequest <extensionrequest@sccourts.org>

**Cc** Budreau, Leah <lbudreau@sccourts.org>; Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>

 2 attachments (71 KB)

STATE.V.DAVID.FIELDS.EXT.3.012126.pdf; STATE.V.DAVID.FIELDS.EXT.2.120225.pdf;

Ext. 2 and 3

Kymberlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR  
State of South Carolina  
Official Circuit Court Reporter III  
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit  
(843) 575-4428

The message is intended exclusively for the individual or entity to which it is addressed. This communication may contain information that is privileged, confidential or otherwise exempt from disclosure. If you are not the named addressee, you are not authorized to read, print, retain, copy or disseminate this message. If you have received this message in error, please contact me immediately and delete all copies of this message.

---

**From:** ExtensionRequest <extensionrequest@sccourts.org>

**Sent:** Friday, October 31, 2025 10:12 AM

**To:** Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>; ExtensionRequest <extensionrequest@sccourts.org>; Budreau, Leah <lbudreau@sccourts.org>

**Subject:** RE: State v David Fields - 2023GS0701602

Thank you for the update.

Thank you,

**Jeff LeBlanc**  
Court Reporter Supervisor  
S.C. Judicial Branch  
1220 Senate Street, Suite 200  
Columbia, SC 29201

803.734.1848

The message is intended exclusively for the individual or entity to which it is addressed. This communication may contain information that is privileged, confidential or otherwise exempt from disclosure. If you are not the named addressee, you are not authorized to read, print, retain, copy or disseminate this message. If you have received this message in error, please contact me immediately and delete all copies of this message.

---

**From:** Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

**Sent:** Friday, October 31, 2025 10:00 AM

**To:** ExtensionRequest <extensionrequest@sccourts.org>; Budreau, Leah <lbudreau@sccourts.org>

**Subject:** Re: State v David Fields - 2023GS0701602

Yes, he reordered the transcript. If I didn't explain that clearly, that is what happened.  
I will forward the necessary email.

Kymberlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR  
State of South Carolina  
Official Circuit Court Reporter III  
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit  
(843) 575-4428

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---

**From:** ExtensionRequest <extensionrequest@sccourts.org>

**Sent:** Friday, October 31, 2025 9:44 AM

**To:** Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>; ExtensionRequest <extensionrequest@sccourts.org>;  
Budreau, Leah <lbudreau@sccourts.org>

**Subject:** RE: State v David Fields - 2023GS0701602

Hey Kymberlee,

Did Mr. Ruffin reorder the transcript?

Please respond all so Leah is copied.

Thank you,

**Jeff LeBlanc**  
Court Reporter Supervisor  
S.C. Judicial Branch  
1220 Senate Street, Suite 200  
Columbia, SC 29201

803.734.1848

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---

**From:** Williams, Kimberlee <[kwilliams@sccourts.org](mailto:kwilliams@sccourts.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 31, 2025 9:27 AM  
**To:** ExtensionRequest <[extensionrequest@sccourts.org](mailto:extensionrequest@sccourts.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: State v David Fields - 2023GS0701602

Good morning, Jeff. Happy Friday.

This transcript was originally ordered by Della White.  
Mr. Fields decided to go a different route with another attorney.  
The new attorney is the one indicated on the request for extension.

His name is Adam Ruffin. I can only guess that the first extension was requested before Mr. Ruffin took over and SCCID was relieved of their representation.

Kymerlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR  
State of South Carolina  
Official Circuit Court Reporter III  
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit  
(843) 575-4428

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---

**From:** ExtensionRequest <[extensionrequest@sccourts.org](mailto:extensionrequest@sccourts.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 31, 2025 9:23 AM  
**To:** Williams, Kimberlee <[kwilliams@sccourts.org](mailto:kwilliams@sccourts.org)>; Budreau, Leah <[lbudreau@sccourts.org](mailto:lbudreau@sccourts.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: State v David Fields - 2023GS0701602

Good morning, Kymerlee,

I see there was an extension already approved for this transcript, but the extension date was June 28, 2025. Please explain why the order date has changed on your report.

Thank you,

Jeff LeBlanc

Court Reporter Supervisor  
S.C. Judicial Branch  
1220 Senate Street, Suite 200  
Columbia, SC 29201  
803.734.1848

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---

**From:** Williams, Kimberlee <[kwilliams@sccourts.org](mailto:kwilliams@sccourts.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 9:19 PM  
**To:** ExtensionRequest <[extensionrequest@sccourts.org](mailto:extensionrequest@sccourts.org)>  
**Cc:** [adam@ruffinappeals.com](mailto:adam@ruffinappeals.com)  
**Subject:** State v David Fields - 2023GS0701602

Ext 1.

Kymerlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR  
State of South Carolina  
Official Circuit Court Reporter III  
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit  
(843) 575-4428

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EXHIBIT 12



RECEIVED

Dec 04 2025

SC Court of Appeals

The Supreme Court of South Carolina

TITLE OF CASE (State of South Carolina
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(V. 2023GS0701602
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(David Fields
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Notice

Upon request and for good cause shown, Kymberlee Williams , Court Reporter, is hereby granted an extension up to and including December 21, 2025 to prepare and deliver the Transcript of Record in the above case.

Tammie Holmes

Court Reporter Manager
South Carolina Court Administration

Columbia, South Carolina
12/04/2025

cc: Adam Ruffin
Court of Appeals
Kymberlee Williams

EXHIBIT 13



RECEIVED

Dec 04 2025

SC Court of Appeals

The Supreme Court of South Carolina

TITLE OF CASE (State of South Carolina
(
(
(
(V. 2023GS0701602
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(
(David Fields
(
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Notice

Upon request and for good cause shown, Kymberlee Williams , Court Reporter, is hereby granted an extension up to and including January 21, 2026 to prepare and deliver the Transcript of Record in the above case.

Tammie Holmes

Court Reporter Manager
South Carolina Court Administration

Columbia, South Carolina
12/04/2025

cc: Adam Ruffin
Court of Appeals
Kymberlee Williams

EXHIBIT 14

RECEIVED

Jan 22 2026

SC Court of Appeals

**RUFFIN LAW FIRM, LLC
APPELLATE LITIGATION**

Adam Sinclair Ruffin
1320 Main Street, Suite 300
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 470-5629
adam@ruffinappeals.com

January 22, 2026

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings
Clerk of the South Carolina Court of Appeals
PO Box 11629
Columbia, SC 29211

Re: State v. David Fields
Appellate Case No. 2025-000437

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

I have not received the transcript in the above-referenced case. I respectfully request that the transcript be produced as expeditiously as possible.

The transcript in this case was initially ordered by the Office of Appellate Defense on March 28, 2025. The court reporter responded that the transcript would be ready by May 28, 2025. On June 5, 2025, an extension was granted until June 28, 2025. On July 23, 2025, the Court sent Appellate Defense a letter indicating that the transcript was overdue. On August 6, 2025, Appellate Defense sent a letter advising they had not received the transcript or another extension request.

I filed a motion to substitute counsel on August 7, 2025, which was granted by the Court on August 20, 2025. Since Appellate Defense had still not received the transcript, I ordered it on behalf of Mr. Fields on August 21, 2025. On October 31, 2025, an extension was granted until November 21, 2025. On December 4, 2025, the court reporter was granted two extensions at the same time, one until December 21, 2025 and another until January 21, 2026.

The transcript that was originally ordered on March 28, 2025 has still not been produced and has been extended four separate times. I emailed the court reporter this morning and got an automatic reply that she is out on medical leave until April 21, 2026.

I respectfully request that the transcript be produced and delivered as soon as possible so that Mr. Fields' appeal can move forward. Thank you.

Sincerely,

s/Adam Ruffin

Adam Sinclair Ruffin
Ruffin Law Firm, LLC

cc: Mark Farthing, Esquire
Kymberlee Williams
Tammie Holmes
South Carolina Court Administration

Automatic reply: David Fields Transcript

From Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

Date Thu 2026-01-22 9:57 AM

To Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>

I will be out of the office for medical leave until 04/21/26.

I will be checking emails periodically, but I may not be able to respond the same day.

Thank you for your understanding.

**Kymberlee Williams, CSR/RPR
State of South Carolina
Official Circuit Court Reporter III
[\(843\) 575-4428](tel:8435754428)**

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# **EXHIBIT 15**

**From:** [Williams, Kymberlee](#)  
**To:** [Adam Ruffin](#)  
**Cc:** [Court Of Appeals Filings](#); [Transcripts](#); [Budreau, Leah](#)  
**Subject:** Re: 2025-000437 - State v. Fields - Transcript Not Received  
**Date:** Thursday, January 22, 2026 9:16:04 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-kcid5xfr.png](#)  
[2025-000437 - State v. Fields - Transcript Not Received.pdf](#)

---

Good evening.

I am still working on Mr. Fields' transcript, and I have been out on medical leave since the last quarter of 2025.

This transcript will be completed soon, and any delays are not the fault of Mr. Ruffin.

Thank you for your continued patience during this period.

Kymberlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR  
State of South Carolina  
Official Circuit Court Reporter III  
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit  
(843) 575-4428

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---

**From:** Adam Ruffin <[adam@ruffinappeals.com](mailto:adam@ruffinappeals.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 22, 2026 4:41 PM  
**To:** [Court Of Appeals Filings <ctappfilings@sccourts.org>](mailto:ctappfilings@sccourts.org)  
**Cc:** [Mark Farthing <mfarthing@scag.gov>](mailto:mfarthing@scag.gov); [Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>](mailto:kwilliams@sccourts.org); [Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>](mailto:tholmes@sccourts.org); [Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>](mailto:transcripts@sccourts.org)  
**Subject:** 2025-000437 - State v. Fields - Transcript Not Received

\*\*\* **EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside the organization. Please exercise caution before clicking any links or opening attachments. \*\*\*

Good afternoon,

Please find attached correspondence in the above-referenced appeal. Thank you.

Adam Ruffin

Ruffin Law Firm, LLC  
<https://ruffinappeals.com>  
[adam@ruffinappeals.com](mailto:adam@ruffinappeals.com)  
(803) 470-5629



**RUFFIN LAW FIRM**  
APPELLATE LITIGATION

# **EXHIBIT 16**

RUFFIN LAW FIRM, LLC  
APPELLATE LITIGATION

Adam Sinclair Ruffin  
1320 Main Street, Suite 300  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 470-5629  
adam@ruffinappeals.com

---

**RECEIVED**  
**Mar 02 2026**  
**SC Court of Appeals**

March 2, 2026

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings  
Clerk of the South Carolina Court of Appeals  
PO Box 11629  
Columbia, SC 29211

Re: State v. David Fields  
Appellate Case No. 2025-000437

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

I have still not received the transcript in the above-referenced case. I have attached the email thread between me and Ms. Williams which documents our communication since my last letter. While the emails speak for themselves, I would like to draw the Court's attention to a couple of key sections.

On February 11, Ms. Williams indicated that the transcript was "typed," and she just needed to "finish proofreading it and make formatting corrections." On February 17, Ms. Williams indicated that she hoped the transcript would be completed that day. By Friday February 20, I still had not received the transcript so reached out to her again for an update. On February 23, this past Monday, Ms. Williams indicated that the transcript was "almost done" and that she would let me know "which day this week it will be finished." On Friday February 27, I had not heard anything additional from Ms. Williams so I reached out to see if it would be completed by the end of the day. Ms. Williams' response appeared out of character from her previous emails to me. After apologizing for her comments, Ms. Williams suggested that the "better plan" was to "deliver [the transcript] in volumes over the weekend." Unfortunately, the weekend is over and I have received zero "volumes" of the transcript.

I am cognizant of the high case load and difficult job our court reporters have and do not send this letter lightly. Given the difficulty in obtaining the transcript in this case though, I respectfully ask the Court to take remedial action to ensure prompt production of the transcript—preferably within ten days of the date of this letter. I additionally request that the transcript be produced without costs to Mr. Fields given the long delay in production.

Sincerely,

s/Adam Ruffin  
Adam Sinclair Ruffin  
Ruffin Law Firm, LLC

cc: Mark Farthing, Esquire  
Kymberlee Williams  
Tammie Holmes  
South Carolina Court Administration

---

**Re: David Fields Transcript**

---

**From** Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>  
**Date** Fri 2026-02-27 8:56 PM  
**To** Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

I didn't take it as disrespectful to me but I did find your comments a little disrespectful to Mr. Fields. I will notify them Monday morning and provide them with a copy of this email thread if I haven't received the entire thing by then.

Adam

---

**From:** Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 27, 2026 5:48 PM  
**To:** Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>  
**Subject:** Re: David Fields Transcript

I am touching base. If you need to notify the COA before the Monday morning, I understand. I am doing my best, and you will soon see when you read it. I think a better plan is to deliver it in volumes over the weekend.

Also, I am so sorry to be disrespectful in thinking you are a newbie independent attorney. That is entirely my fault. Della told me you are great, and you used to be one of them. I guess I took that to mean you were recently out on your own, and I definitely didn't mean to be disrespectful.

Thank you for your patience.

Kymberlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR  
State of South Carolina  
Official Circuit Court Reporter III  
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit  
(843) 575-4428

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---

**From:** Williams, Kimberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 27, 2026 12:02 PM  
**To:** Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>  
**Subject:** Re: David Fields Transcript

Understood.

Thank you.

Kimberlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR  
State of South Carolina  
Official Circuit Court Reporter III  
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit  
(843) 575-4428

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---

**From:** Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 27, 2026 11:56 AM  
**To:** Williams, Kimberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>  
**Subject:** Re: David Fields Transcript

\*\*\* **EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside the organization. Please exercise caution before clicking any links or opening attachments. \*\*\*

No he is not one of my first clients but this is certainly the longest I have ever had to wait for a transcript. Please send it today or I will have to update the Court again that it has still not been produced. Thank you.

Adam

---

**From:** Williams, Kimberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 27, 2026 8:37 AM  
**To:** Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>  
**Subject:** Re: David Fields Transcript

yes, sir! This wk. We can't let Mr fields linger. He is bipolar (for real) and impatient and I think he is one of yr  
First clients since u went out on yr own.  
The good news is, Mr fields know me, and had felt free to email me for 3 yrs.  
it will b fine. 😊

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 27, 2026 9:06:49 AM  
**To:** Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>  
**Subject:** Re: David Fields Transcript

**\*\*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside the organization. Please exercise caution before clicking any links or opening attachments. \*\*\*

Hey Kymberlee I wanted to check in again. Do you still think you will finish this by today? I told my client we would have it this week.

Adam

---

**From:** Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 23, 2026 8:12 AM  
**To:** Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>  
**Subject:** Re: David Fields Transcript

Good morning. Touching base with you on this. Please bear with me a little bit longer. It's almost done, and I'm sorry it's moving along very slowly. I will keep you posted as to which day this week it will be finished.

Thanks so much.

Kymberlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR  
State of South Carolina  
Official Circuit Court Reporter III  
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit  
(843) 575-4428

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---

**From:** Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2026 10:03 AM  
**To:** Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>  
**Subject:** Re: David Fields Transcript

**\*\*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside the organization. Please exercise caution before clicking any links or opening attachments. \*\*\*

Hey just checking in to see when you think you will be able to get this to me. Thanks!

---

**From:** Williams, Kimberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2026 2:17 PM  
**To:** Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>  
**Subject:** Re: David Fields Transcript

Keeping you posted on this. Still working on it, and I hope to have it finished today.

Thanks so much!

Kimberlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR  
State of South Carolina  
Official Circuit Court Reporter III  
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit  
(843) 575-4428

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---

**From:** Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2026 9:48 AM  
**To:** Williams, Kimberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>  
**Subject:** Re: David Fields Transcript

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Okay great thank you please keep me posted.

---

**From:** Williams, Kimberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2026 4:16 PM  
**To:** Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>  
**Subject:** Re: David Fields Transcript

Hi, Adam:

Thanks for checking in on the status. Finally had surgery last week, and I was out of commission from Tues. 2-3 until Tuesday 2-10 (yesterday).

I am working to finish this by the weekend. I thought the latest extension gave us until the 21st, and it will definitely be done before then. It's typed, I just have to finish proofreading it and make formatting corrections.

Please bear with me until Monday. We will both be happy when this is finished.

If I don't think I can finish it over the weekend, I will let you know by Saturday morning; however, I do not foresee any other delays.

Thanks so much!

Kymerlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR  
State of South Carolina  
Official Circuit Court Reporter III  
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit  
(843) 575-4428

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---

**From:** Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2026 9:08 AM  
**To:** Williams, Kymerlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>  
**Subject:** David Fields Transcript

**\*\*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside the organization. Please exercise caution before clicking any links or opening attachments. \*\*\*  
Hey Kymerlee,

I just wanted to check in to see if you had an estimated time as to when you think this transcript will be completed? Thank you!

Adam

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EXHIBIT 17

RECEIVED

May 29 2026

SC Court of Appeals

**RUFFIN LAW FIRM, LLC
APPELLATE LITIGATION**

Adam Sinclair Ruffin
1320 Main Street, Suite 300
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 470-5629
adam@ruffinappeals.com

May 29, 2026

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings
Clerk of the South Carolina Court of Appeals
PO Box 11629
Columbia, SC 29211

Re: State v. David Fields
Appellate Case No. 2025-000437

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

It has been almost three months since my last letter to the Court advising that the transcript in this case had not been delivered. Volume 1 of the transcript was delivered on March 26. Volumes 2 – 4 have still not been delivered. The transcript is many months overdue and to the best of my knowledge no extension has been requested or granted by the Chief Justice as required under Rule 607(e), SCACR.

I renew my request that this Court ensure prompt delivery of the transcript at no cost to Mr. Fields. I have attached email correspondence between me and the court reporter over the last three months. The emails show a pattern of the court reporter promising to deliver the transcript “today” or “this week” but not doing so.

Incredibly, this morning I received an email from the court reporter indicating that she will never complete the transcript and that it will be assigned to a different court reporter. This notification comes more than one year after the initial transcript request was made and after many months of misrepresentations made by the court reporter regarding her progress on the transcript. This should be unacceptable to this Court.

Respectfully, and regrettably, I request the Court take some action to bring the court reporter into compliance with this Court’s rules.

Sincerely,

s/Adam Ruffin
Adam Sinclair Ruffin
Ruffin Law Firm, LLC

cc: Mark Farthing, Esquire
Kymberlee Williams
Tammie Holmes
South Carolina Court Administration

State v David Fields

From Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

Date Fri 2026-05-29 7:04 AM

To Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>

Cc Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>; Budreau, Leah <lbudreau@sccourts.org>

Good morning:

Due to my current workload, I will be unable to complete this transcript. It will be turned over to court administration for completion. They will be contacting you when it is reassigned.

Thank you.

Kymberlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR
State of South Carolina
Official Circuit Court Reporter III
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit
(843) 575-4339

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Re: David Fields

---

From Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

Date Wed 2026-05-27 1:45 PM

To Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>

Understood. Thank you.

Kymberlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR  
State of South Carolina  
Official Circuit Court Reporter III  
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit  
(843) 575-4339

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---

**From:** Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2026 1:43 PM

**To:** Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>; Aries Brown <ariestbrown@gmail.com>

**Cc:** Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>; Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>; Mark Farthing <mfarthing@scag.gov>

**Subject:** Re: David Fields

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Okay thank you. Since you have committed to having it ready tomorrow. I will wait until Friday morning before notifying the Court. It has been nearly 3 months since I last updated them and to the best of my knowledge no further extension has ever been requested or granted by the Chief Justice as required.

Adam

---

**From:** Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2026 1:32:43 PM

**To:** Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>; Aries Brown <ariestbrown@gmail.com>

**Cc:** Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>; Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>; Mark Farthing

<mfarthing@scag.gov>

**Subject:** Re: David Fields

I understand your frustration now.

Please bear with me for a few more days.

I have committed to court administration to have it ready tomorrow.

Since everyone is copied on this email, I will copy everyone when it's ready.

Thank you!

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2026 1:12:43 PM

**To:** Aries Brown <ariestbrown@gmail.com>; Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

**Cc:** Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>; Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>; Mark Farthing <mfarthing@scag.gov>

**Subject:** Re: David Fields

**\*\*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside the organization. Please exercise caution before clicking any links or opening attachments. \*\*\*

Hey Kymberlee I also would like an update please. For months you have been telling us the transcript will be delivered. What is going on? Months ago you said the transcript was already completed. Please just be honest with us. Instead of telling us it will be delivered today or this week please just give us an honest estimation.

Adam

---

**From:** Aries Brown <ariestbrown@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2026 6:22 AM

**To:** Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>; Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>

**Subject:** David Fields

Good Morning

Hope all is still going well with your recovery. I know you ask us to be patient but how much longer. You stated that it would be done 2 weeks ago and no results. This is becoming a little confusing at this point Mr fields just wants to continue this process

Thank you

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Re: david fields

From Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>

Date Thu 2026-05-14 8:41 AM

To Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

Cc Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>; Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>; Mark Farthing <mfarthing@scag.gov>

Hey Kymberlee,

Any update on this? Thanks!

Adam

From: Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 10:53 AM

To: Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>

Subject: david fields

Touching base. Working from the hotel in Charleston today.

We are going to get this ready for you today. I'm hoping by lunchtime, but it might be a little later than that.

Thanks, Adam!

Kymberlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR

State of South Carolina

Official Circuit Court Reporter III

Fourteenth Judicial Circuit

(843) 575-4428

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**Re: Transcripts David Fields**

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**From** Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

**Date** Mon 2026-04-13 9:19 AM

**To** Aries Brown <ariestbrown@gmail.com>

**Cc** Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>

Good morning. Happy Monday. Please be patient a little bit longer. I am clearing out my transcript backlog before I go back to work in a few weeks. Sorry for the delay, Aries. Mr. Ruffin will contact you later in the week when the transcript is ready.

Hope you are doing well. Glad to hear Mr. Fields is doing as well as can be expected under his circumstances.

Have a great day! 😊

Kymberlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR  
State of South Carolina  
Official Circuit Court Reporter III  
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit  
(843) 575-4428

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---

**From:** Aries Brown <ariestbrown@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, April 12, 2026 7:35 PM

**To:** Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

**Subject:** Transcripts David Fields

**\*\*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside the organization. Please exercise caution before clicking any links or opening attachments. \*\*\*

Good Afternoon Kymberlee

Hope all is well and your recovery is coming along well. I spoke with Mr. Fields and he sends his regards to you. He wanted to know when the next set of documents will be sent,

Thank you and continue to get well,

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Re: state v david fields

From Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>
Date Fri 2026-04-03 1:48 PM
To Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>
Cc Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>

Okay thank you for the update. I hope you have a great weekend too!

From: Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2026 1:04 PM
To: Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>
Cc: Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>
Subject: state v david fields

Good afternoon, Mr. Ruffin:

Hope this email finds you well. Updating you on Mr. Fields' transcript.

As you know, Volume 1 has been delivered. I expect to have the last three volumes delivered today. Definitely by Monday morning so Mr. Fields can move forward with his appeal.

Have a great holiday weekend.

Kymberlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR
State of South Carolina
Official Circuit Court Reporter III
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit
(843) 575-4428

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**mr. fields' transcript**

---

**From** Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

**Date** Fri 2026-03-27 12:58 PM

**To** Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>

Good afternoon. Not finished yet. All devices are on DND.

Mr. Fields' transcript is all I am focusing on now. I wish to thank you for your patience.

Back to work. I am certain Day 2 will be done today. It is currently over 200 pages. I will send it when it's done.

Best,

Kymberlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR  
State of South Carolina  
Official Circuit Court Reporter III  
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit  
(843) 575-4428

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Re: STATE V FIELDS - VOL I TRANSCRIPT

From Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>
Date Fri 2026-03-27 8:39 AM
To Williams, Kimberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>
Cc Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>

Thank you very much! I did not get volumes 2-4 yet. Did you send those already?

Adam

From: Williams, Kimberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2026 4:50 AM
To: Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>
Cc: Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>
Subject: STATE V FIELDS - VOL I TRANSCRIPT

Volume I.
Volumes 2 - 4 today as well in separate email.

Thank you.

Kimberlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR
State of South Carolina
Official Circuit Court Reporter III
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit
(843) 575-4428

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---

**Re: Transcripts**

---

**From** Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

**Date** Fri 2026-03-27 1:16 PM

**To** Aries Brown <ariestbrown@gmail.com>

**Cc** Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>

Ms. Brown:

I am updating you on Mr. Fields' transcript. I continue to work closely with Mr. Ruffin.

Again, I wish to express my apologies for not yet having it quite finished.

This is in no way Mr. Ruffin's doing. Mr. Ruffin is a very fine lawyer. We have not met personally, but his attention and professionalism to his clients is unwavering.

I am grateful Mr. Fields has entrusted us with this very important duty of helping him through this appeal process.

I ask you to be patient a bit longer for me to produce his trial transcript. I volunteered to cover Mr. Fields' trial, and I am very glad I did.

Please give my best to Mr. Fields should you speak to him over the weekend.

In the meantime, all of my devices are off, and my weekend will be about Mr. Fields and my part of his appeal equation.

Thank you so much.

Kymberlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR

State of South Carolina

Official Circuit Court Reporter III

Fourteenth Judicial Circuit

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---

**From:** Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 7:02 PM

**To:** Aries Brown <ariestbrown@gmail.com>

**Cc:** adam@ruffinappeals.com <adam@ruffinappeals.com>

**Subject:** Re: Transcripts

Ms. Brown:

Thank you for your email and inquiry about my medical issue. Very much appreciated.

I am not required to respond to your email since Mr. Fields has retained counsel. Mr. Ruffin is doing an outstanding job of representing Mr. Fields, and he is copied on this email so he is aware of this communication.

The chronology of events has gone as follows:

Prior to the guilty verdict, Mr. Fields made a transcript deposit of \$750 as agreed towards his trial transcript if convicted.

When contacted by you after the trial, I explained that I had sent his transcript over to a typist, and I was therefore unable to refund the deposit.

Next, his appeal was formally ordered through the SCCID (indigent defense) office. Once that happened, the 60-day clock started again. Extensions of time were granted during SCCID's representation.

In August of 2025, Mr. Ruffin's representation began. The clock started again. The new due date was October, and extensions were filed and granted. I went out on medical leave in October and then formally on 11-14-25. I remain on medical leave until the end of April.

Notwithstanding all of that, there are transcripts pending that are older than Mr. Fields' appeal. I understand the process is frustrating and confusing. Mr. Ruffin is providing the very best representation to Mr. Fields, and any delays are in no way caused by him. I am committed to having Mr. Fields' transcript completed and ready for review by Wednesday, 3-25-26 by the days' end so Mr. Fields can go forward with his appeal.

A supporting email will be sent to Mr. Ruffin, court administration, and you acknowledging completion of the transcript on Wednesday.

Thank you so much for your continued patience and understanding.

Kymberlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR  
State of South Carolina  
Official Circuit Court Reporter III  
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit  
(843) 575-4428

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---

**From:** Aries Brown <ariestbrown@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 6:18 PM

**To:** Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

**Subject:** Transcripts

**\*\*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside the organization. Please exercise caution before clicking any links or opening attachments. \*\*\*

Good Afternoon Kymberlee

On behalf of Mr. Fields I am writing to get an update on the transcripts that have been requested since march 2025. I understand that you are out on medical leave and I pray all is well however, before you went out we have been requesting these documents. Not to mention Mr. Fields paid \$750 before he was incarcerated. When asked for a refund in March of 2025 you stated that it was already sent out being worked on and you could not refund the money. I said ok and waited. Now we are 14 month out and no documents have been received yet. I understand that it takes time and you have a certain amount of time allowed to you, but a whole year with extension after extension is a bit much. Yes, I understand Mr. Fields has a lawyer now but before this lawyer was retained the state was also trying to receive these documents. Mr. Fields would like to understand how can he move forward with his appeal if his lawyer doesn't have the proper paperwork.

Thank you and once again hope your feeling better.

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Re: 2025-000437 - State v. Fields - Transcript Not Received 3.2.26

From Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>
Date Mon 2026-03-02 12:06 PM
To Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>
Cc Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>; Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>; Mark Farthing <mfarthing@scag.gov>

If the Court denies my request to produce the transcript at no cost, I will pay for it.

I am confused by your email to the Court this morning which suggests that you cannot or will not finish the transcript prior to late April. What happened to delivering it to me in volumes over the weekend? You have had one opportunity after another to finish this. It should have been finished long before you went on medical leave. And in this email to me now you say that you've never had an attorney request a transcript free of charge "after all the work associated with the production of the work product have been completed." So, have you completed the work, or not?

I have cc'd Tammie Holmes, Court Administration, and the Attorney for the State on this email as I think it is best they stay in the loop from here on out.

Adam

From: Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2026 11:46 AM
To: Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>
Subject: Re: 2025-000437 - State v. Fields - Transcript Not Received 3.2.26

Mr. Ruffin:

As indicated on Friday and at other times, this transcript is nearly complete. I have worked nearly 24/7 for many days trying to produce this transcript, especially this weekend, despite the fact that I am on medical leave recovering from surgery and trying to fulfill my transcript responsibilities despite my many limitations surrounding this recovery period.

The issue of funding came to my mind very early this morning. Mr. Fields gave me a trial transcript deposit of \$800 to secure production of his trial transcript. The total cost of this transcript will exceed \$2,500. I planned on discussing the issue of funding with you sometime today before the transcript is delivered. When a defendant obtains outside counsel, the court reporter often requires the entire transcript estimate prior to production.

In this case, I did not require additional funding up front. I knew Mr. Fields was a pro se defendant, and the invoice balance would need to be satisfied prior to delivery. Then Mr. Fields retained your services as the attorney of record to represent him in his appeal. This is the first time I have been in a situation with a large balance outstanding and uncertainty as to the payment of the balance when private counsel is involved. I never gave it any thought prior to

this morning. I didn't think I needed to. I have never had an attorney request a transcript be produced free of charge after all the work associated with the production of the work product have been completed.

My questions are this:

What are the proper billing channels since you are now involved? When will I expect payment of the invoice when submitted?

Additionally, there are three pre-trial hearings extending from 2022 to 2025. Finally, there was a hearing that occurred the week before the trial that needs to be transcribed as well if needed.

Please let me know which, if any, of these additional transcripts you need included for your appeal purposes, and the final invoice will be adjusted.

Respectfully submitted.

Kymberlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR
State of South Carolina
Official Circuit Court Reporter III
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit
(843) 575-4428

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From: Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 10:15 AM
To: Court Of Appeals Filings <ctappfilings@sccourts.org>
Cc: Mark Farthing <mfarthing@scag.gov>; Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>; Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>; Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>
Subject: 2025-000437 - State v. Fields - Transcript Not Received 3.2.26

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Good morning,

Please find attached correspondence in the above-referenced appeal. Thank you.

Adam Ruffin
Ruffin Law Firm, LLC
<https://ruffinappeals.com>
adam@ruffinappeals.com

(803) 470-5629



RUFFIN LAW FIRM
APPELLATE LITIGATION

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# **EXHIBIT 18**

## Adam Ruffin

---

**From:** Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 29, 2026 10:19 AM  
**To:** Adam Ruffin  
**Cc:** Court Of Appeals Filings; Holmes, Tammie; Budreau, Leah; Herrington, Karama; Senn, Kyle  
**Subject:** Re: 2025-000437 - State v. Fields - Transcript Not Received

Good morning, Mr. Ruffin:

Yesterday I was told to cease production on outstanding transcripts by Mr. Kyle Senn. Tammie Holmes the supervisor was out yesterday and today, so I wasn't able to address Mr. Fields' transcript specifically. If I am granted permission to complete this transcript to avoid further delay, I will certainly do that in order to be in compliance. I did not want to violate a direct order.

I sent an email this morning informing you that this transcript was going to be completed by another reporter pursuant to management direction.

Kymberlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR  
State of South Carolina  
Official Circuit Court Reporter III  
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit

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**From:** Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 29, 2026 9:01 AM  
**To:** Court Of Appeals Filings <ctappfilings@sccourts.org>  
**Cc:** Mark Farthing <mfarthing@scag.gov>; Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>; Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>; Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>  
**Subject:** 2025-000437 - State v. Fields - Transcript Not Received

**\*\*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside the organization. Please exercise caution before clicking any links or opening attachments. \*\*\*

Good morning,

Please find attached correspondence in the above-referenced appeal. Thank you.

Adam Ruffin  
Ruffin Law Firm, LLC

<https://ruffinappeals.com>  
[adam@ruffinappeals.com](mailto:adam@ruffinappeals.com)  
(803) 470-5629



**RUFFIN LAW FIRM**  
APPELLATE LITIGATION

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State v David Fields

From Williams, Kymberlee <kwilliams@sccourts.org>

Date Fri 2026-05-29 10:29 AM

To Senn, Kyle <ksenn@sccourts.org>

Cc Holmes, Tammie <tholmes@sccourts.org>; Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>; Budreau, Leah <lbudreau@sccourts.org>; Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>

Mr. Senn:

In light of Ms. Holmes' absence yesterday and t, I respectfully request an exception to your directive/email sent yesterday.

Mr. Fields' transcript has been addressed many times. I had coordinated with Mr. Ruffin to have the transcript delivered today, and if it wasn't received, the COA would be notified first thing this morning. An email was sent to Mr. Ruffin this morning and everyone was copied.

I respectfully request the opportunity to complete this transcript over the weekend to avoid further delay to Mr. Fields.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kymberlee Mignanelli Williams, CSR/RPR
State of South Carolina
Official Circuit Court Reporter III
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit

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# **EXHIBIT 19**

**RECEIVED**

**Jun 08 2026**

**SC Court of Appeals**

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
In the Court of Appeals

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APPEAL FROM BEAUFORT COUNTY  
Robert J. Bonds, Circuit Court Judge

---

Lower Court Case Nos.  
2019-GS-07-01436, 2019-GS-07-01437, 2019-GS-07-01438,  
2019-GS-07-01441, 2019-GS-07-01442,  
2023-GS-07-01601, 2023-GS-07-01602, 2023-GS-07-01603

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The State, Respondent,

v.

David Fields, Jr., Appellant.

Appellate Case No. 2025-000437

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MOTION TO COMPEL TRANSCRIPT

---

Undersigned counsel respectfully moves this Court to compel production of the transcript in this case within ten days at no cost to Mr. Fields. Undersigned also moves this Court to order the court reporter to refund the \$750 deposit for the transcript paid by Mr. Fields more than one year ago. Undersigned further requests that the court reporter be required to obtain approval from the Chief Justice to produce the transcript out of time in accordance with Rule 607(e), SCACR. This will ensure that the Chief Justice is made aware of the court reporter's disregard of her responsibilities as a court reporter. Finally, undersigned requests that this Court advise the court reporter that her continued failure to produce the transcript will result in contempt proceedings against her.

## Rules

Rule 607(d) of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules requires court reporters to deliver a transcript “no later than sixty (60) days after the date of the request.” Rule 607(e) allows a court reporter to request additional time if they anticipate “continuous engagement in the performance of other official duties which make it impossible to prepare a transcript” within the sixty days. “The Office of Court Administration may grant up to three extensions for a total of up to ninety (90) days.” *Id.* However, “[e]xtensions in excess of ninety (90) days shall not be allowed except by order of the Chief Justice.” *Id.* Furthermore, “[t]he willful failure of a court reporter to comply with the provisions of this Rule shall constitute contempt of court enforceable by order of the Supreme Court.” Rule 607(j), SCACR.

## Timeline

The timeline of the court reporter’s failure to produce the transcript in this case is jarring. It has been more than one year since the transcript in this case was initially requested by the Office of Appellate Defense. (Exhibit 1 – Initial Transcript Order). On June 5, 2025, the court reporter requested and received her first thirty-day extension. (Exhibit 2 – First Extension Order). On July 23, 2025, this Court sent Appellate Defense a letter indicating that the transcript was overdue and that Appellate Defense had ten days to provide an update regarding the status of the transcript. (Exhibit 3 – First Transcript Overdue Letter). On August 6, 2025, Appellate Defense sent this Court a letter notifying this Court that it had not received the transcript or a request for an extension from the court reporter.<sup>1</sup> (Exhibit 4 – First Transcript Not Received Letter).

---

<sup>1</sup> Appellate Defense sent this letter only after I advised their office of their failure to timely notify this Court about the late transcript. I had been made aware of this appeal by Mr. Fields and his family who were working to retain me at that time.

On August 7, 2025, I filed a motion to substitute counsel as I had been retained by Mr. Fields. (Exhibit 5 – Motion to Substitute Counsel). On August 8, 2025, Tammie Holmes sent an email to the court reporter requesting that she provide Appellate Defense with an update on the late transcript. (Exhibit 6 – Tammie Holmes Email). This Court granted my motion to substitute counsel on August 20, 2025. (Exhibit 7 – Order Substituting Counsel).

The day after this Court granted my motion to substitute counsel, I submitted a transcript request form through the transcript request portal. (Exhibit 8 – Ruffin Transcript Order). The court reporter obtained her second extension order on October 31, 2025, which gave her until November 21, 2025<sup>2</sup>. This put the due date for the transcript almost eight months after the initial request by Appellate Defense on March 28, 2025. (Exhibit 9 – Second Extension Order).

This Court sent me a transcript overdue letter on December 3, 2025, because the court reporter had not complied with the November 21 deadline. (Exhibit 10 – Second Transcript Overdue Letter). That same day, I responded to this Court’s letter indicating that the reason I had not notified this Court of the late transcript was because the day before I had received notification that the court reporter had requested an extension until January 21, 2026. (Exhibit 11 – Ruffin First Transcript Not Received Letter). This request was a sixty-day extension request, a request not allowed under Rule 607(e), SCACR. As a way of apparently skirting the rule, the court reporter styled the request as two separate thirty-day extension requests. *Id.* On December 4, 2025, two separate extension orders were granted by Tammie Holmes, one extending the transcript to

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<sup>2</sup> The court reporter and Court Administration appear to have treated my request for the transcript as restarting the 60-day clock entirely—even though my request, like Appellate Defense’s request, was made on behalf of the same party to the case, David Fields. While Rule 607 (d), SCACR does not provide for such a restarting of the clock, I felt it inadvisable to fight with the court reporter or Court Administration at that time.

December 21, 2025, and a second extension extending the transcript to January 21, 2026. (Exhibit 12 – Third Extension Order; Exhibit 13 - Fourth Extension Order).

On January 22, 2026, I sent a letter to this Court notifying it that I had not received the transcript and had received a notification that the court reporter had gone on medical leave. (Exhibit 14 – Ruffin Second Transcript Not Received Letter). The court reporter responded to my letter that same day indicating that the transcript would be completed “soon.” (Exhibit 15 – Court Reporter Email). This Court, did not respond to my letter or take any action that I am aware of to ensure delivery of the transcript.

Another two months went by with no request for additional time by the court reporter, and no action by this Court. On March 2, 2026, I sent another letter to this Court advising of the extremely overdue transcript with copies of my correspondence with the court reporter. The emails show the court reporter repeatedly promising to deliver the transcript and failing to do so. In that letter, I requested this Court to order the court reporter to produce the transcript within ten days and that the transcript be provided at no cost to Mr. Fields. (Exhibit 16 – Ruffin Third Transcript Not Received Letter). Again, this Court did not respond to my letter or take any action that I am aware of to ensure prompt production of the transcript. I continued to exercise patience because the court reporter was on medical leave and I did not believe it to be in the best interest of my client to fight with the court reporter.

Almost three months later, on May 29, 2026, still having not received the transcript, a request by the court reporter for an extension, or any correspondence from this Court, I sent a fourth letter advising of the overdue transcript. (Exhibit 17 – Ruffin Fourth Transcript Not Received Letter). In that letter, I attached my correspondence with the court reporter, and my client’s friend, Aries Brown’s correspondence with the court reporter. I specifically draw this

Court's attention to the email from the court reporter on March 23, 2026, where she acknowledges having received a down payment of \$750 for the transcript by Mr. Fields. Unbelievably, the court reporter told Ms. Brown that she was unable to refund the \$750 because she had "sent his transcript over to a typist." (Exhibit 17, p. 13). This email came more than one year after Mr. Fields' conviction, more than one year after his payment to her of \$750, and more almost one year after the transcript had been ordered by Appellate Defense.

As pointed out in my May 29 letter, that morning I received an email from the court reporter indicating that she would never complete the transcript and that it would be reassigned to a different court reporter. (Exhibit 17). Immediately after I filed my May 29 letter with this Court, I received two emails from the court reporter. First, she emailed me to say that she had been ordered by her supervisors to cease all work on all transcripts that were assigned to her. She claimed that her email to me from that morning indicating that the transcript was being reassigned to a different court reporter was because she "did not want to violate a direct order." (Exhibit 18 – Court Reporter Emails). The second email from the court reporter was directed at Kyle Senn. In that email the court reporter requested "an exception to [Mr. Senn's] directive" and that she be allowed "the opportunity to complete this transcript over the weekend to avoid further delay to Mr. Fields." *Id.*

### **Request for Relief**

It has now been ten days since my last letter and I believe I have no option other than to file this motion to compel production of the transcript. The court reporter has engaged in a pattern of promising to deliver the transcript and failing to do so for more than one year now. She has officially received four prior extension orders. The most recent order was issued on December 4, 2025, which granted the court reporter until January 21, 2026. (Exhibit 13). No extension has been

requested by the court reporter since December 2, 2025. The court reporter has not complied with the provisions of Rule 607, SCACR, to put it mildly.

Undersigned requests that this Court order the court reporter to do the following:

- (1) Request approval from the Chief Justice to produce the transcript outside the time limits imposed by Rule 607(e), SCACR;
- (2) Produce the transcript within ten days at no cost to Mr. Fields;
- (3) Refund Mr. Fields the \$750 deposit he paid to her; and
- (4) Advise the court reporter that continued failure to produce the transcript will result in contempt proceedings against her pursuant to Rule 607(j), SCACR.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Adam Ruffin  
Adam Sinclair Ruffin  
SC Bar No. 101350  
1320 Main Street, Suite 300  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 470-5629  
adam@ruffinappeals.com

Attorney for David Fields, Jr.

# **EXHIBIT 20**

RUFFIN LAW FIRM, LLC  
APPELLATE LITIGATION

**RECEIVED**  
**Jun 17 2026**  
**SC Court of Appeals**

Adam Sinclair Ruffin  
1320 Main Street, Suite 300  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 470-5629  
adam@ruffinappeals.com

---

June 17, 2026

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings  
Clerk of the South Carolina Court of Appeals  
PO Box 11629  
Columbia, SC 29211

Re: State v. David Fields  
Appellate Case No. 2025-000437

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

Yesterday, I received an email from Tammie Holmes telling me that the transcript in this case will be reassigned to a new court reporter. Today, I received two automated emails from transcripts@sccourts.org which misleadingly suggest that I requested the transcript today, with the delivery time frame listed as "Regular Deliver (60 days)". I made no such request. My most recent request is contained within the motion to compel filed last week. I received an email from Legal Eagle indicating that they had been assigned the transcript and gave an estimated cost of \$4,335.00 to produce the transcript in sixty days. I informed Legal Eagle of my pending motion and asked them not to proceed. I cannot agree to payment until this Court rules on my motion.

I bring this to the Court's attention to emphasize the urgent need for this Court to act. There can be no "regular delivery" of the transcript now. It was requested by Appellate Defense more than a year ago and has been more than ten months since I requested it. I have attached the most recent correspondence so this Court is aware of these communications in considering my pending motion to compel.

Sincerely,

s/Adam Ruffin  
Adam Sinclair Ruffin  
Ruffin Law Firm, LLC

cc: Mark Farthing, Esquire  
Kymberlee Williams  
Tammie Holmes  
South Carolina Court Administration

RECEIVED

Jun 17 2026

SC Court of Appeals

**From:** [Holmes, Tammie](#)  
**To:** [Adam Ruffin](#)  
**Subject:** RE: 2025-000437 - State v. Fields - Transcript Not Received  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2026 3:44:20 PM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)

---

Thank you Mr. Ruffin.

I have informed my supervisor about this situation, and I am sure that he informed the Court of Appeals. I am sorry this issue arose and that you and your client have been inconvenienced.

Thank you,

Tammie M. Holmes  
Court Reporter Manager  
South Carolina Judicial Branch  
1220 Senate Street, Ste. 200  
Columbia, SC 29201  
[tholmes@sccourts.org](mailto:tholmes@sccourts.org)  
803-734-1825

---

**From:** Adam Ruffin <[adam@ruffinappeals.com](mailto:adam@ruffinappeals.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2026 3:28 PM  
**To:** Holmes, Tammie <[tholmes@sccourts.org](mailto:tholmes@sccourts.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: 2025-000437 - State v. Fields - Transcript Not Received

\*\*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside the organization. Please exercise caution before clicking any links or opening attachments. \*\*\*

Have you spoken to anyone at the Court of Appeals about this? Obviously I never wanted to file the motion I did but now that I have, I will wait for them to rule on it. I have not paid Ms. Williams anything but my client paid her \$750 which she has refused to refund. The refund request is included in my motion.

Adam Ruffin  
Ruffin Law Firm, LLC  
<https://ruffinappeals.com>  
[adam@ruffinappeals.com](mailto:adam@ruffinappeals.com)  
(803) 470-5629



**RUFFIN LAW FIRM**  
APPELLATE LITIGATION

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**From:** Holmes, Tammie <[tholmes@sccourts.org](mailto:tholmes@sccourts.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2026 12:32 PM  
**To:** Adam Ruffin <[adam@ruffinappeals.com](mailto:adam@ruffinappeals.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: 2025-000437 - State v. Fields - Transcript Not Received

Good morning Mr. Ruffin.

I wanted to let you know that we are sending this transcript request out for another court reporter to produce. I am sorry for any inconvenience you may have dealt with from not receiving this transcript.

Have you paid any monies to Ms. Williams to produce this transcript?

Thank you,

Tammie M. Holmes  
Court Reporter Manager  
South Carolina Judicial Branch  
1220 Senate Street, Ste. 200  
Columbia, SC 29201  
[tholmes@sccourts.org](mailto:tholmes@sccourts.org)  
803-734-1825

---

**From:** Adam Ruffin <[adam@ruffinappeals.com](mailto:adam@ruffinappeals.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 29, 2026 9:02 AM  
**To:** Court Of Appeals Filings <[ctappfilings@sccourts.org](mailto:ctappfilings@sccourts.org)>  
**Cc:** Mark Farthing <[mfarthing@scag.gov](mailto:mfarthing@scag.gov)>; Williams, Kymberlee <[kwilliams@sccourts.org](mailto:kwilliams@sccourts.org)>; Holmes, Tammie <[tholmes@sccourts.org](mailto:tholmes@sccourts.org)>; Transcripts <[transcripts@sccourts.org](mailto:transcripts@sccourts.org)>  
**Subject:** 2025-000437 - State v. Fields - Transcript Not Received

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Good morning,

Please find attached correspondence in the above-referenced appeal. Thank you.

Adam Ruffin  
Ruffin Law Firm, LLC  
<https://ruffinappeals.com>  
[adam@ruffinappeals.com](mailto:adam@ruffinappeals.com)  
(803) 470-5629



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From: Transcripts@sccourts.org
To: [Adam Ruffin](#)
Subject: UPDATED: Transcript Request for Docket Number
Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 12:42:15 PM

Greetings,

Please accept this email and the **summarized Transcript Request shown below** as confirmation that the online transcript request that you submitted has been received by our office. You should receive communication from a transcriptionist within five (5) business days with an estimated cost for production.

If you need further assistance, please contact us at transcripts@sccourts.org.

Regards,

Court Administration

Summarized Transcript Request ID(s): **216868126**

Requester Information:

Name: Adam Ruffin
Entity: *Not entered*
Phone Number: (803) 470-5629
Email: adam@ruffinappeals.com
Address: 1320 Main Street, Suite 300 Columbia, SC 29201
Is the requester a party on the case? No
Does the requester represent a party? Yes David Fields

Transcript Information:

Docket Number: 2019GS0701437
Court Type: Circuit
County: Beaufort
Case Caption: The State of South Carolina vs Fields, David Jr
Appeal Pending? Court of Appeals

Death Penalty? No

Start Date of Proceeding: 2/24/2025

End Date of Proceeding: 2/27/2025

Presiding Judge: Bonds, Robert J.

Court reporter daily assignments:

02/24/2025: Contract Circuit, LE

02/25/2025: Contract Circuit, LE

02/26/2025: Contract Circuit, LE

02/27/2025: Contract Circuit, LE

Opposing Counsel and/or other parties information:

(Attorney) Courtney Ann Gibbes

(email): cgibbes@bcgov.net

(Defendant) David Jr Fields

(State Attorney) Mark Farthing

(email): mfarthing@scag.gov

Next hearing date: *Date not entered*

Portion of proceeding to be transcribed: Entire Hearing

Delivery Information:

Delivery Timeframe: Regular Delivery (60 days)

Delivery Method: PDF/Email

Delivery Timeframe: Private/Self

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**From:** [Transcripts@sccourts.org](mailto:Transcripts@sccourts.org)  
**To:** [Adam Ruffin; transcripts@sccourts.org](mailto:Adam.Ruffin@transcripts@sccourts.org)  
**Subject:** UPDATED: Transcript Request for Docket Number 2019GS0701437  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 17, 2026 1:56:39 PM

---

Greetings,

You are receiving this notice for the **summarized Transcript Request shown below** because it has been **Accepted** by Court Reporter: Contract Circuit, LE(Transcripts@LegalEagleInc.com )

Should you have questions or need further assistance, please contact us at transcripts@sccourts.org.

Regards,

Court Administration

Summarized Transcript Request ID(s): **216868126**

## Requester Information:

---

**Name:** Adam Ruffin  
**Entity:** *Not entered*  
**Phone Number:** (803) 470-5629  
**Email:** adam@ruffinappeals.com  
**Address:** 1320 Main Street, Suite 300 Columbia, SC 29201  
**Is the requester a party on the case?** No  
**Does the requester represent a party?** Yes David Fields

## Transcript Information:

---

**Docket Number:** 2019GS0701437  
**Court Type:** Circuit  
**County:** Beaufort  
**Case Caption:** The State of South Carolina vs Fields, David Jr  
**Appeal Pending?** Court of Appeals

**Death Penalty?** No

**Start Date of Proceeding:** 2/24/2025

**End Date of Proceeding:** 2/27/2025

**Presiding Judge:** Bonds, Robert J.

**Court reporter daily assignments:**

**02/24/2025:** Contract Circuit, LE

**02/25/2025:** Contract Circuit, LE

**02/26/2025:** Contract Circuit, LE

**02/27/2025:** Contract Circuit, LE

**Opposing Counsel and/or other parties information:**

(Attorney) Courtney Ann Gibbes

**(email):** cgibbes@bcgov.net

(Defendant) David Jr Fields

(State Attorney) Mark Farthing

**(email):** mfarthing@scag.gov

**Next hearing date:** *Date not entered*

**Portion of proceeding to be transcribed:** Entire Hearing

## Delivery Information:

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**Delivery Timeframe:** Regular Delivery (60 days)

**Delivery Method:** PDF/Email

**Delivery Timeframe:** Private/Self

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From: [Jessica Antonucci](#)
To: [Adam Ruffin](#)
Cc: [Transcripts](#); [info](#); [Alexandria Garraud](#)
Subject: RE: Transcript Request - State of SC vs. David Fields, Jr. 2/24-2/27/25
Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 2:17:54 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Yes, sir. We will not put this into production. If you need for us to transcribe it in the future, just let us know.

Thank you,



Jessica Antonucci
Court Reporting Scheduler

M (864) 361-0316 | **P** (864) 467-1373
E jantonucci@legaleagleinc.com

107 LeGrand Blvd., Greenville, SC 29607
www.LegalEagleInc.com



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From: Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 2:09 PM
To: Jessica Antonucci <jantonucci@LegalEagleInc.com>
Cc: Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>; info <info@LegalEagleInc.com>; Alexandria Garraud <agarraud@LegalEagleInc.com>
Subject: Re: Transcript Request - State of SC vs. David Fields, Jr. 2/24-2/27/25

Thank you for reaching out but please do not proceed with this transcript. There is a

pending motion in the Court of Appeals for this transcript to be produced at no cost to my client due to the incredibly long delay and the original court reporter's repeated violations of Rule 607, SCACR. I cannot agree to payment until the Court of Appeals has ruled on my motion. Thank you.

Adam Ruffin
Ruffin Law Firm, LLC
<https://ruffinappeals.com>
adam@ruffinappeals.com
(803) 470-5629



From: Jessica Antonucci <jantonucci@LegalEagleInc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 2:02 PM
To: Adam Ruffin <adam@ruffinappeals.com>
Cc: Transcripts <transcripts@sccourts.org>; info <info@LegalEagleInc.com>; Alexandria Garraud <agarraud@LegalEagleInc.com>
Subject: RE: Transcript Request - State of SC vs. David Fields, Jr. 2/24-2/27/25

Adam,

Today, Legal Eagle was assigned your transcript request in the above referenced matter. Based upon our review of the records, it appears this transcript will be approximately 1,020 pages long. The following was indicated on the request form:

- Standard Delivery (60 Days)
- PDF/Email Requested

The estimated standard delivery cost for this transcript is \$4,335.00.

Please note that the page estimate is not guaranteed. The price indicated above is an approximation based on the audio length. The actual cost and page count may vary due to several factors including but not limited to speech rate, side bars, Q&A v Colloquy, and hearing type. A final invoice will be sent when the transcript is completed.

Please include any attorneys who were present at each hearing and who they represented with your confirmation as the attorneys are not always introduced in the audio.

Once you have authorized us to proceed by responding to this email, we will place your transcript inline for production with a 60-day due date, although transcripts are usually completed much earlier. An invoice will be provided with your final transcript. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Thank you,



Jessica Antonucci

Court Reporting Scheduler

M (864) 361-0316 | P (864) 467-1373

E jantonucci@legaleagleinc.com

107 LeGrand Blvd., Greenville, SC 29607

www.LegalEagleInc.com



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EXHIBIT 21

The South Carolina Court of Appeals

The State, Respondent,

v.

David Fields, Jr., Appellant

Appellate Case No. 2025-000437

ORDER

On March 5, 2025, Appellant, via the Office of Appellate Defense, filed his notice of appeal. On March 28, 2025, Appellant provided this court with correspondence that the transcript had been ordered and had an estimated production date of May 28, 2025.

On June 5, 2025, Court Administration granted the court reporter an extension of time until June 28, 2025, to prepare and deliver the transcript. On August 6, 2025, Appellant inquired into the status of the transcript. On August 8, 2025, Court Administration asked the court reporter to update Appellant on the status of the transcript. On August 20, 2025, this court granted a motion to substitute Adam Ruffin, Esquire as counsel for Appellant. On August 21, 2025, Appellant, via Counsel Ruffin, requested the transcript.

On October 31, 2025, Court Administration granted the court reporter an extension of time until November 21, 2025, to prepare and deliver the transcript. On December 3, 2025, Appellant informed this court that he learned the court reporter had requested an extension until January 21, 2026. On December 4, 2026, this court received documentation that Court Administration had granted the court reporter an extension until December 21, 2025, and January 21, 2026.

On January 22, 2026, Appellant sent a letter explaining he had not received the transcript and asking for the transcript to be "produced as expeditiously as possible." On January 22, 2026, this court received an email from the court



reporter explaining she had "been out on medical leave since the last quarter of 2025" and the transcript would be completed "soon."

On March 2, 2026, Appellant again sent a letter advising he had still not received the transcript, providing communications had with the court reporter, and asking this court to "take remedial action to ensure prompt production of the transcript." On March 2, 2026, the court reporter sent an email explaining she was on medical leave until April 27, 2026.

On May 29, 2026, Appellant sent a letter advising that only Volume 1 of the transcript had been delivered and Volumes 2-4 had not been delivered. The letter also explained the court reporter had sent Appellant an email "indicating that she [would] never complete the transcript and that it [would] be assigned to a different court reporter." Appellant requested this court "take some action to bring the court reporter into compliance with this [c]ourt's rules."

On June 8, 2026, Appellant filed a motion to compel the transcript, explaining "the court reporter had engaged in a pattern of promising to deliver the transcript and failing to do so for more than one year now," no extension had been requested by the court reporter since December 2025, and the court reporter had not complied with the provisions of Rule 607 of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules. Appellant requests the following relief in his order: (1) for this court to compel production of the transcript within ten days at no cost to Appellant; (2) an order of this court compelling the court reporter to refund the \$750 deposit for the transcript paid by Appellant more than one year ago; (3) that the court reporter be required to obtain approval from the Chief Justice to produce the transcript out of time in accordance with Rule 607(e) of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules to ensure that the Chief Justice is made aware of the court reporter's disregard of her responsibilities as a court reporter; and (4) for this court to advise the court reporter that her continued failure to produce the transcript will result in contempt proceedings against her. Respondent did not file a return.

After careful consideration, we deny the motion to compel without prejudice to Appellant filing any appropriate motion with the South Carolina Supreme Court.


C.J.
FOR THE COURT

Columbia, South Carolina

cc:

Alan McCrory Wilson, Esquire
Mark Reynolds Farthing, Esquire
Adam Sinclair Ruffin, Esquire

FILED
Jul 28 2026

#3 HB

RUFFIN LAW FIRM, LLC
APPELLATE LITIGATION

RECEIVED
Jul 29 2026
SC Court of Appeals

Adam Sinclair Ruffin
1320 Main Street, Suite 300
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 470-5629
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July 29, 2026

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings
Clerk of the South Carolina Court of Appeals
PO Box 11629
Columbia, SC 29211

Re: State v. David Fields
Appellate Case No. 2025-000437

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

In response to this Court's order yesterday, I have filed a petition for a writ of mandamus in the Supreme Court. I have attached the petition to this letter so this Court is aware of my continued efforts to obtain the transcript in this case. Since the appeal cannot move forward until the transcript is produced, I will continue to advise the Court of any updates.

Sincerely,

s/Adam Ruffin
Adam Sinclair Ruffin
Ruffin Law Firm, LLC

cc: Mark Farthing, Esquire
Kymberlee Williams
Tammie Holmes
South Carolina Court Administration