

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA * COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
 COUNTY OF AIKEN * TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD

-----X
 THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, *
 *
 vs. * Case No. 2025A0210201428
 *
 HUGH PARKS PRICE, *
 *
 Defendant. *
 -----X

April 22, 2026

B E F O R E:

The Honorable Courtney Clyburn Pope, Presiding Judge

A P P E A R A N C E S:

Michelle P. Hajher, Esq.
 Assistant Solicitor for the State

Eric Michael Staggs, Esq.
 Attorney for the Defendant

Recorded by: Julie Brown, DCRP
 Transcribed by: Bobbi Fisher, RPR
 SC Official Court Reporter III

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SC Court of Appeals

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COURT'S. EXHIBIT NO. 1	MARK/ADM
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COURT REPORTER/TRANSCRIBER LEGEND

Dash (--)	Indicates an interruption in speech
Ellipses (...)	Indicates trailing off in speech
(ph)	Indicates phonetic word/unclear word
[sic]	Indicates the word is written as said
(Indiscernible)	Indicates word(s) is not known due to poor audio recording quality

P R O C E E D I N G S

(The proceedings commenced at 10:15 a.m.:)

MS. HAJHER: Hugh Price.

HUGH PRICE

after having been duly sworn, was examined and testified to as follows:

THE COURT: Madam Solicitor?

MS. HAJHER: Your Honor, the defendant is here for a Motion to Revoke Bond. He's been indicted for stalking by the State. He was charged with stalking with having a prior conviction of harassment in the last ten years.

And just so the Court is aware, there are victims from Aiken County and Saluda County that are here, and the attorney representing the Saluda victim is also here.

THE COURT: All right. Madam Solicitor, before we get into your motion, will you give me a synopsis of the facts? And then I'll hear from the State with regard to the motion and we'll hear from Mr. Staggs.

MS. HAJHER: So our indictment alleges that the defendant, between January 1st of 2023 and September 14th of 2025, had engaged in patterns of behavior that stalked and/or harassed our victim, Sara Filler, who resides here in Aiken County. He did have a romantic relationship with this victim previously.

THE COURT: All right. And so that's his underlying

1 charge. What is the -- what's the nature of the motion?

2 MS. HAJHER: So, Your Honor, essentially the State's
3 concern, regarding a pattern of behavior that seems to be
4 escalating. The defendant has specific women that he seems to
5 obsess about and then kind of cycles through.

6 Ms. Molstof (ph), who's present in the courtroom, is the
7 victim in Saluda that he has already been convicted of a
8 harassment second charge of her. She has a restraining order
9 actively against him. He had appealed it. She had it
10 reinstated the beginning of this year.

11 THE COURT: All right. And Ms. Molstof was down in
12 Saluda?

13 MS. HAJHER: That's correct.

14 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Spradley, you represent
15 Ms. Molstaf?

16 MR. SPRADLEY: Ms. Mol- -- it's "-stad," Your Honor, with
17 a "D" at the end of it.

18 THE COURT: Spell it for my court reporter, please.

19 MR. SPRADLEY: M-o-l-s-t-a-d.

20 THE COURT: Molstad. All right. Very good. Thank you,
21 sir.

22 All right. Mr. Spradley, I would like to hear from you
23 briefly. We do -- I think we have a lot of moving parts in
24 this one, but I'd love to hear from you, sir.

25 MR. SPRADLEY: Yes, Your Honor. This entire -- first

1 off, my client wanted to make sure the Court understood that
2 she has never dated Mr. Price. She has never wanted to date
3 Mr. Price. She has never had a business relationship with
4 him.

5 Her sole connection to him was buying a piece of property
6 from his mother. The day she moved onto that property,
7 Mr. Price is living four feet outside of her window. Within
8 days of moving in, the first instance that led to the
9 restraining order took place.

10 I'll skip over the next two years of escalation that went
11 on, Your Honor, until he gets convicted. Actually, Your
12 Honor, she got the restraining order. He breached the
13 restraining order. He got arrested for violation of the
14 restraining order. He breached his bond on the violation of
15 the restraining order. Got put in jail. Pled guilty to the
16 harassment in February of last year.

17 So all this is prior to February of last year, Your
18 Honor.

19 THE COURT: Okay.

20 MR. SPRADLEY: Since that time, he appealed the original
21 restraining order. It got reinstated in January of this year.

22 During that hearing -- Mr. Price represented himself.
23 During the hearing, we've got video of him writing notes on
24 the back of envelopes and holding it up so his witness could
25 read what he wanted them to say.

1 MR. STAGGS: Your Honor --

2 MR. SPRADLEY: He followed me throughout the courthouse.

3 THE COURT: All right. Hold on, Mr. Spradley.

4 MR. STAGGS: If I may, I feel like we're getting pretty
5 far afield here from what the Court asked Mr. Spradley.

6 MR. SPRADLEY: Your Honor, it's the escalation of
7 everything that's going on.

8 THE COURT: All right. And so --

9 MR. SPRADLEY: And, Your Honor, then he has filed --
10 since January, since this restraining order was put in place,
11 over four civil cases --

12 THE COURT: In January this year, Mr. Spradley?

13 MR. SPRADLEY: That's right, Your Honor, this year. I've
14 got 15 files open in my office between him and her.

15 He has also brought a lawsuit against the victim advocate
16 that was helping Ms. Molstad. That got dismissed on April the
17 1st of this year. He re-filed that case pro se on April the
18 9th of this year against the victim advocate that was
19 advocating for my client.

20 He has cases against every law enforcement officer in
21 Saluda County that has ever been to my client's house where
22 she has complained about Mr. Price.

23 THE COURT: Let me ask you a question, Mr. Spradley.
24 What is the status currently of that case in Saluda?

25 MR. SPRADLEY: While he was out on bond here in Saluda

1 County, Your Honor, he had an ankle monitor on from Saluda
2 County as part of his bond. He was seen videoing my client
3 and her son at her house in violation of the restraining
4 order.

5 THE COURT: Okay.

6 MR. SPRADLEY: They have seized his phone.

7 THE COURT: When is that? I'm just trying to get a brief
8 timeline.

9 MR. SPRADLEY: It's the new warrant that just got taken
10 out in March. I think it was March the 12th, Your Honor.
11 He's got four pending charges, two General Sessions charges:
12 one for Ms. Molstad and one for her son. And then he's got
13 two magistrates court violation of restraining orders issued
14 with the same two victims, all from the same incident, Your
15 Honor. And I think it was March the 12th. The solicitor has
16 copies of those warrants that were issued in Saluda County
17 while he was out on bond here.

18 And, Your Honor, the -- it's my understanding, through
19 talking with the solicitor's office, that, at that arrest,
20 they seized his phone. It's my understanding they actually
21 have the videos that he was taking of my client and his -- her
22 son.

23 And I think that they are coordinating to try to get the
24 tracking of his ankle monitor from Aiken, which will then
25 further substantiate his violation of the restraining order.

1 Your Honor, my client wants me to impress upon this Court
2 that it is her belief that there is no piece of paper that
3 will ever stop this man from doing what he's doing. He's
4 moving from victim to victim. He started with Ms. Miller, he
5 moved on to my client, and now he's moved on to the victim
6 advocate in Saluda County.

7 And she is scared of him. She doesn't --

8 THE COURT: Let me hear -- Mr. Spradley, let me hear from
9 the State again, because I want her to wrap this up.

10 Can you hear me? Can you hear me? Okay.

11 I want her to bring this together for me. I certainly
12 understand what's happening in Saluda.

13 MR. SPRADLEY: And the only thing I can give the Court is
14 I've got copies of the warrants from Saluda County if you want
15 those.

16 THE COURT: I'm not sure that it's necessary at this
17 time. Your input on this has been helpful.

18 MR. SPRADLEY: Thank you.

19 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

20 MS. HAJHER: Ultimately, Your Honor, the concern that the
21 State has is that, just because the defendant is out on bond
22 and has electronic monitoring, right, on Aiken County doesn't
23 mean he can go and then catch charges in a different county
24 within the state or go to another state and catch different --
25 catch charges. Right?

1 Ultimately, he has specific women that he cycles through.
2 He goes after those set individuals. And like Mr. Spradley
3 indicated, his client wasn't romantically involved like our
4 Aiken County victim was. Right? They have a more significant
5 history.

6 And Ms. Filler is here also and would like to address at
7 the appropriate time.

8 THE COURT: Ms. Filler?

9 MS. HAJHER: That's correct, Sara Filler, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Yes, I'll hear from Ms. Filler.

11 MS. HAJHER: But that's the main concern, is that it's
12 escalating, that he's cycling through, and it's just a matter
13 of time before he sets his sights back on Ms. Filler. And I
14 don't think that the State is required to wait until he comes
15 into Aiken County to catch charges before we could try to
16 revoke his bond.

17 THE COURT: All right. Let me hear from Ms. Filler, if
18 she wishes to be heard.

19 Good morning.

20 MS. FILLER: Good morning.

21 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am. Can you say your --

22 MS. FILLER: Thank you --

23 THE COURT: Of course. Can you say your full name and
24 spell your last name for our court reporter, please?

25 MS. FILLER: My name is Sara Filler. That's F as in

1 "Frank," i-l-l-e-r.

2 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am, Ms. Filler.

3 MS. FILLER: I'm here to request some meaningful
4 protection against the defendant. He has continued to stalk
5 me since the last incident in September. He has stalked me
6 relentlessly and obsessively for four years now, and it is my
7 true belief, Your Honor, that now is the time to step in to
8 prevent a terrible tragedy from occurring. My life is in
9 danger, and I respectfully request you to intervene.

10 I had a lot more to say, but I won't take up any more of
11 your time. I just want you to know the seriousness of this
12 matter, and I thank you. I think everything else has been
13 said.

14 THE COURT: Ms. Filler, thank you very much for being
15 here and giving me that information.

16 MS. FILLER: Thank you.

17 THE COURT: Thank you.

18 Anything further?

19 MS. HAJHER: Just, Your Honor, if you were inclined to
20 revoke the bond. I mean, the State is willing to have a date
21 set certain for trial.

22 THE COURT: So the State is ready to proceed with trial?

23 MS. HAJHER: That's correct, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Mr. Staggs, yes, sir.

25 MR. STAGGS: Thank you, Your Honor. And may it please

1 the Court. The Assistant Solicitor just mentioned what the
2 State is or is not required to demonstrate to support a Motion
3 to Revoke a Bond. They've got to have a reasonable basis for
4 this, Judge.

5 Ms. Filler -- let's start here. Mr. Price has been out
6 on bond. Mr. Price has been under a GPS monitor. At no point
7 in time has the State provided me with any evidence --
8 anything other than a mere suggestion that Mr. Price has been
9 in violation of any of the conditions of this bond here in
10 Aiken County in regards to Ms. Filler or her mother,
11 Ms. Hughes. Absolutely nothing. I've seen nothing from
12 anyone.

13 I've talked to the GPS monitoring company. He has not
14 violated anything here in Aiken County at all.

15 The Saluda matter that Mr. Spradley spoke on for a good
16 little bit here, Judge, I have the affidavit that was signed
17 by Hopkins -- yes -- Corporal Hopkins of the Saluda County
18 Sheriff's Office.

19 I also, Judge, am happy to provide the Court with the
20 video of this alleged incident where people are in fear. I
21 have that and will send it both to the solicitor's office and
22 to Your Honor after this hearing. I think you'll find that
23 there's absolutely nothing to it.

24 Mr. Price resided and was required, actually, to reside,
25 as part of the Aiken County stuff, in Saluda County on Pine

1 Grove Road in an adjoining property. And I have the map here.
2 I've shown it to the solicitor. And if Your Honor would like
3 to see it, these properties are --

4 THE COURT: Do you have a copy?

5 MS. HAJHER: I've seen it, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Thank you.

7 MR. STAGGS: Okay. Judge, as you heard from
8 Mr. Spradley, there have been four actions filed this year,
9 and he said he has over 15 files. And that's accurate because
10 these folks sue one another all over the place. There is an
11 active claim and delivery situation.

12 Mr. Price was videoing as he drove by to get to his
13 property because one of those claim and delivery actions, the
14 subject of it is a trailer on Ms. Molstad's property that
15 Mr. Price believes belongs to him. They are litigating that
16 in Saluda County. I don't have anything to do with that, but
17 that was the subject of the video.

18 I have the public index from Saluda for Mr. Price. He is
19 not the plaintiff in all of these things. He is being sued
20 just as often by these folks. Okay? This is not -- this is
21 not a one-way street in any way, shape, or form.

22 We are asking Your Honor to deny the State's motion at
23 this time. I will tell you that, since being charged and
24 being released on \$100,000 bond in Saluda --

25 THE DEFENDANT: 200. 200.

1 MR. STAGGS: Oh, 200. 100 per charge, Judge, set by the
2 magistrate there in Saluda. Mr. Price has been residing in
3 Columbia with his mother. He has not been anywhere near
4 Saluda County, to my knowledge.

5 Have you been back there since?

6 THE DEFENDANT: The first day, and they said you have
7 to -- you can't stay here.

8 MR. STAGGS: You gotta get out of here. Right.

9 So since being released, he has not been back in Saluda
10 County. He has not been in Aiken County except to show up for
11 court or to talk to his lawyer.

12 There is no imminent threat. There is no escalation,
13 despite what the Court has heard here.

14 We will be ready to try this case, but I think it's
15 wildly inappropriate to revoke Mr. Price's bond at this point
16 for something that, to me, looks fairly defensible up there.

17 He had a perfect -- there is no prohibition on civil
18 process. There is nothing that precludes Mr. Price from
19 attempting to use appropriate channels to obtain what he
20 believes is rightfully his in terms of property from civil
21 process.

22 Nothing in this restraining order, any of these bonds
23 prohibits him from using civil process to obtain what he
24 believes is his, and that is all that's happening.

25 I do not believe that the State has demonstrated any

1 evidence of escalating behavior. I don't believe they've
2 demonstrated any evidence of a violation of the bond that
3 they're seeking to revoke here, Judge, at all.

4 I think that what's going on in Saluda, first of all, is
5 a separate -- completely separate matter from what we're
6 dealing with here in Aiken County, and it doesn't -- it
7 doesn't hold up.

8 So we'd ask for you to deny the State's motion at this
9 time.

10 THE COURT: All right. Anything further from the State?

11 MS. HAJHER: Yes, the State briefly -- or the State would
12 briefly just like to respond, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Certainly.

14 MS. HAJHER: I do believe that Mr. Spradley has indicated
15 that there -- the defendant does have, like, a YouTube
16 channel, like ranch handler, where he posted the video of his
17 interaction with Sergeant Blackwelder.

18 Apparently, there is a potential video indicating that he
19 has since been in Saluda since being released out on bond and
20 posted a video.

21 And then, also, my understanding is Mr. Spradley is in
22 the process of trying to do something in Common Pleas, which
23 would prevent Mr. -- the defendant from being able to just
24 file lawsuits since he has been doing them, I would say --

25 THE COURT: It's a motion for frivolous actions?

1 MR. SPRADLEY: And, you know, both of those things are
2 true. There's a -- Mr. Price is under investigation by the
3 Department of Environmental Services for dumping sewage out
4 the back of a camper on that piece of property. There's video
5 of him from law enforcement and video that Mr. Price took
6 since he's been out on bond in Saluda County within 2,000 feet
7 of my client's residence in violation of that bond.

8 THE COURT: What is the -- well, what does the bond say?
9 Is it within 2,000 or 1,000 or 1,500? What is it?

10 MR. SPRADLEY: He can't be within 2,000 feet of my
11 client's property or within 1,000 feet of her out in public.

12 THE COURT: I understand.

13 MR. SPRADLEY: And he can't go down a certain road.

14 And, Your Honor, probably before the end of this week --
15 I've already drafted it -- I have filed a Motion for a
16 Temporary Injunction because he is abusing process, and that
17 will be heard in Saluda County Common Pleas Court soon, Your
18 Honor. It's part of a -- we did that as part of a
19 counterclaim to a lawsuit he filed against my client this
20 year.

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 MS. HAJHER: And I do believe that there is some kind of
23 criminal statute relating to, like, filing frivolous lawsuits,
24 barratry --

25 THE COURT: Sure. If you can pull that statute -- you

1 know, if you want to do that. I think she should -- I mean,
2 I'm assuming that the State --

3 MR. STAGGS: I mean, I think there's a law on just about
4 everything.

5 MS. HAJHER: Well, that --

6 THE COURT: Yeah. I'm thinking that she's saying it's a
7 violation of the bond to not -- to be on good behavior with
8 the filing of the frivolous suit.

9 So, you know, if you want to reference that -- here's
10 what's going to happen. I'm going to allow Mr. Staggs to send
11 me the video. He's going to send both of us the video. The
12 videos come up, the actions come up. I think it's
13 appropriate. I want to view the video.

14 And so you think you can have that to me today?

15 MR. STAGGS: I can have it to you within an hour.

16 THE COURT: Okay. All right. And so we'll have that
17 video.

18 You'll have a copy of it as well, Madam Solicitor.

19 And so what I am going to allow the State to do, if --
20 you're mentioning the statute, and, again, the assumption is
21 because the violation of good behavior. I just want to take a
22 look at it. Send it to Mr. Staggs also. Okay? If that's
23 what the State is going to going to assert.

24 I've heard from the alleged victim in his Aiken case as
25 well as representation from his alleged victim in the Saluda

1 case, and I want to take these under consideration.

2 Can I hold this for the time being, Mr. Staggs?

3 MR. STAGGS: Absolutely, Your Honor. Absolutely.

4 THE COURT: And, Madam Solicitor, for the record has
5 indicated she does have a copy of this map. I'll just label
6 it as Court's Exhibit 1, a map provided by Mr. Staggs. A map
7 of the residence -- the Price residents as well as alleged
8 victim Molstad's residence.

9 (COURT'S EXHIBIT NO. 1 was marked and admitted.)

10 THE COURT: And so I want to take all these things into
11 consideration and review them and then get you-all a decision.
12 That decision will likely come via email so that you-all can
13 tell your -- you can tell your client and you can tell the
14 victim the decision that I've made.

15 Get that to me, and I'll try to get that out -- depending
16 on how we do today, today, but no later than tomorrow.

17 What's today? Wednesday?

18 MS. HAJHER: That's correct.

19 MR. STAGGS: Today is Wednesday.

20 THE COURT: Okay. No later than tomorrow. Okay? It's
21 three days.

22 MR. STAGGS: Three days (indiscernible).

23 THE COURT: You're right. So I had forgotten what day it
24 was. All right. But get that information to me, please, so
25 that I can take that under consideration.

1 MR. STAGGS: Thank you, Your Honor.

2 MS. HAJHER: Thank you, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Thank you-all.

4 Thank you, Mr. Spradley.

5 MR. SPRADLEY: Thank you, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Thank you.

7 (The hearing concluded at 10:36 a.m.)

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Certificate of Transcriber

CASE NAME: State v. Hugh Parks Price

DATE OF HEARING: 4/22/26

RECORDING METHOD: Julie Brown, DCRP

I, Bobbi Fisher, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and correct record of the recorded proceedings; that I was not present for the live proceeding; and that said proceedings were transcribed to the best of my ability from the audio and/or video recording and supporting information; and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this case; and I have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome.

Bobbi Fisher

Bobbi Fisher, SC Official Court Reporter III, RPR

Transcript Prepared: 6/18/26

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