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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

PETITION FOR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, DUE-PROCESS REVIEW, AND
PROPOSED RIGHT-TO-KNOW PROTECTION AGAINST SECRET OR FALSIFIED
CRIMINAL ACCUSATIONS

Petitioner: Jason Fetzer

Case/Record No.: 2026-001041

Date: 08-11-2026

PETITION

I respectfully petition the appropriate authorities of the State of South Carolina for disclosure and review of governmental records concerning accusations, proceedings, and decisions affecting me, together with review of whether my constitutional rights were violated.

I. SOUTH CAROLINA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

South Carolina's Freedom of Information Act is codified in Title 30, Chapter 4. The General Assembly has declared that public business should be performed openly and that the law should permit citizens to learn and report on governmental activity with minimum cost or delay.

I therefore request all non-exempt records concerning:

1. criminal complaints or accusations concerning me;
2. investigative reports;

3. communications concerning the allegations;
4. communications between law-enforcement officers, prosecutors, courts, correctional officials, or other governmental personnel concerning my case;
5. documents submitted to any governmental agency or court;
6. hearing notices and proof of service;
7. transcripts, recordings, and minutes;
8. docket records and orders;
9. records concerning my presence or absence at proceedings;
10. records concerning representation by counsel;
11. any waiver of appearance or counsel;
12. witness statements and records identifying the source of material accusations, where disclosure is legally permitted;
13. records concerning contradictory or exculpatory information;
14. records concerning restitution or claimed losses;
15. records concerning personal injury or other consequences arising from the events at issue; and
16. records concerning any pardon, clemency, post-conviction, or executive review.

If any record is withheld, I request identification of the specific statutory basis for withholding and disclosure of all portions that are not exempt.

II. SOUTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO A FAIR CRIMINAL PROCEEDING

Article I, §14 of the South Carolina Constitution provides that a person charged with an offense has the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury, to be fully informed of the nature and cause of the accusation, to confront witnesses, to obtain witnesses in his favor, and to be fully heard in his defense personally, through counsel, or both.

I respectfully request review of whether those protections were afforded to me.

III. PROCEEDINGS IN MY ABSENCE

I request a complete review of any proceeding concerning me that occurred while I was absent.

For every such proceeding, I request disclosure of:

- the date;
- the purpose;
- the presiding judicial officer;
- the participants;
- the accusations or evidence presented;
- notice provided to me;
- whether I had counsel;
- whether I waived appearance;
- the legal authority permitting the proceeding to occur without me; and
- the consequences imposed as a result.

My request is based upon the principle that an accused person should receive the process required by law before adverse criminal consequences are imposed.

IV. ANONYMOUS, SECRET, OR FALSE ACCUSATIONS

I request investigation into whether materially false, fabricated, defamatory, or misleading accusations were made, transmitted, concealed, or relied upon in governmental proceedings concerning me.

Where an accusation originated from an anonymous or confidential source, I request

disclosure of the source to the extent permitted by law and, where disclosure is legally prohibited, disclosure of sufficient non-exempt information to permit lawful review of the reliability and evidentiary basis of the accusation.

I do not request that an accusation be deemed false merely because it was anonymous. I request a factual determination based upon records and admissible evidence.

I further request investigation into whether any governmental record was knowingly falsified, altered, destroyed, concealed, or materially misrepresented.

V. RIGHT TO COUNSEL

I request review of whether I was constitutionally entitled to criminal-defense counsel at the proceedings in question and whether counsel was provided.

If counsel was not provided, I request a determination of whether:

1. counsel was legally required;
2. I knowingly and voluntarily waived counsel;
3. the waiver was documented;
4. I was advised of the consequences of proceeding without counsel; and
5. the proceeding could lawfully continue without representation.

VI. PERSONAL INJURY AND RESULTING LOSSES

I request consideration of documented personal injury, pain and suffering, financial loss, reputational injury, and other consequences that occurred after the events underlying this petition.

I recognize that the legal concept of criminal restitution may differ from a civil claim for personal injury or damages. I therefore request that my losses be evaluated under the correct

legal framework rather than being incorrectly characterized.

VII. PROPOSED SOUTH CAROLINA RIGHT-TO-KNOW AND FAIR-PROCESS ACT

I respectfully propose that South Carolina strengthen its existing public-records and due-process protections by providing:

A. Preservation. Governmental bodies shall preserve records concerning material criminal accusations and proceedings for the period required by law.

B. Disclosure. Non-exempt records concerning governmental accusations and proceedings shall be made available under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

C. Accuracy. A governmental body shall not knowingly create or maintain a materially false record concerning an individual's criminal prosecution.

D. Notice. An accused person shall receive the notice required by law of proceedings affecting his or her liberty or substantial legal interests.

E. Presence. Proceedings shall not be conducted in an accused person's absence when applicable law requires the accused's presence, unless a lawful exception applies.

F. Counsel. Where constitutional or statutory law requires counsel, proceedings shall not proceed without counsel unless a valid waiver is established.

G. Review. A person alleging that materially false or undisclosed accusations were used against him or her shall have access to whatever judicial or administrative review is provided by law.

H. Remedies. Where a violation is established, the affected person shall be entitled to whatever correction, disclosure, rehearing, post-conviction relief, or other remedy is authorized by law.

VIII. REQUEST FOR RELIEF

I respectfully request:

1. disclosure of all non-exempt records;
2. preservation of relevant records;
3. investigation of the source and accuracy of material accusations;
4. review of proceedings conducted in my absence;
5. review of whether counsel was required and provided;
6. review of any alleged falsification or concealment of governmental records;
7. review of the consequences suffered by me;
8. appropriate judicial or executive relief if constitutional violations are established; and
9. any additional relief authorized by South Carolina law.

I submit this petition in good faith and request an evidence-based determination of what occurred.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Fetzer

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-Jason Fetzer