



South Carolina | North Carolina

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August 27, 2026

VIA EMAIL; rhoodlc@sccourts.org

The Honorable Robert E. Hood
P.O. Box 192
1701 Main St., Suite 222
Columbia, SC 29202

RECEIVED

Aug 27 2026

S.C. SUPREME COURT

Re: Timothy Ray Jones, #5289 v. State of South Carolina
Case No. 2024-CP-32-01312

Dear Judge Hood:

This law firm represents the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Office of Mental Health (the "OMH"). I am informed that that the Court intends to hold a status hearing on this matter next week, possibly in Lancaster on August 31, 2026. Tommy Evans informed me of this possibility a few weeks ago, and I got in touch with Dr. Kelly Gothard, OMH's Forensic Services Director. At that time, Dr. Gothard offered to have Mr. Jones admitted to the OMH's hospital facility for a 15-day observation period. During this 15-day period, an evaluation could be completed on site and the evaluators would have access to all observational data collected during the admission to help them make a determination as to competency.

I informed Mr. Evans of this possible plan, and Mr. Evans forwarded this idea to the other parties, but I don't think this plan gained any traction.

Dr. Gothard can be available for a hearing if necessary to discuss the completion of an evaluation for Mr. Jones. However, because of her packed schedule and time demands, we would request that any hearing be held in Richland County or that Dr. Gothard be allowed to appear virtually. I am personally available for a hearing at any time on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday of next week.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Pope".

Peter M. Balthazor

PMB/ams

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