

From: [Shealy, Brenda](#)
To: [Supreme Court Filings](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Timothy Jones (5289) Evaluation Logistics Question
Date: Friday, August 28, 2026 8:40:44 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image014.png](#)
[image015.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

RECEIVED
Aug 28 2026
S.C. SUPREME COURT

From: Melody Brown <MBrown@scag.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 8:39 AM
To: Pete Balthazor <peteb@rplfirm.com>; Hood, Robert E. Law Clerk (William Kulp) <rhoodlc@sccourts.org>; Rosalind Major <rosalind@justice360sc.org>
Cc: John Warren <jw@billnettleslaw.com>; April Smith <asmith@rplfirm.com>; Tommy Evans, Jr. <TommyEvansJr@scag.gov>; vincent.barton@doc.sc.gov; Shealy, Brenda <BShealy@sccourts.org>; Rosalind Major <rosalind@justice360sc.org>; Elizabeth Bluemle <elizabeth.bluemle@omh.bhdd.sc.gov>; Hood, Robert E. Secretary (Jeanne-Marie Bolin) <rhoodsc@sccourts.org>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Timothy Jones (5289) Evaluation Logistics Question

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I believe Tommy Evans responded that he is available. Just adding that I am available as well and, in light of Mr. Balthazor's email below, and that the court may consider Friday morning the easiest to schedule, I will keep the 4th clear until I hear otherwise. Thank you.

Kind regards,

MELODY J. BROWN, Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General
Office of the South Carolina Attorney General
Capital and Collateral Litigation Section | Office 803-734-6305 | mbrown@scag.gov
P.O. Box 11549 | Columbia, SC 29211
scag.gov



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From: Pete Balthazor <peteb@rplfirm.com>

Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 8:16 AM

To: Hood, Robert E. Law Clerk (William Kulp) <rhoodlc@sccourts.org>; Rosalind Major <rosalind@justice360sc.org>

Cc: John Warren <jw@billnettleslaw.com>; April Smith <asmith@rplfirm.com>; Tommy Evans, Jr. <TommyEvansJr@scag.gov>; Melody Brown <MBrown@scag.gov>; vincent.barton@doc.sc.gov; Shealy, Brenda <BShealy@sccourts.org>; Rosalind Major <rosalind@justice360sc.org>; Elizabeth Bluemle <elizabeth.bluemle@omh.bhdd.sc.gov>; Hood, Robert E. Secretary (Jeanne-Marie Bolin) <rhoodsc@sccourts.org>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Timothy Jones (5289) Evaluation Logistics Question

Good morning:

I contacted Dr. Gothard last night about the possibility of a hearing on Thursday afternoon or Friday morning of next week. She just informed me that she has a meeting on Thursday afternoon with the Charleston jail that has been arranged with the Governor's office.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Pete

Pete M. Balthazor | Member Attorney
Personally Licensed in South Carolina Only
Riley Pope & Laney, LLC – South Carolina | North Carolina
2838 Devine Street | Columbia, SC 29205
803-799-9993
Celebrating 25 Years of Service

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From: Hood, Robert E. Law Clerk (William Kulp) <rhoodlc@sccourts.org>

Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 5:12 PM

To: Pete Balthazor <peteb@rplfirm.com>; Rosalind Major <rosalind@justice360sc.org>

Cc: John Warren <jw@billnettleslaw.com>; April Smith <asmith@rplfirm.com>; Tommy Evans, Jr. <TommyEvansJr@scag.gov>; Melody Brown <mbrown@scag.gov>; vincent.barton@doc.sc.gov;

Shealy, Brenda <BShealy@sccourts.org>; Rosalind Major <rosalind@justice360sc.org>; Elizabeth Bluemle <elizabeth.bluemle@omh.bhdd.sc.gov>; Hood, Robert E. Secretary (Jeanne-Marie Bolin) <rhoodsc@sccourts.org>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Timothy Jones (5289) Evaluation Logistics Question

Good evening everyone,

We have received the letter to Judge Hood.

As previously mentioned, due to court reporter scheduling issues, we cannot go forward with the hearing on Monday in Lancaster.

I'm currently working to get this rescheduled to either Thursday afternoon or Friday morning in **Richland County**.

I will update everyone as soon as we confirm the date and time of the new hearing.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

William Kulp

Judicial Law Clerk

Honorable Robert E. Hood

Fifth Judicial Circuit

South Carolina

Sent from Mobile Device

From: Pete Balthazor <peteb@rplfirm.com>

Sent: Thursday, 27 August 2026 16:54:23

To: Hood, Robert E. Law Clerk (William Kulp) <rhoodlc@sccourts.org>; Rosalind Major <rosalind@justice360sc.org>

Cc: John Warren <jw@billnettleslaw.com>; April Smith <asmith@rplfirm.com>; Tommy Evans, Jr. <TommyEvansJr@scag.gov>; Melody Brown <mbrown@scag.gov>; vincent.barton@doc.sc.gov <vincent.barton@doc.sc.gov>; Shealy, Brenda <BShealy@sccourts.org>; Rosalind Major <rosalind@justice360sc.org>; Elizabeth Bluemle <elizabeth.bluemle@omh.bhdd.sc.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Timothy Jones (5289) Evaluation Logistics Question

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

Good afternoon:

I am attaching a letter addressed to Judge Hood regarding the potential status hearing for next week.

Thank you all for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely, Pete

Pete M. Balthazor | Member Attorney
Personally Licensed in South Carolina Only
Riley Pope & Laney, LLC – South Carolina | North Carolina
2838 Devine Street | Columbia, SC 29205
803-799-9993
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From: Hood, Robert E. Law Clerk (Reynolds Ward) <rhoodlc@sccourts.org>

Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 4:28 PM

To: Pete Balthazor <peteb@rplfirm.com>; Rosalind Major <rosalind@justice360sc.org>

Cc: John Warren <jw@billnettleslaw.com>; April Smith <asmith@rplfirm.com>; Chris Ocampo <cocampo@rplfirm.com>; Tommy Evans, Jr. <TommyEvansJr@scag.gov>; Melody Brown <mbrown@scag.gov>; vincent.barton@doc.sc.gov; Shealy, Brenda <BShealy@sccourts.org>; mhuggins@lexingtoncounty.sc.gov

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Timothy Jones (5289) Evaluation Logistics Question

Good afternoon,

Attached, please find the Order Regarding Evaluation of Applicant in *Timothy Ray Jones v. State of South Carolina*.

The Lexington County Clerk of Court has been copied on this email, and the original will be placed in the mail on Friday (6/5) to the Lexington County Clerk of Court for filing.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Reynolds Ward

From: Pete Balthazor <peteb@rplfirm.com>
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2026 9:26 AM
To: Rosalind Major <rosalind@justice360sc.org>
Cc: Hood, Robert E. Law Clerk (Reynolds Ward) <rhoodlc@sccourts.org>; John Warren <jw@billnettlelaw.com>; April Smith <asmith@rplfirm.com>; Chris Ocampo <cocampo@rplfirm.com>; Tommy Evans, Jr. <TommyEvansJr@scag.gov>; Melody Brown <mbrown@scag.gov>; vincent.barton@doc.sc.gov
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Timothy Jones (5289) Evaluation Logistics Question

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Thank you. No comments from OMH.

Sincerely, Pete

Pete M. Balthazor | Member
Riley Pope & Laney, LLC – South Carolina | North Carolina | Georgia
2838 Devine Street | Columbia, SC 29205
803.799.9993 | [RPL Website](http://RPLWebsite.com) | [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/rplfirm)
Email: PeteB@RPLFirm.com

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From: Rosalind Major <rosalind@justice360sc.org>
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2026 9:13 AM
To: Pete Balthazor <peteb@rplfirm.com>
Cc: Hood, Robert E. Law Clerk (Reynolds Ward) <rhoodlc@sccourts.org>; John Warren <jw@billnettlelaw.com>; April Smith <asmith@rplfirm.com>; Chris Ocampo <cocampo@rplfirm.com>; Tommy Evans, Jr. <TommyEvansJr@scag.gov>; Melody Brown <mbrown@scag.gov>; vincent.barton@doc.sc.gov
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Timothy Jones (5289) Evaluation Logistics Question

Good morning everyone,

Attached please find the proposed order permitting Dr. Maddox to evaluate Mr. Jones cell side if required. Counsel have conferred with Mr. Vincent on the drafting of this order so it meets SCDC's needs. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you have any

questions or need additional information from us.

The order is attached as a word document and a PDF. We would be happy to provide a hard copy should the Court desire one also.

Kindly,
Rosalind

Rosalind Major
Senior Staff Attorney, Justice 360
900 Elmwood Ave., Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201
803-765-1044
rosalind@justice360sc.org

On Fri, May 29, 2026 at 8:13 AM Pete Balthazor <peteb@rplfirm.com> wrote:

Good morning:

Thank you. I will get in touch with the proper personnel at OMH/DMH and cancel the scheduled evaluation.

Sincerely, Pete

Pete M. Balthazor| Member
Riley Pope & Laney, LLC – South Carolina | North Carolina | Georgia
2838 Devine Street | Columbia, SC 29205
803.799.9993 | [RPL Website](#) | [LinkedIn](#)
Email: PeteB@RPLFirm.com

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From: Hood, Robert E. Law Clerk (Reynolds Ward) <rhoodlc@sccourts.org>

Sent: Friday, May 29, 2026 7:12 AM

To: John Warren <jw@billnettslaw.com>

Cc: Rosalind Major <rosalind@justice360sc.org>; April Smith <asmith@rplfirm.com>; Chris Ocampo <cocampo@rplfirm.com>; Tommy Evans, Jr. <TommyEvansJr@scag.gov>; Melody Brown

<mbrown@scag.gov>; vincent.barton@doc.sc.gov; Pete Balthazor <peteb@rplfirm.com>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Timothy Jones (5289) Evaluation Logistics Question

Good morning,

Judge Hood approves canceling the evaluation DMH scheduled for Monday. Please ensure that the transport order is canceled as well.

Additionally, per Judge Hood, please provide a proposed order regarding Dr. Maddox's evaluation/observation at SCDC, addressing Dr. Maddox's access within the facility and the procedures for conducting her evaluation/observation at SCDC.

Thank you,
Reynolds Ward

From: John Warren <jw@billnettlelaw.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2026 3:51 PM

To: Hood, Robert E. Law Clerk (Reynolds Ward) <rhoodlc@sccourts.org>

Cc: Rosalind Major <rosalind@justice360sc.org>; April Smith <asmith@rplfirm.com>; Chris Ocampo <cocampo@rplfirm.com>; Tommy Evans, Jr. <TommyEvansJr@scag.gov>; Melody Brown <mbrown@scag.gov>; vincent.barton@doc.sc.gov; peteb@rplfirm.com

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Timothy Jones (5289) Evaluation Logistics Question

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

Reynolds,

We wanted to follow up about one outstanding issue in Mr. Jones' case. Since the plan is to have Dr. Maddox conduct an evaluation/observation at SCDC, is Judge Hood okay with the evaluation DMH scheduled for Monday being cancelled since Mr. Jones is unlikely to agree to be transported? We've discussed it among counsel and are all on board with that, but we just wanted to confirm that Judge Hood would be fine with that.

Best,

-John Warren

John L. Warren III
Law Office of Bill Nettles

2008 Lincoln St.
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 348-5838

On May 28, 2026, at 1:04 PM, John Warren <jw@billnettslaw.com> wrote:

All,

Rosalind and I wanted to circle back on one issue related to Mr. Jones that I don't think we expressly addressed during our Chambers meeting. We wanted to confirm that the SCDMH evaluation scheduled for Monday is being cancelled in light of the plan for Dr. Maddox to evaluate Mr. Jones in SCDC. Is that everyone's understanding?

-John Warren

On May 21, 2026, at 7:53 AM, Pete Balthazor
<peteb@rplfirm.com> wrote:

Good morning:

I have to be perfectly honest and candid with everyone. I hope that something meaningful and practical can result from Tuesday's upcoming hearing, but I have lots of questions about where this matter stands. Thank you for recognizing that OMH will not have an easy answer for this matter. I plan to attend the hearing along with Carolyn Benzon, the general counsel for the agency. However, the agency's Director of Forensic Services, Kelly Gothard, Ph.D., will be unable to attend the hearing. She would be best suited to discuss the issues concerning performing evaluations at correctional institutions. The letter provided to Judge Hood was drafted after consultation with Dr. Gothard. Dr. Gothard is on vacation out of state and will not be back by Tuesday. As I believe you all know, Dr. Gaskins was scheduled to see Mr. Jones on April 22, 2026. Dr. Gaskins is a

contracted forensics evaluator and cannot necessarily speak as a representative of the agency. Long story short, we are at a loss on supplying a representative of the agency to discuss the issues. I am informed that all other programmatic or clinical staff are either scheduled in evaluations or on leave. Someone would need to be pulled from performing evaluations in order to attend the hearing.

I am further informed that Mr. Jones has previously been evaluated in 2016 and 2019, and there were no indications of any mental illness and no psychiatric diagnoses assigned beyond substance abuse. An opinion on competency can be prepared based on past records if the patient will not cooperate and participate in any type of visit. Do we really expect that he will attend the hearing next week? Do we really expect that he will participate in the evaluation if a practitioner visits the correctional institution? And as I indicated below, because the agency is already in possession of past records, an opinion can be prepared based on a short virtual visit. But you mention below that he is not talking to anyone and you doubt he will come out of his cell for the June 1 evaluation. Even if Dr. Gaskins goes to the institution, what would be accomplished?

On top of all of these practical concerns, I have some legal concerns about the efficacy of the order for a competency evaluation in a civil PCR matter. I am not aware of the legal basis for ordering such an evaluation. The closest analogue is section 44-23-410 which deals with examinations for persons on trial for criminal offenses or civil contempt.

I'm sorry for the long-winded email, I'm just looking for some direction from the other attorneys and/or the court. The alternatives I suggested below were dismissed and the order that has been entered does not require the agency to visit the correctional institution, so I'm not sure where this leaves us. I'm wracking my brain, but I don't expect to show up at the hearing with any great ideas. There is nothing preventing Mr. Jones's attorneys from engaging a private examiner to conduct

an evaluation at the institution.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Pete

**RILEY
POPE &
LANEY**

— LAW — Pete M. Balthazor | Member

Riley Pope & Laney, LLC – South Carolina | North Carolina | Georgia

2838 Devine Street | Columbia, SC 29205

803.799.9993 | [RPL Website](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Email: PeteB@RPLFirm.com

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From: John Warren <jw@billnettlelaw.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2026 12:57 AM

To: Pete Balthazor <peteb@rplfirm.com>

Cc: Rosalind Major <rosalind@justice360sc.org>; April Smith

<asmith@rplfirm.com>; Chris Ocampo

<cocampo@rplfirm.com>; rhoodlc@sccourts.org; Tommy Evans, Jr.

<TommyEvansJr@scag.gov>; Melody Brown <MBrown@scag.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Timothy Jones (5289) Evaluation Logistics Question

Pete,

Apologies for the delayed response—I'm copying Judge Hood's law clerk and the AG's Office in so everyone stays up to speed.

We appreciate you reaching out and thinking through alternatives. After conferring with Rosalind, we think the status conference would still be the most productive path forward.

Mr. Jones has a long and well-documented history of severe mental illness, and he has refused all contact with counsel, family, and others for months. It's our understanding that he is not currently taking prescribed medication or interacting with anyone at SCDC. Given that, we have serious concerns that he will not come out of his cell for the June 1 evaluation, which makes a transport order unlikely to resolve the issue as a practical matter. For the same reasons, we do not believe he would participate in a remote evaluation, and we have additional concerns about the reliability of an entirely remote competency evaluation.

We certainly don't expect OMH to have an easy answer for how to deal with this unusual situation. But OMH is the subject-matter expert, and we think the status conference with all stakeholders is the right forum to work through it.

I'm available most of the rest of the week and would be happy to discuss or provide any additional background information about Mr. Jones.

Best,

John L. Warren III
Law Office of Bill Nettles
2008 Lincoln St.
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 348-5838

On May 19, 2026, at 7:47 PM, Pete Balthazor
<peteb@rplfirm.com> wrote:

Good evening:

Have you considered these proposals for an evaluation?

Thank you.

**RILEY
POPE &
LANEY**

— LAW — Pete M. Balthazor | Member

Riley Pope & Laney, LLC – South Carolina | North Carolina | Georgia
2838 Devine Street | Columbia, SC 29205
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From: Pete Balthazor

Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 5:46 PM

To: Rosalind Major <rosalind@justice360sc.org>; John Warren <jw@billnettslaw.com>

Cc: April Smith <asmith@rplfirm.com>; Chris Ocampo <cocampo@rplfirm.com>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Timothy Jones (5289) Evaluation Logistics Question

Hello,

As you know, Chris and I have stepped into Logan's place for the interim. We're trying to wrangle all of the various matters.

As I understand this matter, the simple issue is getting a competency evaluation performed. The less simple issue is where. According to Dr. Gothard, during her tenure, OMH has never conducted a competency evaluation at a correctional institution.

Would y'all be opposed to asking Judge Hood to issue a transport order for the evaluation? Or, in the alternative, I believe OMH can conduct a remote evaluation. We would have to work out some mechanics of a remote evaluation so that confidentiality and privacy are preserved, but it is an option. Are y'all amenable to these options to possibly alleviate the need for a hearing next week?

Thank you.

Sincerely, Pete

Pete M. Balthazor | Member
Riley Pope & Laney, LLC – South Carolina | North Carolina | Georgia
2838 Devine Street | Columbia, SC 29205
803.799.9993 | [RPL Website](#) | [LinkedIn](#)
Email: PeteB@RPLFirm.com

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From: Rosalind Major <rosalind@justice360sc.org>

Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 2:42 PM

To: Hood, Robert E. Law Clerk (Reynolds Ward)

<rhoodlc@sccourts.org>

Cc: Pete Balthazor <peteb@rplfirm.com>; Chris Ocampo <cocampo@rplfirm.com>; carolyn.benzon@oidd.bhdd.sc.gov; elinor.lister@omh.bhdd.sc.gov; John Warren <jw@billnettleslaw.com>; Melody Brown <mbrown@scag.gov>; Tommy Evans, Jr. <TommyEvansJr@scag.gov>; elizabeth.bluemle@omh.bhdd.sc.gov

[d.sc.gov; roschell.caton@omh.bhdd.sc.gov](mailto:roschell.caton@omh.bhdd.sc.gov); Hood, Robert E. Secretary (Jeanne-Marie Bolin)

[<rhoodsc@sccourts.org>](mailto:rhoodsc@sccourts.org); Elliott.Salley@doc.sc.gov;

Christina Bigelow (C057846)

[<Bigelow.Christina@doc.sc.gov>](mailto:Bigelow.Christina@doc.sc.gov)

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Timothy Jones (5289) Evaluation Logistics Question

Hi all,

Attached is a transport order for Mr. Jones to be at this hearing. I have also copied Ms. Elliot and Ms. Bigelow on this email thread so SCDC can have notice of this hearing. Please let me know if you want us to provide them with any additional information ahead of the hearing or if you need anything else from us.

Kindly,
Rosalind

Rosalind Major
Senior Staff Attorney, Justice 360
900 Elmwood Ave., Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201
803-765-1044
rosalind@justice360sc.org

On Wed, May 13, 2026 at 2:00 PM Hood, Robert E. Law Clerk (Reynolds Ward)
[<rhoodlc@sccourts.org>](mailto:rhoodlc@sccourts.org) wrote:

Good afternoon,

Judge Hood will hold an on-the-record hearing on May 26, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the Lancaster County Courthouse to address this matter. The following parties are required to attend: the Attorney General's Office, counsel for Timothy Ray Jones, general counsel for SCDC, Pete

Balthazor, and a representative from BHDD, to explain why an on-site evaluation at SCDC cannot be conducted.

Additionally, Judge Hood asks that a transport order be submitted for Mr. Jones.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you,
Reynolds Ward

From: Pete Balthazor <peteb@rplfirm.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 12:27 PM

To: Rosalind Major <rosalind@justice360sc.org>; Chris Ocampo

<cocampo@rplfirm.com>; carolyn.benzon@oidd.bhdd.sc.gov; elinor.lister@omh.bhdd.sc.gov

Cc: John Warren <jw@billnettleslaw.com>; Melody Brown <mbrown@scag.gov>; Tommy Evans, Jr. <TommyEvansJr@scag.gov>; Hood, Robert E. Law Clerk (Reynolds Ward)

<rhoodlc@sccourts.org>; elizabeth.bluemle@omh.bhdd.sc.gov

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Timothy Jones (5289)
Evaluation Logistics Question

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

Hello:

Attached please find a letter addressed to Judge Hood concerning the issue of competency evaluations by OMH at a jail facility or correctional institutions. We hope this letter will adequately address the current issue.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Pete

Pete M. Balthazor | Member
Riley Pope & Laney, LLC – South Carolina | North Carolina | Georgia
2838 Devine Street | Columbia, SC 29205
803.799.9993 | [RPL Website](#) | [LinkedIn](#)
Email: PeteB@RPLFirm.com

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From: Rosalind Major <rosalind@justice360sc.org>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2026 12:42 PM
To: Pete Balthazor <peteb@rplfirm.com>; Chris Ocampo <cocampo@rplfirm.com>; carolyn.benzon@oidd.bhdd.sc.gov; elinor.lister@omh.bhdd.sc.gov
Cc: John Warren <jw@billnettleslaw.com>; Melody Brown <MBrown@scag.gov>; Tommy Evans, Jr. <TommyEvansJr@scag.gov>; Hood, Robert E. Law Clerk (John Jacobus) <rhoodlc@sccourts.org>
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Timothy Jones (5289) Evaluation Logistics Question

Good afternoon,

Apologies for the double email, but I initially sent the below correspondence to Mr. Royals and received an automated response indicating he was no longer with the agency so I am resending the below correspondence to ensure it gets to the right people.

I am reaching out in regards to the ordered competency evaluation for Timothy Jones (5289). Judge Hood asked us to inquire into whether it might be possible to conduct the evaluation at SCDC and we were told by Ms. Bluemle that evaluations cannot be conducted in jail or detention centers. He asked us to reach out to your office to see if you might be able to provide an explanation for why this would not be possible. To the extent the information is helpful to you, Ms. Elliot at SCDC has informed us from their perspective they would have no issue with coordinating to have the evaluation on site should it be possible to do so.

Thank you in advance for any answers you might be able to provide. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Kindly,
Rosalind

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rosalind**

Major <rosalind@justice360sc.org>

Date: Fri, May 8, 2026 at 12:10 PM

Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Timothy Jones (5289)
Evaluation Logistics Question

To: <kenisha.davis@omh.bhdd.sc.gov>,
<logan.royals@omh.bhdd.sc.gov>

Cc: John Warren <jw@billnettslaw.com>,
Melody Brown <MBrown@scag.gov>, Tommy
Evans, Jr. <TommyEvansJr@scag.gov>, Hood,
Robert E. Law Clerk (John Jacobus)
<rhoodlc@sccourts.org>

Good afternoon Mr. Royals and Ms. Davis,

I am reaching out in regards to the ordered competency evaluation for Timothy Jones (5289). Judge Hood asked us to inquire into whether it might be possible to conduct the evaluation at SCDC and we were told by Ms. Bluemle that evaluations cannot be conducted in jail or detention centers. He asked us to reach out to your office to see if you might be able to provide an explanation for why this would not be possible. To the extent the information is helpful to you, Ms. Elliot at SCDC has informed us from their perspective they would have no issue with coordinating to have the evaluation on site should it be possible to do so.

Thank you in advance for any answers you might be able to provide. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Kindly,
Rosalind

Rosalind Major
Senior Staff Attorney, Justice 360
900 Elmwood Ave., Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201
803-765-1044
rosalind@justice360sc.org

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hood, Robert E. Law Clerk (Reynolds Ward)** <rhoodlc@sccourts.org>

Date: Thu, May 7, 2026 at 8:29 PM

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Timothy Jones (5289)
Evaluation Logistics Question

To: Elizabeth Bluemle
<elizabeth.bluemle@omh.bhdd.sc.gov>,
Rosalind Major <rosalind@justice360sc.org>,
Connie Thompson
<connie.thompson@omh.bhdd.sc.gov>, Trudy
Weatherington
<trudy.weatherington@omh.bhdd.sc.gov>,
Matthew Gaskins
<matthew.e.gaskins@gmail.com>, Rashell Black
<rashell.black@omh.bhdd.sc.gov>
Cc: Melody Brown <mbrown@scag.gov>, Tommy
Evans, Jr. <TommyEvansJr@scag.gov>, John
Warren <jw@billnettleslaw.com>

Good evening,

I have conferred with Judge Hood, and he asks
that you please include General Counsel for the
Department of Behavioral Health and
Developmental Disabilities in this matter so they
may provide an explanation as to why an on-site
evaluation at SCDC cannot be conducted.

Thank you,
Reynolds Ward

From: Elizabeth Bluemle
<elizabeth.bluemle@omh.bhdd.sc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 9:55 AM
To: Rosalind Major <rosalind@justice360sc.org>;
Connie Thompson
<connie.thompson@omh.bhdd.sc.gov>; Trudy
Weatherington
<trudy.weatherington@omh.bhdd.sc.gov>; Matthew
Gaskins <matthew.e.gaskins@gmail.com>; Rashell Black
<rashell.black@omh.bhdd.sc.gov>
Cc: Melody Brown <mbrown@scag.gov>; Tommy
Evans, Jr. <TommyEvansJr@scag.gov>; John Warren
<jw@billnettleslaw.com>; Hood, Robert E. Law Clerk
(Reynolds Ward) <rhoodlc@sccourts.org>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Timothy Jones (5289)
Evaluation Logistics Question

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Good morning Ms. Major,

Unfortunately, we do not conduct on-site evaluations in detention centers or prisons. I will defer to Matthew Gaskins, MD, first examiner if he has anything further to add or if you have any additional questions.

Very respectfully,
Beth Bluemle

Beth Bluemle, LMSW
Social Work Manager
Office of Mental Health

S.C. Department of Behavioral Health and
Developmental Disabilities
Forensic Evaluation and Outpatient Services
7901 Farrow Road, Building 6
Columbia, S.C. 29203
(803) 935-6068 Office
(803) 935-5544 Fax
elizabeth.bluemle@omh.bhdd.sc.gov

ALERT: MY NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS
IS: elizabeth.bluemle@omh.bhdd.sc.gov
PLEASE UPDATE YOUR RECORDS.

Effective April 28, 2025, Act No. 3 of 2025
established the Department of Behavioral Health
and Developmental Disabilities which consists

of Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, the Office of Mental Health and the Office of Substance Use Services. Department of Mental Health changed to Office of Mental Health.

From: Rosalind Major <rosalind@justice360sc.org>

Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 7:59 AM

To: Connie Thompson

<connie.thompson@omh.bhdd.sc.gov>; Trudy Weatherington

<trudy.weatherington@omh.bhdd.sc.gov>; Matthew Gaskins <matthew.e.gaskins@gmail.com>; Elizabeth Bluemle <elizabeth.bluemle@omh.bhdd.sc.gov>; Rashell Black <rashell.black@omh.bhdd.sc.gov>

Cc: Melody Brown <MBrown@scag.gov>; Tommy Evans, Jr. <TommyEvansJr@scag.gov>; John Warren <jw@billnettleslaw.com>; Hood, Robert E. Law Clerk (John Jacobus) <rhoodlc@sccourts.org>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Timothy Jones (5289) Evaluation Logistics Question

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the South Carolina Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Office of Mental Health. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

I hope you are doing well. I am reaching out to get some information at the request of Judge Hood regarding the competency evaluation of Mr. Jones. Given that Mr. Jones refused transportation for the previously ordered evaluation, we wanted to know logistically if this is something that the designated examiner might be able to conduct on site at SCDC and if he would need to be able to bring anything into an institution for the purposes of the evaluation. We

are also asking SCDC about whether this would be possible on their end, but wanted to reach out and ask what might be possible. Thank you for any information you can provide to us all about this. We greatly appreciate your insight. Please let me know if you have any questions or want any additional information about this request.

Kindly,
Rosalind

Rosalind Major
Senior Staff Attorney, Justice 360
900 Elmwood Ave., Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201
803-765-1044
rosalind@justice360sc.org

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