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AUG 27 2026

SC Court of Appeals

**THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COURT OF APPEALS**

Victoria Joy Stevens
Plaintiff,

vs

Charles Ard
Defendant.

CASE NO:2025-001237

Motion to the Appellate Court under SCACR Rule 607 and Section V(B) of the SC Court
Reporter Manual

Victoria Joy Stevens
4311 Bryant Street
Loris, S.C.29569
843-516-154
Pro se

Charles Ard
2621 Simpson Creek Drive
Loris, S.C.295669
Counsel Unknown

TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Appellant Victoria Joy Stevens hereby moves this Court, upon the relaxation of oral argument and based strictly upon the written record and moving papers submitted herein, for an Order compelling Court Reporter Kay H. Richardson to produce and deliver the original, unedited audio/backup recordings of Common Pleas Case No. 2022CP2604125 to Appellant at 4311 Bryant St., Loris, S.C. 29569 by September 30, 2026.

This production is required so that said recordings may be reviewed and verified by an independent, professional third party to test the verbatim accuracy of the transcripts, as the produced transcripts do not align with Appellant's memory, contemporaneous notes, or the statements of her witness. Appellant further moves this Court for monetary sanctions pursuant to Rule 241(c), SCACR, and Rule 208, SCACR, for the failure to comply with appellate procedural requirements and a lawfully issued subpoena.

GROUND FOR MOTION

1. **Failure to Comply with Lawful Subpoena:** On July 10, 2026, pursuant to instructions from Horry County Clerk of Court Renee Elvis, who signed and issued an official Subpoena Duces Tecum, Appellant served Court Reporter Kay H. Richardson via USPS Certified Mail at her official address listed on sccourts.org (Post Office Box 282, Aynor, SC 29511). The certified mail return receipt confirms delivery and pickup on July 10, 2026 (attached as **Exhibit A**). Despite formal service of this signed court subpoena, Ms. Richardson has completely failed to respond, object, or produce the requested backup recordings. *Meet and confer sent 6/15/26 (Exhibits A & B)*
2. **Verbatim Record Requirements Under Rule 607:** Under Rule 607, SCACR, an official court reporter has a strict legal obligation to provide a professionally certified, verbatim copy of the trial proceedings. Appellant has followed all court directives and paid for these transcripts in full. However, Appellant contends that the transcripts received do not accurately

3. reflect the trial proceedings of June 9 and 10, 2025, including material discrepancies regarding the trial events, statements by the court, and the jury's original verdict.
4. **Authority to Access Backup Audio:** Pursuant to Section V(B) of the South Carolina Court Reporter Manual, a litigant requires judicial authorization from the appellate court to receive a copy of the backup recording for the purpose of verifying the record. This motion seeks that explicit authorization to preserve Appellant's fundamental due process right to a fair and accurate record on appeal.
5. **Attempt to Resolve Without Court Intervention:** On June 15, 2026, Appellant sent a formal letter to Court Reporter Richardson attempting to resolve this dispute without court action, in accordance with appellate practice standards. A copy of this communication is attached as **Exhibit B**. To date, Ms. Richardson has failed to respond, significantly prejudicing Appellant's ability to prepare her appellate brief.
6. **Willful Disobedience and Sanctions:** Completely ignoring or failing to respond to a legally served Subpoena Duces Tecum, without filing a formal objection or motion for protective order, constitutes willful disobedience. Because Appellant is left with no means to preserve accurate evidence for the appellate record, sanctions under Rule 208, SCACR, and Rule 241(c), SCACR, are appropriate.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff/Appellant Victoria Joy Stevens respectfully requests that this Court issue an Order:

1. Compelling Court Reporter Kay H. Richardson to produce and deliver the original, unedited audio/backup recordings of Common Pleas Case No. 2022CP2604125 to Appellant within ten (10) days of the Court's Order; and
2. Authorizing access to said audio recordings pursuant to Section V(B) of the South Carolina Court Reporter Manual for independent third-party verification.

Respectfully submitted,
Dated: August 24, 2026

Victoria J. Stevens

Further legal points Exhibit C

Exhibit A

Your item was picked up at the post office at 3:47 pm on July 10, 2026 in AYNOR, SC 29511.

Get More Out of USPS Tracking:

USPS Tracking Plus®

Delivered

Delivered, Individual Picked Up at Post Office

AYNOR, SC 29511

July 10, 2026 3:47 PM

Available for Pickup

AYNOR

2945 HIGHWAY 501 E

AYNOR SC 29511-9998

Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Sat 9:00 AM-10:00 AM

July 6, 2026 10:56 AM

Arrived at USPS Facility

COLUMBIA SC PROCESSING CENTER

July 2, 2026 9:16 PM

Departed Post Office

LORIS, SC 29569

July 2, 2026 4:39 PM

Departed USPS Facility

LORIS, SC 29569

July 2, 2026 4:39 PM

USPS in possession of item

LORIS, SC 29569

July 2, 2026 10:28 AM

Exhibit B

Kay H. Richardson
P.O. Box 282
Aynor, S.C. 29511

Victoria Joy Stevens
4311 Bryant St.
Loris, S.C. 29569
843-516-1541

Re: Second Meet and Confer attempt
June 15, 2026

Dear Court Reporter,

On February 7, 2026, at 12:43 PM I sent you an email entitled "I request you listen to the trial 2022CO2604125 again". Your response adamantly reflected your position these recordings reflect the transcription copy. You gave me directive to follow directions in the attached document in your mail. I did not ask how to contest the transcripts. I sent you request to confer on these horridly wrong transcripts, then as legally follows a Subpoena for the audio. You ignored a legally issued Subpoena Duces Tecum.

With all due respect, in South Carolina, a subpoena holds the same legal force as a court order. Court officials, agencies, and ordinary citizens are legally mandated to respond to a subpoena that is properly issued and within their purview. You have violated law, several factually. In South Carolina, ignoring a properly served subpoena is a serious offense. A court reporter who willfully ignores a subpoena can be found in **contempt of court**, leading to fines, arrest warrants, and potential misdemeanor charges. severe cases, the court may issue a bench warrant to have law enforcement physically bring the reporter in. Inasmuch as under South Carolina law, the combination of construction negligence, active fraud, and the exploitation of a severely disabled plaintiff constitute an exceptionally severe case. It is, therefore, reasonable that this Ignorance of a properly served **Subpoena Duces Tecum** in South Carolina results in a judge issuing a **bench warrant** for your arrest.

Because a Subpoena Duces Tecum is a court-ordered command to produce specific documents, records, or physical evidence, refusing to comply puts you in **contempt of court**.

This transcript bears major substantive omissions of flagrant Court errors, and omission of actual proceedings.

- **COURT ERROR** Page 14 & 15, lines 14 through 26, and lines 1 through 16 to page 15 lines 1

through 8. In regards to my amended complaint, we pulled a jury July 9, 2025, complaint was amended June 5, 2025, and filed. Rule 15 allows for amended claim to be brought. I now can understand why Attorney Lawrence Smith made me wait three years to get this Judge.

- **COURT ERROR** Judge Hyman completely ignored Court Rule 803(6)(b) page 30 line 20 through 24, page 32, line 13 through to line 14 page 35.
- **PROOF OF OMISSIONS** Page 142, lines 6 to 8, I apologize to the jury for making them get up and leave the courtroom so many times. Over half of these Judicial removals are not in these transcripts. These omissions create the illusion of Judicial fairness, Judge Hyman had stated, that I had never mentioned sexual assault, when it is in my initial complaint. This trial was everything but fair.
- **COURT ERRORS** My family owns Horry County's oldest law firm, and my honors Masters' is in Policy. I sustained injuries which left me physically disabled, but mentally able to gain Honors degrees. I know from firsthand experience the value and application of fairness, and its opposite discrimination. I was assured, and I incorrectly assumed, that transcripts would accurately reflect what occurred at trial, therefore I would get justice. Legally, the court itself does not bear the sole weight of deciding if justice is served. Instead, under the U.S. adversarial system, the court acts as a neutral referee, while the responsibility for proving facts and deciding guilt falls on the opposing parties and the jury. So why does a Judge, who trial was delayed three years to have on the bench, get to ignore court rules, refuse a jury's verdict, make the jury redeliberate, and chose the Court Reporter who prepared the fraudulent transcripts? Justice is surely not the reason.
- **COURT & COURT EMPLOYEE ERRORS** The most heinous omission of this transcript is the jury's original verdict, in which I was awarded all my repair bills. That along with the omissions of Judge Hyman's refusal of their verdict, and statement that they were ruling on emotion not law, truly makes me question your professional competency, and right to be a South Carolina Court Reporter. Coming from a Family whose professional Titles and Degrees are almost all involved in law, I know what to do. I, therefore, certified mailed you Subpoena Duces Tecum, signed by Clerk of Court Renee Elvis. Which you ignored for 10 days, until returned.

The Legal mechanisms governing this include:

- [Rule 45 - The South Carolina Judicial Branch](#): This rule governs civil subpoenas, detailing exactly how individuals and court-related entities must respond, produce documents, or appear for testimony.

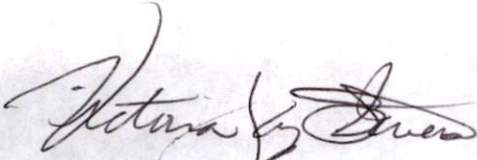
- [South Carolina Code Section 16-9-330](#): This statute explicitly makes it a misdemeanor to knowingly or willfully disobey a legally issued subpoena, or to refuse to take an oath and answer questions required by a court.
- [South Carolina Code Section 15-47-120](#): Outlines the specific parameters for clerk-issued subpoenas, ensuring out-of-state and domestic processes are properly handled.
- [South Carolina Code Section 14-7-1680](#): Details how specific investigative bodies (like the State Grand Jury) utilize subpoenas and enforce compliance through contempt of court rulings
- I did not send you a request on how to contest a transcript, I sent you U.S. Mail Certified Subpoena Duces Tecum, signed by Clerk of Court Renee Elvis, which you ignored. In South Carolina that is **Criminal Contempt**: Used to punish a person for willful disobedience, disrespect, or disrupting court proceedings. When found guilty of criminal contempt, the punishment is a fixed penalty (like a set jail term or fine) for past behavior that cannot be undone by complying later. A criminal contempt conviction goes on your permanent criminal record. I am filing Motion to Compel.

This certified mail, to your sccourts.org listed contact was delivered. Law clearly stipulates the following:

- **Contempt of Court**: Under [Rule 45 of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure](#), failure to comply with an adequate excuse is punishable as contempt of the court that issued the document.
- **Classified Misdemeanor**: According to [South Carolina Code Section 16-9-330](#), willfully failing to obey a legally issued subpoena is a misdemeanor. Conviction can result in fines between \$100 and \$500, imprisonment for up to six months, or both.
- **Disciplinary Action**: The [South Carolina Court Reporter Manual](#) mandates that a court reporter's willful failure to comply with obligations can lead to contempt enforceable by an Order from the [South Carolina Supreme Court](#).
- **Civil Penalties**: If the ignoring party's actions cause a delay or result in a motion to compel, the court can also order the reporter to pay attorney fees and related legal expenses.
- **Rule 45 - South Carolina Judicial Branch (e) Contempt**. Failure by any person without adequate excuse to obey a subpoena served upon that person may be deemed a contempt of the court from which the subpoena issued. An adequate cause for failure to obey exists when a subpoena purports to require a non-party to attend a deposition, permit an inspection, or produce at a place not within the limits provided by clause (ii) of subparagraph (c)(3)(A); or if served without an adequate time to respond; or if service is made upon an individual under Rule 4(d)(1) and the individual did not receive or acknowledge the subpoena.

There is more, but I hope by sharing statute, court rule, and parameters of letter of the law, it is easy for you to ascertain your conduct is illegal, seemingly biased, and horridly unprofessional. I remain,

Yours truly,



Victoria Joy Stevens

CC:

Tammie Holmes
Court Reporter Manager
South Carolina Court Administration
SC Judicial Branch
1220 Senate St.
Columbia, SC 29201

[Court of Appeals](#)
1220 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Lawrence Smith / Attorney of Record
Rivertown Law
908 4th Ave.
Conway, S.C. 29256-5145

Office of Disciplinary Counsel

Department of Justice

Judge Alex Hyman

Renee Elvis
Horry County Clerk of Court

Office of Professional Responsibility
SLED

Victoria Joy Stevens
4311 Bryant St.

Loris, S.C. 29569

Exhibit C

The Supreme Court of South Carolina
Jason M. Bobertz
General Counsel
South Carolina Judicial Branch
P.O. Box 11330
Columbia, S.C. 29211

Re: Common Pleas Case No.:2022CP2604125
Appellate Case No.:2025-001237

Dear Mr. Bobertz;

Upon receipt of your correspondence dated July 17, 2026, which was received electronically July 24, 2026, yet not received as of July 28, 2026 in US mail, there are a host of legal discrepancies which immediately caught my eye. First and foremost, denial of my Motions to Correct and Motion to Professionally Verify Transcript Accuracy constitute severe due process violations. Under both the U.S. Constitution and South Carolina law, due process requires a meaningful opportunity to be heard. If the official record used by an appellate court is intentionally falsified, or denied, it limits my legal arguments, effectively silencing my right to have my arguments heard. To proceed in this discourse I offer responsive rebuttal to your other legal points within your correspondence:

- First, a **subpoena duces tecum** does not contravene South Carolina law; rather, it is fully authorized and regulated under [South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 45](#) as a lawful tool to compel the production of documents or evidence in civil proceedings.
- A Subpoena Duces Tecum, does not inherently violate **Rule 45(c)(2)(B), SCRPC**, but the subpoenaed non-party can challenge it by timely filing a motion to quash or for a protective order under **Rule 45(c)** or **Rule 26(c), SCRPC**. Neither which Court Reporter Kay H. Richardson has done. Said Subpoena's legal functions: Court Reporter Richardson is to retain said tapes. Specifically, **Retention of Recordings**.
 - **(1) Five Years from Proceeding.** A court reporter must retain the primary and backup recordings of a proceeding for at least five (5) years after the date of the proceeding before destroying or deleting any recordings. If the

proceeding was a hearing or trial which lasted for more than one day, the time shall be computed from the last day of the hearing or trial.

- **(2) One year from Transcription.** A court reporter must also retain the primary and backup recordings from a proceeding that has been transcribed for at least one (1) year after the original transcript is sent to the requesting party, even if this results in the reporter retaining the recordings longer than five (5) years, to allow a party to challenge the accuracy of the transcription.
- **Failure to Comply.** 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.
- Last amended by Order dated May 15, 2025, effective May 28, 2025.

I have filed a Motion to Correct and the Motion to Professionally Verify Transcript Accuracy, this effectively shifts the burden of proof from an adversarial discovery battle over a subpoena to a direct demand for judicial oversight. Entire portions of a trial were omitted, procedural court r failure of our court system and must be addressed. Both of these Motions were denied, court rules were violated, and the most egregious fact was the jury's verdict was left out! This constitutes an multifaceted denial of my right to legally confront this abuse of process, in effect robbing me of Due Process.

Moreover, I requested a jury trial, but a JNOV was rendered, court documents should show this but they don't! The litigation was full of innuendo by opposing counsel. But I met all of his attempts to sully my character with explanation as to why I found such necessary. The Jury found in my favor, all my repair bills. Even though I requested a jury trial the Judge told the jury they were "Ruling on emotion, not law", sent them back for further deliberation, and still entered a JNOV. Notarized Statement and testimony will be available.

None of these violations of due process, court rules, or plain honesty are within the transcripts I paid for. I do not possess a Juris Doctorate, however you can rest assured with my Honors Masters in Policy I am well versed on the interpretations of law, and legal maneuvers. Policy, itself, is a deliberate system of principles, or a course of action adopted by a government, business, or institution to direct decisions and achieve rational outcomes. I repeat rational outcomes. It acts as an official statement of intent that turns core values into routine practice and consistent governance. I repeat consistent governance.

As General Counsel for our state's judicial branch you still possess no legal right or authority to place administrative or procedural rules above the constitutional guarantees of Due Process. Inasmuch as constitutional law sets the supreme, legally binding rules of a nation, its real-world ramifications, or policy, shape and define the overarching goals, actions, and limits of government behavior. Constitutional due process is a supreme law of the land, meaning lower court rules, administrative policies, or procedural constraints cannot lawfully override fundamental constitutional rights. I reach this determination via:

Constitutional Supremacy: The Due Process Clauses of the U.S. Constitution (Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments) and corresponding state constitutions outrank all internal agency policies, court rules, and administrative guidelines.

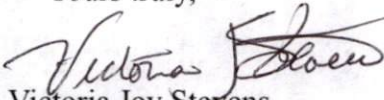
Subordination of Procedure: Procedural rules exist to *implement* and protect due process – such as providing notice and a fair hearing—not to subvert or extinguish it, an internal

procedural deficiency or rule cannot be used as an excuse to strip away a foundational constitutional right. Which is what South Carolina Appellate Court is doing.

What has occurred to me throughout this debacle, amongst a host of negative abuses of process, is referred to as the sharp practice of law. Its consistency weighed heavily on procedural deficits, when in actuality the deficits in policy, which I have suffered through are criminal. I am Pro se. I am permanently disabled. Factually, statement from my surgeon, most recent, is within Documents filed with the courts. Yet at no time, in this suit, have I utilized that fact.

As of 7/27/26 your email which I am responding to is no longer anywhere on my computer. I have diligently searched, not in my inbox, nor trash. Is this feasible? I am not worried, I have addressed constitutional violation, and the misinterpretation and misapplication of the way our courts are designed to work. This is not just. You force me to enlist the aid of those more adept at legal procedure. Furthermore, under South Carolina law, attorneys dealing with pro se litigants must follow strict ethical boundaries defined by [Rule 4.3 of the S.C. Rules of Professional Conduct](#), prohibiting lawyers from implying disinterest, requiring them to correct misunderstandings about their role, and barring them from giving legal advice other than advising the person to secure counsel. While intentional misrepresentation of law, or rule and procedure is not listed, it is meant. You have done this within your correspondence several times. I remain,

Yours truly,


Victoria Joy Stevens

Certificate of Service

Copy of the proceeding Motion has been served, via first class mail, on the defendant, Charles Ard, who is now Pro Se, and all listed below:

Kay H. Richardson
P.O. Box 282
Aynor, S.C. 29511

Lawrence Smith / Withdrawn Attorney of Record
Rivertown Law
908 4th Ave.
Conway, S.C. 29256-5145

Tammie Holmes
Court Reporter Manager
South Carolina Court Administration
SC Judicial Branch
1220 Senate St.
Columbia, SC 29201

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SC Court of Appeals

Court of Appeals
1220 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201

The Hon. B. Alex Hyman
1301 2nd Avenue, Suite 3A30
Conway, SC 29526

Horry County Clerk of Court Renee Elvis
PO Box 677,
Conway, SC 29528-0677

Charles Ard
2621 Simpson Creek Drive
Loris, S.C. 29569

Exhibit A

Tracking Number:

9589071052700554037474

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Latest Update

V. Joy Stevens
4311 Bryant St
Cora, S.C. 29569

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