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SC Court of Appeals

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Mustafa El Shabazz Bey,
Appellant,

v.

Case No. 2026-001884

South Carolina Department of Social Services,
Respondent.

EXHIBIT LON#1

APPELLANT'S STATEMENT REGARDING LACK OF NOTICE

I, Mustafa El Shabazz Bey, submit this statement to explain why I did not receive documents concerning the October 2025 administrative matter and the resulting decision:

1. During the relevant period, the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) continued to use the address "General Delivery, 2025 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201" for me. I was not residing at that address and could not receive mail sent there.
2. Because DSS continued using that address, I did not receive notice of the proceedings, the documents concerning the October 2025 matter, or the resulting adverse decision in time to appear, object, submit evidence, or otherwise respond.
3. The adverse decision was therefore made without my knowledge and before I had a fair opportunity to be heard or to defend myself against the allegations or proposed action.
4. I did not learn that the adverse decision had been entered until Maryland DSS later suspended my benefits based upon the South Carolina action. By that time, the decision had already been made and was being enforced against me.
5. The May 7, 2026 email from Maria Addison, Administrative Coordinator for DSS, corroborates this continuing notice problem. The email states that the Office of Administrative Hearings mailed my transcript to General Delivery, 2025 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, and that the mailing was returned as "Return to Sender; Not Deliverable as Addressed; Unable to Forward." The email was sent to Erika S. Easler and Paula Brown and asked whether anyone had a different address for me.
6. This returned-mail record demonstrates that official documents in my case were still being directed to an address where they could not reach me. It is consistent with my position that I did not receive timely notice of the October 2025 matter or a fair opportunity to respond before the adverse decision affected my Maryland benefits.

Supporting record: May 7, 2026 email from Maria Addison regarding the returned transcript mailing.

I declare that the foregoing statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Mustafa El Shabazz Bey, Appellant

9/1/2026

Date

LON#1

Exhibit ____ | Case No. 2026-001884