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Sep 11 2026

SC Court of Appeals

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

APPEAL FROM LANCASTER COUNTY
Court of General Sessions

Misti H. Shelton, Circuit Judge

State of South Carolina v. Matthew Drakeford

Trial Court Case Nos. 2025GS2900638,
2026GS2901286, 2026GS2901287

Appellate Case No. 2026-1799

Matthew Drakeford,.....Appellant,

v.

State of South Carolina,.....Respondent.

NOTICE OF APPEAL
AMENDED and CORRECTED

Matthew Drakeford appeals his conviction and sentence. The appellant is seeking review of the acceptance of the plea and sentence from the plea colloquy. The sentence was imposed by The Honorable Misti H. Shelton on August 3, 2026.

RULE 203(B) EXPLANATION

Pursuant to Rule 203(B)(iv), the undersigned asserts that a good faith basis for any issue properly before the Court of Appeals is not clear. The

Defendant contacted my office directly asking my office to file an appeal in his case. The undersigned has filed the instant appeal at the request of the Appellant as the Sixth Amendment requires counsel to follow the Appellant's request. *See Frazier v. South Carolina*, 430 F.3d 696, 706 (4th Cir.2005) ("A defendant has a right to pursue a direct appeal, even if frivolous, which counsel must assist as 'an active advocate on behalf of his client.'") (Quoting *Anders v. California*, 386 U.S. 738, 744 (1967)).

Respectfully Submitted,


COCKRELL LAW FIRM, P.C.

M.W. Cockrell, III
157 Main St.
Chesterfield, SC 29709
(843)623-5911
Trial Counsel

Chesterfield, South Carolina
September 11, 2026

Other Counsel of Record:
Chief Deputy Solicitor Kaitlyn Marie Easler
104 North Main Street
Lancaster, SC 29720
(803) 416-9367
Attorney for Respondent

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Appellate Case No.: 2026-001799

Matthew Drakeford,.....Appellant,

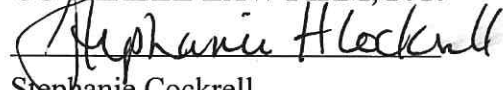
v.

State of South Carolina,.....Respondent.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I certify that I have served the Respondent by depositing a copy of the *amended and corrected notice of appeal* in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, on September 11, 2026, addressed to Respondent's attorney of record, Chief Deputy Kaitlyn Marie Easler, PO BOX 607, Lancaster, South Carolina 29720.

COCKRELL LAW FIRM, P.C.



Stephanie Cockrell

157 Main St.

Chesterfield, SC 29709

(843)623-5911

Litigation Paralegal

Chesterfield, South Carolina
September 11, 2026

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SC Court of Appeals

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August 26, 2026

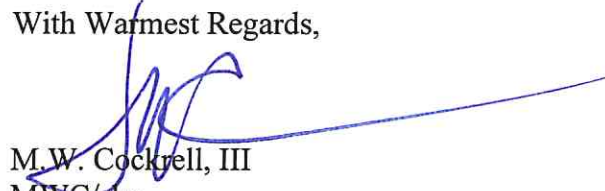
The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings
Clerk of Court, South Carolina Court of Appeals
PO Box 11629
Columbia, SC 29211

RE: State of South Carolina v. Matthew Drakeford
Appellate Case Number: 2026-001799

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

Enclosed for filing is an *AMENDED and CORRECTED Notice of Appeal* and proof of service in the above case.

With Warmest Regards,



M.W. Cockrell, III
MWC/shc
Enclosure(s)

Cc: Matthew Drakeford

Attorney Genereal, Alan Wilson
Mark Farthing
Chief Deputy Solicitor Kaitlyn Marie Easler
Jessica Russo
Wanda Carter