



THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In the Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM BEAUFORT COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

Donald B. Hocker, Circuit Judge

Lower Court Case No. 2024-CP-07-01039

Richard Bowman, Appellant,

v.

Cosima MacLean, Respondent.

Appellate Case No. 2026-001128

REPLY TO APPELLANT’S RETURN IN OPPOSITION
TO RESPONDENT’S MOTION TO DISMISS

Appellant does not dispute the fact that he has failed to order the transcript. He concedes that the February 4, 2026 transcript was never ordered, and as of Appellant’s September 16, 2026 filing he has still not ordered it. (Return pp. 3, 5). Rule 207(a)(1), SCACR, gave Appellant ten days from May 12, 2026 to order a transcript of the entire proceedings below. Appellant has failed to do this for months, and now asks for an additional fourteen days from the date this Court rules on the motion. This Court should dismiss this appeal.

Appellant, nor his previous attorney, has ever ordered the February 4, 2026 transcript. He now, asks for “fourteen (14) days from the Court’s order to submit or confirm the appropriate request for the February 4, 2026 transcript and to make satisfactory payment arrangements.” (Return p. 5). Importantly, Appellant only made this request in response to Respondent’s motion

to dismiss, not before. His request is that he be allowed to place an initial transcript order months after service of the notice of appeal where the Rule requires it to be done within ten days. Appellant has not identified the court reporter, or the price of the transcripts, and has failed to provide this Court with any communication between him and the court reporter as to either day of the hearing.

Appellant's explanation is that the omission was former counsel's and that he learned of it only from Respondent's motion to dismiss. (Return pp. 1–3). Respondent takes no position on Appellant's dealings with his former attorney and does not ask this Court to resolve them. But his explanation does not excuse his failure to order the transcript now.

Appellant has been proceeding pro se since July 14, 2026 when this Court so advised him and directed him to notify it immediately upon receipt of the transcript. This Court's August 24, 2026 letter directed him to Rule 207 and to the Office of Court Administration. Appellant claims that he emailed "the transcript office" at the beginning of September 2026 regarding the missing transcript but has not provided this Court with that correspondence. Counsel for Respondents have also not been copied on or provided with this alleged correspondence. (Return p. 2). Furthermore, Appellant's complaint that he has not received his "complete client file" from his former lawyer has nothing to do with ordering the transcripts. Ordering a transcript requires a request to the Office of Court Administration through the transcript portal and subsequent communication directly with the assigned court reporter.

Appellant states in his Return that he "unequivocally confirms that he is willing and prepared to pay the required costs" for both days. (Return p. 1). But Rule 207(a)(1), SCACR, requires Appellant to "make satisfactory arrangements (including agreement regarding payment for the transcript), in writing *with the court reporter*," and must "contemporaneously furnish all parties, the Office of Court Administration, and the clerk of the appellate court with copies of all

correspondence *with the court reporter.*” (emphasis added). A representation of willingness to pay made to this Court months after the deadline is not an arrangement made in writing with the court reporter, and Respondent has still been furnished no correspondence with any court reporter as to either day.

Appellant also emphasizes that the April 1 transcript was requested but has still not been delivered. (Return p. 2). One possible explanation as to why the transcript has gone undelivered is because Appellant never agreed in writing with the court reporter to pay for it. Under Rule 207(a)(2), SCACR, the court reporter assigned to prepare the April 1 transcript would have had sixty days from the May 22, 2026 request—if Appellant had agreed to pay in writing. On July 22, 2026, when that sixty-day period passed with no transcript and no notice of an extension, Rule 207(a)(5) required Appellant to notify the Office of Court Administration, the Clerk of this Court, and the court reporter in writing. Appellant did not do so until after this Court warned him on August 24, 2026. Furthermore, the fact that the April 1 transcript has not been delivered does not explain or excuse the failure to ever order the February 4 transcript.

Granting Appellant’s request now would start the sixty-day period of Rule 207(a)(2) for the first time, subject to as much as ninety additional days of extensions under Rule 207(a)(3), before briefing on the merits could begin. This Court should deny Appellant’s request, especially where his request was made only in response to Respondent’s motion to dismiss for his failure to order the transcript.

For these reasons and those stated in the Motion, Respondent respectfully requests that this Court dismiss this appeal.

(signature page follows)

s/Adam Ruffin
Adam Sinclair Ruffin
SC Bar No. 101350
1320 Main Street, Suite 300
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 470-5629
adam@ruffinappeals.com

John R.C. Bowen
SC Bar No. 791
P.O. Drawer 21119
Hilton Head Island, SC 29925
(843) 689-5700
john@laughlinandbowen.com

Attorneys for Respondent

This 21st day of September 2026.

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PROOF OF SERVICE

Pursuant to Rule 262(c), SCACR, undersigned counsel hereby certifies that a true copy of the Reply to Appellant's Return to Respondent's Motion to Dismiss in the above-referenced case has been served upon Appellant Richard Bowman, by electronic mail at Rbfamily@protonmail.com and by United States mail, first class postage prepaid, addressed to 620 Sea Island Rd. #172, St. Simons Island, GA 31522, this 21st day of September, 2026.

s/Adam Ruffin
Adam Sinclair Ruffin
SC Bar No. 101350
1320 Main Street, Suite 300
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 470-5629
adam@ruffinappeals.com

Attorney for Respondent

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SC Court of Appeals