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SC Court of Appeals

ALAN WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

October 1, 2026

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

RE: State v. Tracy Alice Rel -- Appellate Case No. 2026-001821

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

On August 19, 2026, this Court issued an order dismissing the above-referenced criminal appeal based on the failure of the appellant, Tracy Alice Rel, to timely serve the notice of appeal upon the State as required. On August 24, 2026, Rel's defense counsel submitted a motion seeking for Rel's appeal to be reinstated. In seeking such relief, defense counsel explained the notice of appeal was, in fact, timely served upon the State because it was served and filed on August 5, 2026, which was eight days after Rel's sentence was unsealed and finally imposed on July 28, 2026. Defense counsel further explained the information about date the sentence was unsealed was inadvertently not included in the original notice of appeal.

On September 29, 2026, this Court asked the State to provide a return to Rel's motion to reinstate within ten days. The State respectfully asks this Court to please accept this letter in lieu of a formal return. Please be advised that, based on the information provided by defense counsel establishing the notice of appeal was timely served in Rel's case, the State has no objections to Rel's appeal being reinstated. Thank you very much, and, if you have any questions or concerns or if a more formal return is needed, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Farthing
Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General
S.C. Bar Number 76901

MRF/sk
cc: Wanda H. Carter, Esq. (via electronic mail)
Jason S. Chehoski, Esq. (via electronic mail)
Assistant Solicitor Doug W. Fender (via electronic mail)