

The South Carolina Court of Appeals

Elvira Perez, by and through her Son and Next Friend,
Jose A. Perez, Appellant,

v.

Edgefield Community Healthcare, LLC d/b/a Edgefield
Post Acute, Respondent.

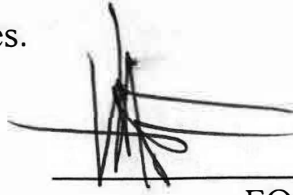
Appellate Case No. 2026-001556

ORDER

On July 13, 2026, Jose A. Perez filed a notice of appeal on behalf of his mother, Elvira Perez. Although Jose Perez has represented he holds Elvira Perez's power of attorney, he had not represented that he is a licensed South Carolina attorney, and this court has been unable to independently determine the same. Therefore, after careful consideration, we dismiss the appeal on the basis Jose Perez cannot represent or maintain an appeal on behalf of Elvira Perez.¹ *Compare* S.C. Code Ann. § 40-5-310 ("No person may either practice law or solicit the legal cause of *another person* or entity in this State unless he is enrolled as a member of the South Carolina Bar pursuant to applicable court rules, or otherwise authorized to perform prescribed legal activities by action of the Supreme Court of South Carolina." (emphasis added)), *with Brooks v. S.C. Comm'n on Indigent Def.*, 419 S.C. 319, 330, 797 S.E.2d 402, 407 (Ct. App. 2017) ("A litigant has a statutory right to proceed pro se in South Carolina.") *and* S.C. Code Ann. § 40-5-80 (2011) ("[The chapter regulating the practice of law] may not be construed so as to prevent a citizen from prosecuting or defending *his own cause*, if he so desires." (emphasis added)). Remittitur will be sent as provided in Rule 221 of the South

¹ In light of this court's decision to dismiss the appeal, this court need not address the motion to reconsider or motion to reconsider holding the appeal in abeyance, which were filed by Jose Perez or Respondent's motion to dismiss, which argued other grounds in support of dismissal.

Carolina Appellate Court Rules.

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J.

FOR THE COURT

Columbia, South Carolina

cc:

Jerome Bennett Crites, III, Esquire

Jose A. Perez

FILED
Oct 05 2026