

RECEIVED

Oct 08 2026

SC Court of Appeals

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

Appeal from Aiken County

Honorable Walton J. McLeod, IV, Circuit Court Judge

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

RESPONDENT,

V.

JOHNATHAN DAQUAN STALEY,

APPELLANT.

APPELLATE CASE 2025-002154

MOTION TO TRANSPORT AND UNSEAL COURT'S EXHIBIT 9

Appellant moves this Court to have Court's Exhibit 9 from the trial transported to this Court and unsealed to allow for its inspection by Appellant's counsel and a representative of the Attorney General to determine whether any issue relating to the exhibit should be filed as part of Appellant's direct appeal. Appellant's counsel needs to review Court's Exhibit 9 before she can assess the issues to be raised on appeal. Court's Exhibit 9 consists of records from the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) which may include those of (1) Appellant; (2) his uncle, the Decedent; (3) his grandmother, a State's eyewitness who testified at trial; and (4) other relatives. *See* Exhibit A.

Prior to trial Appellant moved to obtain these DSS records, seeking: information that might support Appellant's explanation of the evidence; impeachment evidence; or other exculpatory

evidence. In the alternative, Appellant moved the records be provided to the court for *in camera* review pursuant to *State v. Blackwell*, 420 S.C. 127, 801 S.E.2d 713 (2017). *See* Exhibit A. DSS moved to quash the subpoena. *See* Exhibit B. On August 25, 2025, the parties as well as counsel for DSS appeared in front of the Honorable Debra McCaslin for a hearing on this matter. *See* Exhibit C. The court found Appellant had demonstrated good cause to produce the records and ordered the records to be produced for *in camera* review by the trial judge, the Honorable Walton J. McLeod, IV. *See* Exhibit D. Appellant was tried from October 13 – 15, 2025, before Judge McLeod and a jury. The trial judge reviewed the records *in camera*, ruled they did not contain relevant material, and ordered them to be sealed and made a Court's Exhibit. *See* Exhibit E. The Aiken County Clerk of Court's Office has confirmed it is in possession of the sealed exhibit. *See* Exhibit F.

In order to determine whether to raise the issue concerning disclosure in Appellant's brief, counsel needs to review the exhibit to determine whether such an issue has merit. It is in the best interest of all parties to have Appellant's counsel review the documents prior to deciding whether to raise the issue on appeal. Raising a clearly non-meritorious issue wastes the time of all parties involved.

Appellant respectfully requests the sealed court's exhibit be transported to the Court of Appeals and there unsealed for inspection and review by Appellant's counsel and a representative of the Attorney General's Office. Further, Appellant respectfully requests the timelines for filing the Initial Brief of Appellant and Designation of Matter be held in abeyance pending resolution of this motion.

Respectfully submitted,



Joanna K. Delany
Appellate Defender

This 8th day of October, 2026.

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SC Court of Appeals

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

Appeal from Aiken County

Honorable Walton J. McLeod, IV, Circuit Court Judge

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

RESPONDENT,

V.

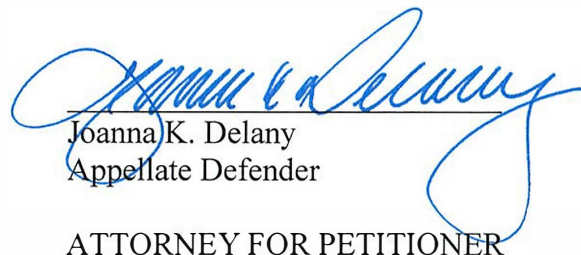
JOHNATHAN DAQUAN STALEY,

PETITIONER.

APPELLATE CASE NO. 2025-002154

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to Rule 262(a)(3) and Rule 262(c)(3), SCACR, the undersigned hereby certifies a true copy of the Motion to Transport and Unseal Court's Exhibit 9 in the above-referenced case have been served upon Melody J. Brown, Esquire, at the primary e-mail address listed in the Attorney Information System (AIS), this 8th day of October, 2026.


Joanna K. Delany
Appellate Defender
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF AIKEN)

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

MOTION TO OBTAIN DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES RECORDS

vs.)

WARRANT #:

2024A0210200754, 2024A0210200755

JOHNATHAN DAQUAN STALEY,)
DEFENDANT)

TO: DAVID RITTGERS, ASST. SOLICITOR
SUSAN RINGLER, SCDSS COUNSEL

Defendant, by and through counsel, respectfully moves this Court for an order allowing the defense to obtain copies of records in the custody of the State, specifically at the South Carolina Department of Social Services.

During the investigation of this matter, defense counsel has become aware of contextual information in the custody of the South Carolina Department of Social Services that may support Defendant's explanation of the evidence in this case. Defendant's due process rights demand he be allowed access to this material in order to mount a proper defense at trial.

Specifically, Defendant requests he be provided with any and all DSS records, including but not limited to court filings, registry information, reports, case notes, or statements of any kind related

to: Eartha Davenport (State's witness and grandmother of the Defendant),
Timothy Davenport (the Decedent and uncle of the Defendant),
Jonathan Staley (the Defendant),
Tiffany Davis (Defendant's 1st cousin),
Jennifer Davenport (Defendant's aunt),
Jaquette Davenport (female relative),
Thalia Davenport (female relative),
Capreshia Davenport (female relative),
Russell Davenport (Defendant's uncle),
Johnnie Mae Staley (Defendant's aunt),
Eartha Oliver (Defendant's great-aunt),

1 copy Roster Clerk
3 cc pd

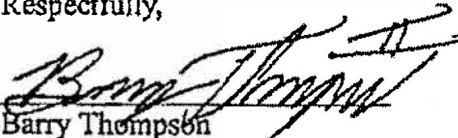
FILED August 7 20 25
Robert J. Harte
C.C.P. & G.S.
Katie P. Williams
Deputy Clerk

and anything related to sealed family court case 00-DRO22-7657. Defense counsel believes Judge C. David Sawyer Jr. may have been the family court judge in a family court case in 2000 related to this matter. Defense Counsel further believes Ms. Shron Guyton was the DSS case worker related to at least one of these incidents. Some or all of these persons may be witnesses in Defendant's trial, and their credibility is likely to be a key element at issue in this case.

It is requested the court order the production of the records under either of the following means; either (1) SCDSS provide these records directly to counsel for both the prosecution and defense, or (2) the Court issue an Order directing SCDSS to deliver the aforementioned records to the court for an in-camera review of said records under the authority of State v. Blackwell, 420 S.C. 127 (2017). Evidence which impeaches the credibility of the witnesses, and any other exculpatory evidence should then be provided to defense counsel.

WHEREFORE, the defendant prays an order allowing the defense to obtain these records be granted.

Respectfully,


Barry Thompson
Attorney for Defendant

Date: August 7, 2025

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF AIKEN)

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS,
SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

vs.)

WARRANT #:

2024A0210200754, 2024A0210200755

JOHNATHAN DAQUAN STALEY,)
DEFENDANT)

I, Rebecca Halupa, hereby state that I did serve a copy of the attached Notice of Motion and Motion upon the Second Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office by hand delivery and upon SCDSS by US Mail and email on this date.

Date: 8-7-25


Rebecca Halupa

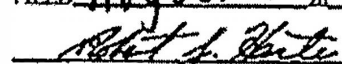
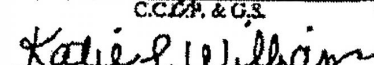
FILED August 7 2025

C.C.P. & G.S.

Deputy Clerk

EXHIBIT B

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AIKEN
IN RE:
S.C. DEPT. OF SOCIAL SERVICES,

State of South Carolina
Plaintiff,
vs.
Johnathan Daquan Staley
Defendant(s),

) IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
) SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

) 2024A0210200754
) 2024A0210200755
)

) MOTION TO QUASH SUBPOENA
) AND NOTICE OF OBJECTION
) TO DISCLOSURE OF
) CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION
)
)
)
)

TO: Barry Thompson, Esquire

1. The South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS), by and through its undersigned counsel, appears hereby and moves to quash the subpoena issued by Johnathan Daquan Staley and objects to the production, inspection, or copying of records maintained by the South Carolina Department of Social Services as requested by the subpoena issued on behalf of the Defendant herein.

2. On August 7, 2025, Aiken County SCDSS received a Motion to Obtain Department of Social Services Records. South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS), by and through its undersigned counsel, filed a Return and emailed Attorney Barry Thompson. Included in that email was a sample release, authorizing a client's records to be provided to his or her attorney. As of the filing of this motion, counsel for SCDSS has not received a release. On August 11, 2025, Aiken County SCDSS was served with a subpoena requesting the following:

Please provide any and all records referenced in the attached motion. Please make available to our office by August 20, 2025, or, in the alternative, please bring said documents to General Sessions Court at 109 Park Avenue, SE, Aiken, SC August 20, 2025. If there are no records to report, please provide a report to that affect in writing.

1 cert copy - DSS
Copy - Roster Clerk

FILED August 12th 25
Robert J. White
C.C.P. & G.S.
Samuel S. [Signature]
Deputy Clerk

Quash Subpoena

Case Number: 2024A0210200754; 2024A0210200755

3. The Subpoena does not comply with Rule 13 of South Carolinian Rules of Criminal Procedure. Rule 13(a)(1) allows the subpoena of "any person or persons to attend as witnesses in any cause or matter in the General Sessions Court." SCRCrimP 13. This subpoena is not for any particular person and is directed to "DSS." Further, while counsel for SCDSS does not know the particular facts of the case, there is also a concern that Rule 13(a)(2) may be applicable, and not complied with:

A subpoena requiring the production of personal or confidential information about a victim may be served on a third party only by court order. Before entering the order and unless there are exceptional circumstances, the court must require giving notice to the victim so that the victim can move to quash or modify the subpoena or otherwise object.

4. Counsel for Aiken County SCDSS was served with the subpoena on August 11, 2025, demanding the records of eleven individuals to be brought to court on August 20, 2025. While Rule 13 does not include the "undue burden" language that Rule 45 of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure does, counsel for SCDSS urges the Court to take nature of the request into consideration. SCRCP 45. The undersigned attorney has worked as an attorney for SCDSS for ten (10) years and has never received such a large records request. Obtaining the records for one individual is time consuming; getting the records together for eleven individuals in seven days is an impossible feat, even if counsel neglected all other court appearances and job responsibilities, focusing solely on the records request. Further, only the individuals' names are listed; SCDSS is a large state agency; without other identifying information, it would not be possible to correctly identify the individuals. At the very least, a date of birth would be needed to search for a name in our system.

Quash Subpoena

Case Number: 2024A0210200754; 2024A0210200755

5. Additionally, the motion also requests anything related to the "sealed family court case" from 2000, 00-DR022-7657. The agency only maintains files for ten (10) years.

6. S.C. Code of Laws Ann. Section 63-7-1990 lists the people who may receive information concerning an indicated/founded case. DSS is not aware of any way by which Attorney Thompson would be entitled to confidential information concerning these individuals pursuant to state or federal law. Further, pursuant to S.C. Code of Laws Ann. Section 63-7-940(A)(4), DSS asserts that unfounded case information should not be released in any event.

7. DSS objects to the production, inspection, or copying of the subpoenaed records on the grounds that the subpoena seeks the disclosure of otherwise protected matter for which no waiver or exception applies. The records and any testimony which could be provided by the individuals subject to the subpoenas are confidential and protected under one or more of the following State and Federal laws and regulations, summarized as follows:

- a. **Protective Services Records and information** are confidential under the provisions of 45 CFR § 1340.14(i), Section 63-7-1920 and Section 63-7-1990 of the South Carolina Code of Laws (1976, as amended). Although there are certain statutory exceptions to this confidentiality, the Defendant in this action does not meet the criteria for any of those exceptions under the current process until the records have been reviewed in camera and released under a protective order when legally relevant and necessary for the determination of an issue before the court. Defendant has not articulated a basis for the request, and it appears to be a fishing expedition regarding potential witnesses in the criminal trial. The Solicitor's office has stated that this case involves the murder of an adult and there are no allegations of child abuse.
- b. Records and testimony concerning **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**, formerly known as **Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)**, are rendered confidential by 42 USC § 602(a)(9), 42 CFR § 2020.50, Sections 43-1-150 and 43-1-160 of the South Carolina Code of Laws (1976, as amended), and Section 114-1170 of the South Carolina Code

Quash Subpoena

Case Number: 2024A0210200754; 2024A0210200755

of Regulations.

- c. **Food Stamp** records and testimony are rendered confidential by 7 USC § 2020(e)(8), 7 CFR § 272.1(c), and Sections 43-1-150 and 43-1-160 of the South Carolina Code of Laws (1976, as amended).
- d. **Medicaid** records and testimony are rendered confidential by 42 CFR §§ 431.301 and 431.306.
- e. **Adoption** records and testimony are rendered confidential by S.C. Code Ann. Section 63-9-780.
- f. **The Identity of Persons Reporting Child Maltreatment** is protected from any disclosure whatsoever under the terms of Code Section 63-7-330. There is no statutory provision allowing a Court to override this confidentiality.
- g. **Termination of Parental Rights** records are rendered confidential by S.C. Code Ann. Section 63-7-2600.

DSS submits that, by raising this motion and objection, it does not acknowledge that it maintains any records on the said individuals, but that, if any such records do exist, they are protected from disclosure as outlined above.

Counsel for SCDSS also requests that we be consulted prior to scheduling any hearing associated with this motion or Attorney Thompson's motion. Our office covers three counties, and we are frequently in court.

Quash Subpoena

Case Number: 2024A0210200754; 2024A0210200755

S.C. DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES


Susanna M. Ringler

Attorney for Plaintiff

South Carolina Department of Social Services

P.O. Drawer 1268

Aiken, SC 29802

(803) 643-1910/(803) 642-2128

SC Bar#: 74983

Aiken, South Carolina

August 11, 2025

EXHIBIT C

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AIKEN

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
2024-GS-02-02502

THE STATE,
PLAINTIFF,
vs.
JOHNATHAN STALEY,
DEFENDANT.

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD

August 25, 2025
Aiken, South Carolina

B E F O R E:

THE HONORABLE DEBRA MCCASLIN, JUDGE.

A P P E A R A N C E S:

DAVID RITTGERS, ESQ.
Attorney for the Plaintiff

BARRY THOMPSON, ESQ.
Attorney for the Defendant

PENNY M. JOHNSON
Court Reporter III

P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. THOMPSON: Your Honor, this is Defendant's motion to relieve counsel. I will tell you, I have spoken to Johnathan several times. I don't know that there's any basis for this, but I'm happy to have it heard.

THE CLERK: Put your left hand on the Bible and raise your right hand.

JOHNATHAN STALEY,

after being duly sworn, testified as follows:

THE COURT: Good morning, Mr. Staley.

THE DEFENDANT: Good morning.

THE COURT: You know you're first up on the trial docket. I'm going to have to continue your case because your lawyer has requested some records that have not been given to him yet. So I've just instructed that all those be given to Judge McLeod, who is the chief administrative judge for this circuit.

Do you understand?

THE DEFENDANT: I do.

THE COURT: Okay. Now, they tell me that you would like to -- and I'm going to move your trial to October.

Is that the next term?

MR. RITTGERS: We have a date certain in September.

THE COURT: September. We're going to do a September trial. But they tell me you might want to remove your

1 counsel. Is that true?

2 THE DEFENDANT: It was at a point in time.

3 THE COURT: You okay now?

4 THE DEFENDANT: That is correct.

5 THE COURT: Well, then, we're going to --

6 What day in September so that we can make sure that Mr.
7 Staley is updated?

8 MR. RITTGERS: I misspoke, Your Honor. There is a date
9 certain October 13th.

10 THE COURT: For him?

11 MR. RITTGERS: Yes, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: October 13th. I'm sorry. They misspoke
13 and so did I. We gave you the wrong date. October the 13th
14 is going to be your trial date and it's going to be a date
15 certain.

16 Do you understand?

17 THE DEFENDANT: I do.

18 THE COURT: And I'm going to put a limit. I want all
19 those records turned over in order to give the Defense
20 lawyer and the Judge to -- and the State, let the Judge look
21 at it.

22 If you could get it next week, is that okay with you?

23 MS. RINGLER: No, Your Honor. Those are older records.
24 Those are stored offsite.

25 THE COURT: You're not going to tie up -- I'm going to

1 tell you --

2 MS. RINGLER: I just can't --

3 THE COURT: -- because you've already made me continue
4 this case today.

5 MS. RINGLER: Well, I mean, at this time, Your Honor,
6 unless there's additional information --

7 THE COURT: I'm just going to tell you, I ended up
8 having to continue this case. This won't happen again. I'm
9 just telling you, it will not happen again. When we get
10 these kind of request, they need to be done and treated with
11 a matter of urgency. This is a murder case.

12 MS. RINGLER: Yes, Your Honor, and I have been
13 e-mailing --

14 THE COURT: This man's livelihood is at stake and I
15 want it heard immediately. And I need it before trial.

16 MS. RINGLER: Yes, Your Honor. And I have been
17 e-mailing and talking to both the State and the public
18 defender's office trying to get additional information to be
19 able to track down --

20 THE COURT: Well, I can't imagine Judge McLeod would
21 take more than a week to review these records.

22 MS. RINGLER: So when would be the deadline for
23 providing any additional information from the public
24 defender's office so I can search -- at this time, I'm not
25 able to find any records based on the limited information

1 I've been provided.

2 THE COURT: All right. I'm going to set a deadline of
3 October the 3rd that all records of DSS must be given to
4 Judge McLeod if you have them.

5 MS. RINGLER: That's what I'm saying, as far as the
6 public defender's office providing me with dates of birth,
7 things that I can use to try to find, what would be the
8 deadline for that?

9 THE COURT: The end of the week, I want it done. The
10 sooner you get it to him, the better off we are.

11 MS. RINGLER: So if I don't receive anything by the end
12 of the week, then I would just send my memo to Judge McLeod
13 stating based on the information that I've been provided,
14 what I've said today, that we've not been able to locate
15 anything?

16 THE COURT: Let me tell you what, you don't set the
17 deadline, I do. This is what we'll do. You have until
18 October 3rd to turn over everything.

19 If you find anything, please, try to give it to her by
20 Friday. I'm not going to limit you because I don't know
21 what you might find from the clerk's office when he looks up
22 those sealed records.

23 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.

24 THE COURT: But give it to her as soon as possible.

25 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.

1 THE COURT: Mr. Staley, I'm just trying to get some
2 discovery given to your lawyer. I just want you to know
3 what's happening.

4 THE DEFENDANT: All right.

5 THE COURT: Anything else?

6 MR. THOMPSON: Nothing further from the Defense, Your
7 Honor.

8 THE COURT: October 13th, trial day, first up.

9 Thank you.

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EXHIBIT D

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF AIKEN)

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

**ORDER TO PRODUCE RECORDS
FOR *IN CAMERA* REVIEW**

vs.)

WARRANT #:

2024A0210200754, 2024A0210200755

JOHNATHAN DAQUAN STALEY,)
DEFENDANT)

2024- GS-02-02502

2024- GS-02-02503

This matter came before me on August 25, 2025 in Aiken General Sessions on Defendant's Motion to Compel Production of DSS Records. Present at the hearing were the Defendant, his attorney, Barry Thompson, Assistant Solicitor Dave Ritters, and Susanna M. Ringler, Counsel for the South Carolina Department of Social Services.

I find the requesting party has demonstrated good cause showing that the records specified in Defendant's Motion should be produced to this court for *in camera* review for a determination as to whether there exists any material relevant to this case.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED The South Carolina Department of Social Services shall, by and through their attorney, Susanna M. Ringler, produce to the Honorable Judge Walton J. McLeod any and all documents, records, or material of any kind specified by Defendants' Motion for Production. Such production shall be made on or before October 3, 2025.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.



Debra R. McCaslin
Presiding Judge

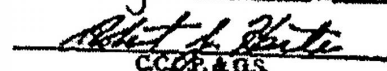
Date:

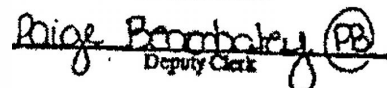
8/26/25

At

Aiken, South Carolina

FILED August 26 2025


CCOP & GS


Deputy Clerk

4 cc to PD.

EXHIBIT E

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	
	)	GENERAL SESSIONS COURT
COUNTY OF AIKEN	)	2024-GS-02-02502
	)	2024-GS-02-02503
	)	
	)	
	)	
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,	)	
PLAINTIFF,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD
	)	
JOHNATHAN DAQUAN STALEY,	)	
DEFENDANT.	)	
	)	

October 13-15, 2025
Aiken, South Carolina

B E F O R E:

THE HONORABLE WALTON J. MCLEOD, IV, JUDGE.

A P P E A R A N C E S:

ASHLEY HAMMACK, ESQ.
JOHN BAKER, ESQ.
Attorney for the Plaintiff

BARRY THOMPSON, ESQ.
WILLIAM MCKELLAR, ESQ.
TONI KEE, ESQ.
Attorney for the Defendant

Penny M. Johnson
Court Reporter III

E X H I B I T S

<u>NO.</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>ID.</u>	<u>EVD.</u>
(State's Exhibits)			
1	Photographs - Thumb Drive	31	56
2	911 Call	31	68
3	Defendant's Clothes	31	94
4	9mm Casing	31	126
5	9mm Casing	31	126
6	Bag w/9mm rounds	31	140
7	Box of Live Rounds	31	142
8	Defendant's Diploma	31	137
9	GSR Kit	31	182
10	T-Shirt	31	134

(Defendant's Exhibits)

1	Eartha Davenport's Recorded Statement	79	82
2	Photograph	143	144
3	Photograph	145	145
4	Gun	147	148
5	Russell Davenport's Statement	216	225

(Court's Exhibits)

1	Defendant's Request Self-Defense	239
2	Defendant Request Manslaughter	239
3	Jury Charge	280
4	Jury Note	281
5	Court's Answer	281
6	Jury Note	281
7	Court's Answer	281
8	Letter from Defendant's Family	287
9	DSS Records (Sealed)	290

All Exhibits were retained by the Clerk of Court for Aiken County.

1 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit Nos. 1 through 10 were
2 marked for identification.)

3 THE COURT: We need to make a quick record before we
4 start; is that correct?

5 MS. HAMMACK: Yes, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Mr. Thompson.

7 MR. THOMPSON: Your Honor, may it please the Court?

8 THE COURT: Certainly.

9 MR. THOMPSON: To preserve the record and to make it
10 easier for anybody who follows this at Court of Appeals, if
11 necessary, the Defense filed and served a motion compelling
12 DSS to provide records to the Court for in-camera review to
13 determine if there was any material in their file that was
14 relevant to this case. My understanding is that DSS did, in
15 fact, provide the material to Your Honor. That was provided
16 and you met with both myself and opposing counsel in
17 chambers. We discussed exactly what type of material we
18 were seeking.

19 My understanding is Your Honor performed that in-camera
20 review and that no relevant material was identified and the
21 records have been returned to DSS. I don't think that this
22 is an issue. I just wanted to make sure to have Your Honor
23 rule on the motion and the production of the material.

24 THE COURT: Sure.

25 MR. THOMPSON: And, Your Honor, we would request that

1 the records be sealed and made an exhibit of the Court if
2 this matter does end up having to go up on appeal.

3 THE COURT: Okay. And that's not something we have to
4 do at this very moment.

5 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir.

6 THE COURT: You've made that motion. I do think unless
7 the State has something to add, I do think that is an
8 accurate reflection of the discussions we had in chambers.
9 I think I, also, sent an e-mail to you saying I had reviewed
10 it and didn't find any material relevant to the specific
11 subject matter you had inquired about. So I think we're
12 fine.

13 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir.

14 Defense was going to make a motion to suppress any
15 unduly prejudicial autopsy photos or any unduly prejudicial
16 photos of the crime scene. Opposing counsel and I have met
17 about this. We've agreed on a set of photographs that don't
18 include anything that I believe is unduly prejudicial. I
19 don't have any objection to the photos that have been
20 premarked or the diagram, the autopsy diagrams, I'm sorry,
21 that have been premarked for this trial. I think we're in
22 agreement on the photos and diagrams.

23 MR. BAKER: That's correct, Your Honor. I think all
24 the photos have been stipulated to and been premarked as
25 State's Exhibit No. 1 on a thumb drive.

1 into the courtroom.

2 I ask you now to return to the jury room, but do not
3 begin your deliberations until you are told to do so by the
4 clerk or bailiff. There are some matters which I need to
5 discuss with the attorneys before you can begin your
6 deliberations.

7 So at this time, please return to the jury room. Do
8 not discuss the case.

9 (WHEREUPON, the jury exits the courtroom at 2:05 p.m.)

10 THE COURT: Counsel, any issues with the reading of the
11 charge?

12 MR. BAKER: Nothing from the State, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Mr. McKellar?

14 MR. MCKELLAR: Yes, Your Honor. Your reading
15 accurately reflects what was given to us, but we object to
16 the charge as it currently stands and move the Court to
17 instruct jury on the charges included in Court Exhibit Nos.
18 1 and 2.

19 THE COURT: Very well. To be clear, that's the charge
20 of self-defense and voluntary manslaughter, which I informed
21 counsel I did not believe was appropriate to charge based on
22 the totality of the evidence presented at trial.

23 Anything else?

24 MR. MCKELLAR: Your Honor, we, also, move to seal the
25 DSS records and make them a Court's Exhibit.

1 THE COURT: In other words, place the records as a
2 Court Exhibit into the record of the trial?

3 MR. MCKELLAR: Yes, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: All right. I will do that.

5 Anything else? I think that's it.

6 MR. THOMPSON: Out of an abundance of caution, I would
7 renew all of my previous motions and objections.

8 THE COURT: So noted.

9 All right. We need to get our alternates out.

10 If the lawyers wouldn't mind just going up and taking a
11 look at the evidence, making sure it's in order.

12 Madam Court Reporter, here's the jury charge, it will
13 be a Court Exhibit.

14 (WHEREUPON, Court's Exhibit No. 3 was marked for
15 identification.)

16 THE COURT: Let's bring the alternates in.

17 (WHEREUPON, alternate jurors enters the courtroom.)

18 THE COURT: We're about to give the case to them, so
19 we're not going to need you for deliberations. You're
20 certainly welcome to stay and hang out and wait for it.
21 You're free to go if you want. We really appreciate your
22 service and attention and being here on time every day. But
23 you're free to go if you'd like or you may stay.

24 The time is 2:15. Are we ready to send the evidence
25 back?

EXHIBIT F

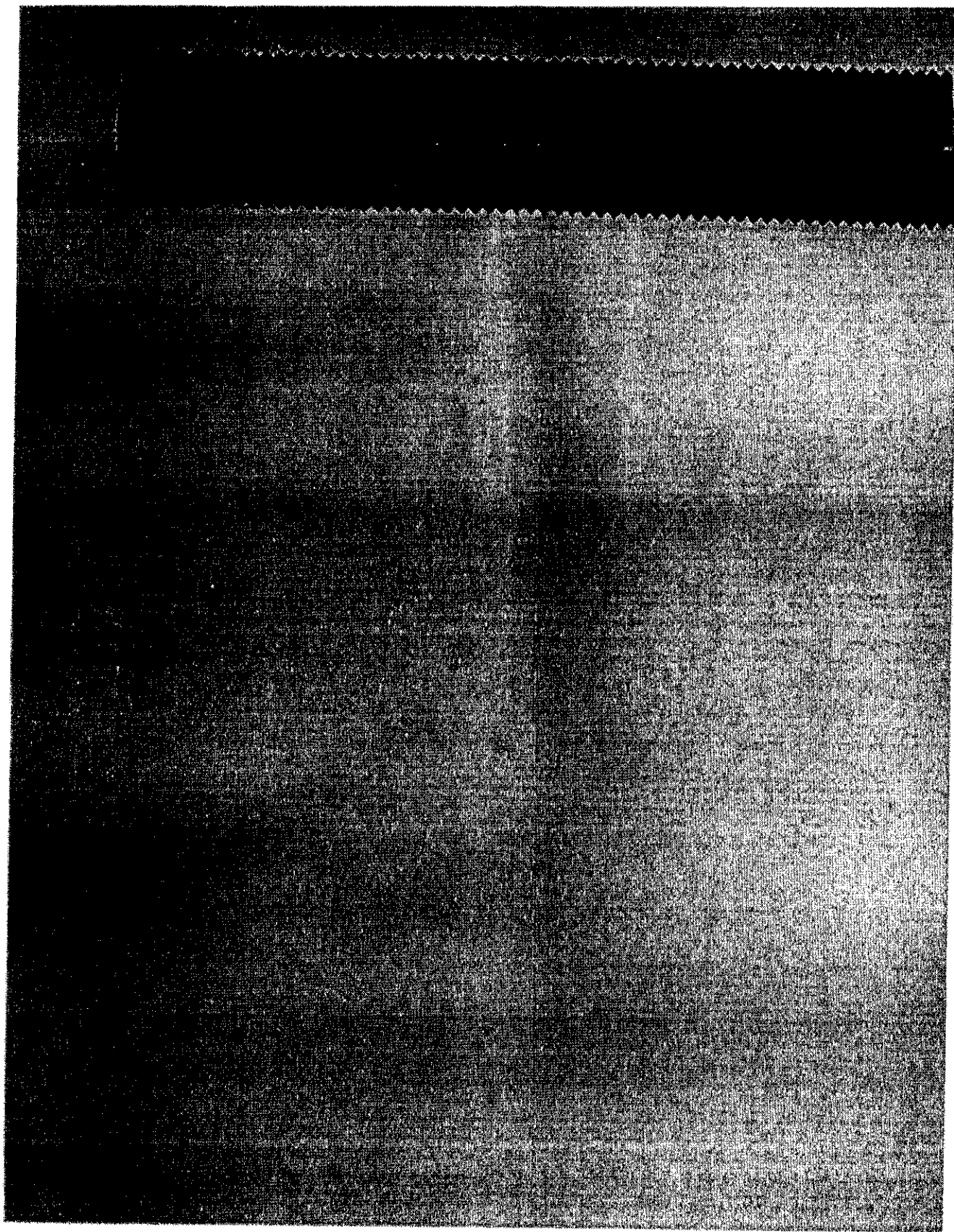
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2024A0210200755 2024-615-02-02503

Staley, Jonathan Daquan

Judge Walton J. McLeod

October 15, 2025

-Exhibit C-9 Sealed in open Court by Judge McLeod



2025-002154 The State v. Johnathan Daquan Staley

From Walkup, Catherine <walkup@sccid.sc.gov>

Date Thu 10/8/2026 4:18 PM

To mbrown@scag.gov <mbrown@scag.gov>

Cc Delany, Joanna <jdelany@sccid.sc.gov>; abennett@scag.gov <abennett@scag.gov>

 2 attachments (4 MB)

2025-002154 The State v. Johnathan Daquan Staley Motion to Hold Appeal in Abeyance.pdf; 2025-002154 The State v. Johnathan Daquan Staley Motion to Transport and Unseal Court's Exhibit 9.pdf;

Good afternoon,

Attached for service in the above-referenced case are the Motion to Hold Appeal in Abeyance and the Motion to Transport and Unseal Court's Exhibit 9 which will be filed today October 8th with the Court of Appeals via email filing.

Respectfully,

Catherine Walkup, Administrative Assistant

RECEIVED
Oct 08 2026
SC Court of Appeals