

## FORM 4

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF Oconee  
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

JUDGMENT IN A CIVIL CASE

CASE NO. 2026CP3700128

Carol Johnson Law Firm P A et al  
PLAINTIFF(S)

John Wilbanks et al  
DEFENDANT(S)

**DISPOSITION TYPE (CHECK ONE)**

- ☐ **JURY VERDICT.** This action came before the court for a trial by jury. The issues have been tried and a verdict rendered.
- ☒ **DECISION BY THE COURT.** This action came to trial or hearing before the court. The issues have been tried or heard and a decision rendered.
- ☐ **ACTION DISMISSED (CHECK REASON):** ☐ Rule 12(b), SCRPC; ☐ Rule 41(a), SCRPC (Vol. Nonsuit); ☐ Rule 43(k), SCRPC (Settled);  
☐ Other
- ☐ **ACTION STRICKEN (CHECK REASON):** ☐ Rule 40(j), SCRPC; ☐ Bankruptcy;  
☐ Binding arbitration, subject to right to restore to confirm, vacate or modify arbitration award;  
☐ Other
- ☐ **STAYED DUE TO BANKRUPTCY**
- ☐ **DISPOSITION OF APPEAL TO THE CIRCUIT COURT (CHECK APPLICABLE BOX):**  
☐ Affirmed; ☐ Reversed; ☐ Remanded;  
☐ Other

NOTE: ATTORNEYS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR NOTIFYING LOWER COURT, TRIBUNAL, OR ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY OF THE CIRCUIT COURT RULING IN THIS APPEAL.

**IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED:** ☐ See attached order (formal order to follow) ☒ Statement of Judgment by the Court:

This matter was before the Court as an appeal from the Probate Court of Oconee County. At issue was the legality of the Probate Court's award of attorney fees to the Respondent. The order directed the Appellant (which was a law firm representing a litigant) to pay the fees instead of the client, which was improper under the law. At the hearing, the Respondent appeared without counsel and informed the Court that he was no longer pursuing the matter. He did not contest the order of the Probate Court being reversed. Subsequent to the issuance of the order, the Appellant moved for attorney fees and costs for the appeal and submitted a proposed order. The Court denied that request. This motion for reconsideration followed. At no time during the hearing did the Appellant raise the issue of attorney fees.

**ORDER INFORMATION**

This order ☒ ends ☐ does not end the case.

☒ See Page 2 for additional information.

**For Clerk of Court Office Use Only**

This judgment was electronically entered by the Clerk of Court as reflected on the Electronic Time Stamp, and a copy mailed first class to any party not proceeding in the Electronic Filing System on 10/13/2026.

Steve Holbrooks for Steve Holbrooks  
Probate Court  
Steve Holbrooks for Steve Holbrooks  
John Wilbanks for John Wilbanks  
John Wilbanks for John Wilbanks

**RECEIVED****Oct 15 2026****SC Court of Appeals****NAMES OF TRADITIONAL FILERS SERVED BY MAIL**

**Court Reporter:**

**E-Filing Note:** The date of Entry of Judgment is the same date as reflected on the Electronic File Stamp and the clerk's entering of the date of judgment above is not required in those counties. The clerk will mail a copy of the judgment to parties who are not E-Filers or who are appearing pro se. See Rule 77(d), SCRCP.

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No attorney fee affidavit was submitted at the hearing nor was the issue addressed by the Court. The Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings, which was served on the Respondent and resulted in the hearing being scheduled, did not contain a request for attorney fees and costs. The Court considered the matter concluded upon issuance of the order based on what was presented at the hearing. Accordingly, the Court DENIES the Appellant's Motion for Reconsideration.



Oconee Common Pleas

**Case Caption:** Carol Johnson Law Firm P A VS John Wilbanks , defendant, et al  
**Case Number:** 2026CP3700128  
**Type:** Order/Electronic Form 4

s/R. Scott Sprouse, Judge #2752

**Tenth Judicial Circuit**

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