



The South Carolina Court of Appeals

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December 10, 2014

Mr. Daryl James Corbin, Esquire
PO Box 447
Florence SC 29503-0447

Re: Doris Atkinson v. James Williams, Jr.
Appellate Case No. 2013-000057

Dear Counsel:

Enclosed is the decision of the Court. The remittitur will be sent as provided by Rule 221(b) of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny Abbott Kitchings". The signature is written in a cursive style and includes a stylized flourish at the end.

CLERK

cc: William Curry McDow, Esquire
Thomas C. Salane, Esquire
R. Hawthorne Barrett, Esquire
The Honorable George C. James, Jr.

**THIS OPINION HAS NO PRECEDENTIAL VALUE. IT SHOULD NOT BE
CITED OR RELIED ON AS PRECEDENT IN ANY PROCEEDING
EXCEPT AS PROVIDED BY RULE 268(d)(2), SCACR.**

**THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals**

Doris F. Atkinson and William E. Atkinson, Jr.,
Appellants,

v.

James A. Williams, Jr., M.D. and South Carolina
Oncology Associates, Respondents.

Appellate Case No. 2013-000057

Appeal From Richland County
George C. James, Jr., Circuit Court Judge

Unpublished Opinion No. 2014-UP-445
Heard November 19, 2014 – Filed December 10, 2014

AFFIRMED

Daryl James Corbin, of Florence, for Appellants.

Thomas C. Salane and R. Hawthorne Barrett, both of
Turner Padgett Graham & Laney, PA, Columbia, and
William Curry McDow, of Richardson Plowden &
Robinson, PA, of Columbia, for Respondents.

PER CURIAM: Doris F. Atkinson and William E. Atkinson, Jr. (collectively,
Appellants) appeal an order by the trial court denying their judgment

notwithstanding the verdict and new trial motions based on the court's failure to charge the jury with spoliation of evidence. We affirm.

We disagree with Appellants' argument the trial court should have included a spoliation of evidence charge to the jury and it prejudiced their case. Here, the court's ruling was based on the facts of the case, which did not warrant the charge. Specifically, we agree with the trial court Appellants presented no evidence Dr. James A. Williams is the one who destroyed the bowel. *See Welch v. Epstein*, 342 S.C. 279, 311, 536 S.E.2d 408, 425 (Ct. App. 2000) (stating that when reviewing a jury charge for error, the appellate court must review the charge as a whole considering evidence and issues presented); *Daves v. Cleary*, 355 S.C. 216, 224, 584 S.E.2d 423, 427 (Ct. App. 2003) (providing the court's refusal to give a requested charge is reversible error only if the requesting party can show prejudice from the refusal). Moreover, we find *Stokes v. Spartanburg Regional Medical Ctr.*, 368 S.C. 515, 629 S.E.2d 675 (Ct. App. 2006), distinguishable because in that case the evidence destroyed was medical records, subject to the rules of discovery, whereas here no evidence was presented that any medical record of the bowel was ever created or later destroyed. *See id.* at 522, 629 S.E.2d at 679 (finding that when the hospital controlled the missing evidence items, a charge to the jury for spoliation of evidence should have been allowed); *see also Pringle v. SLR, Inc. of Summerton*, 382 S.C. 397, 405, 675 S.E.2d 783, 787 (Ct. App. 2009) (stating that "when evidence is lost or destroyed by a party an inference may be drawn by the jury").

AFFIRMED.

FEW, C.J., and HUFF and KONDUROS, JJ., concur.