

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

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SC Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM KERSHAW COUNTY
ALISON RENEE LEE, CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE
APPELLATE CASE NO. 2015-001556

Jimmy Boykin, Sammy Boykin a/k/a Sandy H. Boykin, Sr., and
Kenny Boykin, Plaintiffs

v.

Zady R. Burton, Individually and as Personal Representative of
the Estate of Helen L. Burton, and Sandy Boykin a/k/a Sandy H. Boykin, Jr., Defendants,

Of Whom Zady R. Burton, Individually and as Personal Representative of the Estate of Helen L.
Burton is the Appellant and Jimmy Boykin is the Respondent.

REPLY BRIEF OF APPELLANT

Roger B. Jellenik
S.C. Bar No. 13546
Attorney for Appellant
1106 Little Street
Camden, SC 29020
Telephone: (803) 424-1919
Facsimile: (803) 424-1922
eMail: rbjatty@mac.com

December 18, 2015

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TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

CASES

Farnsworth v. Davis Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc., 367 S.C. 634, 627 S.E.2d 724
(2006) 5, 6

Buckley v. Shealy, 370 S.C. 317, 635 S.E.2d 76 (2006) 5, 6

OTHER AUTHORITIES

Rule 43(k), SCRPC 5, 6

Rule 59(e), SCRPC 4

STATEMENT OF ISSUES ON APPEAL

- A. Did the Trial Court err when it granted Respondent's Motion to Enforce the Mediation and denied Appellant's Rule 59(e) Motion?
- B. Did the Trial Court err when it considered this case settled?
- C. Did the Trial Court err when it denied Appellant's Motion to Compel?

APPELLANT'S REPLY

Respondent's Brief notes that the Proof of ADR provided "that the matter was 'fully settled' with the agreed to terms of the suit settlements and sale of the Home being reduced to writing by the attorneys ..., signed by Appellant and Respondent, and attached to and filed with the Proof of ADR." *See* Resp's Brf at 6. However, the Proof of ADR also contains a checked box marked "by Consent Judgment to be filed by Attorneys". *See* Proof of ADR at 2. Further, neither the Proof of ADR nor its attachment ("Attachment") says anything about "the Home" or a "sale".

Respondent's Brief also asserts that the mediation resulted "in a signed mediated settlement agreement which was attached to the mediator's Proof of ADR filed May 9, 2014." *See* Resp's Brf at 4. The Attachment was handwritten, prepared by the mediator, and contained certain terms not noted in Respondent's Brief, *viz*,

B- Execution of Family Settlement Agreement

Mutual Release of All Parties

Cooperate in Settlement of Helen Burton Estate

Respondent's Brief admits that a proposed settlement agreement was "unacceptable to Respondent because Appellant required conditions precedent to delivering a deed, without the co-ordinated or simultaneous closing as provided in the lower court order." *See* Resp's Brf at 9;

see also Resp's Brf at 7. So, there is no family settlement agreement. Further, the lower court order, dated May 14, 2015, is irrelevant here because it did not exist at the time of either the mediation or the attempts to negotiate the family settlement agreement.

Respondent's Brief states that "The stated goal of the Lis Pendens and Amended Petition [in this case] is for a private sale of the Home as stated previously." *See e.g.*, Respondent's Brf at 8. However, Respondent's reason for filing the underlying action is irrelevant to this appeal.

Finally, Respondent argues that the mediation and Proof of ADR settled this case. *See* Resp's Brf at 9-10. In support of this argument, Respondent's Brief claims that Appellant's Brief's Farnsworth citation "is distinguishable as it does not involve a mediation and the filing of the proof of ADR would constitute noting the settlement 'upon the record' as allowed by Rule 43(k)." *Id.* at 10. However, while Farnsworth does not involve a mediation, Respondent's Brief ignores Buckley v. Shealy, 370 S.C. 317, 635 S.E.2d 76 (2006), cited in Appellant's Brief right after Farnsworth. *See* Appellant's Brf at 9. In Buckley, the Supreme Court of South Carolina addressed the issue of the application of Rule 43(k) in a mediation context:

"Rule 43(k), SCRCPP, provides that '[n]o agreement ... in an action shall be binding unless reduced to the form of a consent order or written stipulation signed by counsel and entered in the record, or unless made in open court and noted upon the record.' Because the purported agreement the parties reached following mediation was neither entered into the court's record nor acknowledged in open court and placed upon the record, Rule 43(k), SCRCPP, plainly provides that the agreement is unenforceable. Accordingly, we uphold the family court's decision not to enforce the agreement.¹"

Footnote 2 is also material here and reads as follows:

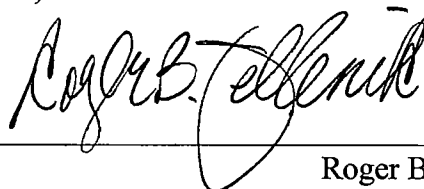
Husband argues that Rule 43(k), SCRPC, does not apply where an agreement is admitted or has been carried into effect. Although Husband's argument draws directly from our precedent, see *Ashfort Corp. v. Palmetto Constr. Group, Inc.*, 318 S.C. 492, 494, 458 S.E. 2d 533, 534 (1995), we recently held that Rule 43(k)'s terms are mandatory and that *Ashfort's* recitation was misguided dicta. *Farnsworth v. Davis Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.*, 367 S.C. 634, 638, 627 S.E.2d 724, 726 (2006). Accordingly, we adhere to the view we adopted in *Farnsworth*.

It is respectfully submitted that Respondent's Brief makes no proper argument and cites no proper precedent to contradict Appellant's Brief on this issue.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above and in the Initial Brief of Appellant, Judge Lee's order should be reversed, this case should be remanded to the Court of Common Pleas for further proceedings, and Appellant's Motion to Compel should be granted.

Respectfully submitted this 18th day of December, 2015.



Roger B. Jellenik
1106 Little Street
Camden, SC 29020
Telephone: (803) 424-1919
Attorney for Appellant

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Alison Renee Lee, Circuit Court Judge

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Kenny Boykin, Respondent(s)

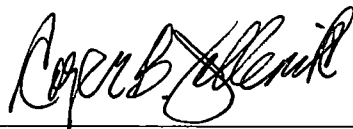
v.

Zady R. Burton, Individually and as Personal Representative of the Estate of Helen L. Burton,
and Sandy Boykin a/k/a Sandy H. Boykin, Jr., Appellant

PROOF OF SERVICE

I certify that I have served the Appellant's Reply Brief and this Proof of Service, each dated December 18, 2015, upon Appellee Jimmy Boykin by depositing a copy of it in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, on December 18, 2015, addressed to his attorney of record, Moultrie B. Burns, Jr., Esq., at his office at 1111 Church Street, Camden SC 29020.

December 18, 2015



Roger B. Jellenik
1106 Little Street
Camden, SC 29020
Telephone: (803) 424-1919
Facsimile: (803) 424-1922
eMail: rbjatty@mac.com
Attorney for Appellant

ROGER B. JELLENIK
ATTORNEY AT LAW

1106 Little Street
Camden, SC 29020

Telephone 803-424-1919
Facsimile 803-424-1922
rbiatty@mac.com

Friday, December 18, 2015

Moultrie B. Burns, Jr., Esq.
Savage, Royall & Sheheen, LLP
P.O. Drawer 10
Camden SC 29020

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RE: Jimmy Boykin et al., v. Zady R. Burton, Individually and as Personal Representative of the Estate of Helen L. Burton, Case No. 2015-001556
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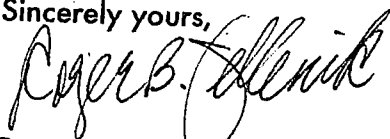
Dear Mr. Burns:

Enclosed and hereby served upon you are the following documents:

1. Appellant's Reply Brief; and
2. Proof of Service.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Roger B. Jellenik

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ROGER B. JELLENIK
ATTORNEY AT LAW

1106 Little Street
Camden, SC 29020

Telephone 803-424-1919
Facsimile 803-424-1922
rbjatty@mac.com

Friday, December 18, 2015

Hon. Jenny Abbot Kitchings
Clerk of Court
Court of Appeals of South Carolina
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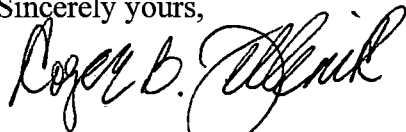
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Document Transmittal

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

Enclosed please find the original and two copies of the Appellant's Reply Brief, Proof of Service, and a copy of the transmittal letter sent to opposing counsel, Mr. Burns. Please clock-stamp and file one copy of these documents and clock-stamp and return the remaining copies of those same documents to the undersigned in the enclosed pre-addressed and stamped envelope.

In the event that you have any questions or need any further information, please feel free to contact the undersigned at (803) 424-1919 or rbjatty@mac.com. In any event, thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Roger B. Jellenik

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