

State of South Carolina



The Circuit Court of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

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September 19, 2016

RECEIVED

SEP 26 2016

SC Court of Appeals

Re: State of SC vs. Heather Sims
Case No.: 2013-GS-26-05243

Dear Ms. Desiree Allen,

In regards to the above-mentioned case, I was contacted by Erin Bridges from Blustein, Nichols, Thompson, Delgado, LLC., on July 19th inquiring about an estimate I had given to FiFi in Morgan Martin's office. On the very same day, July 19th, I replied that it was just an estimate, however, I would be more than happy to give a more precise amount. On July 20th, Ms. Bridges responded that she would appreciate if I could give a more precise estimate. I went through the two-week trial and added up the pages, and on July 24th, 2016 wrote Ms. Bridges again with an estimate of \$6,000. In this letter I said, quote, "Once I have received payment, that is when the 60 days begins, and of course if I do have to file an extension since it is so lengthy, I send that to you and Court Administration ASAP."

On July 26th, Ms. Bridges thanked me for the information and she would be in touch. On July 28th, 2016, I sent another email to Ms. Bridges in which I said, quote, "I just want to reiterate that we don't start working on a transcript until payment is received, and the date payment is received starts the 60 days. There is a lot of confusion over when the 60 days actually starts, so I just wanted to make it more clear!

On August 10, 2016, I received a letter in my PO Box dated August 4, 2016 with a check for the requested amount; therefore, the actual due date is October 10th, the day I received the letter; however I have made my goal for October 4th, the day the check was written.

On September 14, 2016, Ms. Bridges inquired on the status. I informed her that I have been working very hard on it and my goal was to still get this to them by my 60 days, but I may have to ask for an extension for a couple of weeks just to make sure my proof reader can get it and

returned to me, printing, etc. Ms. Bridges responded by thanking me for the update, nothing else was said about it. I have documented and kept all correspondence concerning this matter and would be more than happy to produce it if it is so required.

This is around 1,850 page transcript. I have worked on it not only after work every day, but also each and every day I have had chambers or any other day off. I take pride in getting my requests completed on time and I am still striving for the goal of October 10th, but I do want everyone to be advised that if I think I need more time to make a good, finished product, I will have to ask for an extension, which I have never had to do in my 20 years of court reporting career. I have not even cashed the \$6,000 check as it is my policy that until the work is done, I do not deposit it.

I hope this clears up any misunderstanding about any "lack" on my part to be anything but a good and responsible reporter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Natalie Dahl".

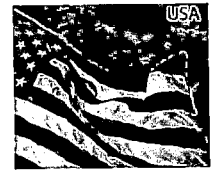
Natalie Dahl, RPR
Court Reporter

cc: Blake Hewitt, Esq.
Court of Appeals

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