

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA WORKERS
COMPENSATION COMMISSION

T. Scott Beck, Commissioner

Appellate Case No. 2019-001361

Courtney Ray Mitchell,

Appellant,

v.

United Parcel Service and
Liberty Corporation,

Respondents.

REPLY BRIEF OF APPELLANT



Donald L. Smith (Bar No.: 6699)
122 N. Main Street
Anderson SC 29621
Telephone: (864) 642-9284
Facsimile: (864) 642-9285
attorneydonaldsmith@gmail.com
Attorney for Appellant

Anderson, South Carolina
February 24, 2020.

Other Counsel of Record:

Helen F. Hiser, Esquire
O. Shayne Williams, Esquire
McAngus Goudelock & Courie, LLC.
735 Johnnie Dodds Blvd., Ste. 200
Post Office Box 650007
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29645
Attorneys for Respondents

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STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Appellant adopts and incorporates by reference the Statement of Case and Facts presented in his Initial Brief. This appeal is brought pursuant to the dismissal by the Worker's Compensation Commission's (hereinafter referred as Commission) of his appeal. Appellant timely filed his Notice of Appeal and filed his Initial Brief on October 17, 2019. Respondent filed its Initial Brief on February 14, 2020.

ARGUMENTS

I. THE COMMISSION ERRED IN DISMISSING APPELLANT'S APPEAL.

Appellant reiterates his position that his Appeal was proper; and that his Appellant's Brief to the Commission was timely filed. The Brief was due on May 12, 2019, which was a Sunday. Counsel for Appellant attested to signing the Brief, applying the postage, driving to the Post Office and sliding the envelopes containing said Brief into the receptacle. For all intents and purposes, Appellant performed all actions relating to the mailing of Appellant's Brief on May 13, 2019, a Monday.

The rule is clear and unambiguous. Rule 6 SCRCF allows adjusting the filing of any pleading or motion to the next business day if the deadline for filing falls on a Saturday, Sunday or a holiday.¹ Service is complete upon mailing. (Rule 5(b) of the SCRCF). There is no subsection regarding its receipt by the intended parties. Appellant's duty with regard to service was accomplished upon sliding the mailings into the box at the post office on May 13, 2019.

¹ "In computing any period of time prescribed or allowed by these rules, by order of court, or by any applicable statute, the day of the act, event, or default after which the designated period of time begins to run is not to be included. The last day of the period so computed is to be included, unless it is a Saturday, Sunday or a State or Federal holiday, in which event the period runs until the end of the next day which is neither a Saturday, Sunday nor such holiday. When the period of time prescribed or allowed is less than seven days, intermediate Saturdays, Sundays and holidays shall be excluded in the computation. A half-holiday shall be considered as other days and not as a holiday."

II. RESPONDENTS DID NOT ADDRESS THE TIMELINESS ISSUE.

Appellant takes issue with Respondents' claim that he used his depiction of the facts in a manner likely to evoke empathy from the Court. Respondents, on the other hand, took twenty-one (21) pages to assassinate any perception that the Court may have of Appellant. The hypocrisy of Respondents is best illustrated by the anecdote offered wherein Appellant allegedly "threw a hot liquid substance into the face" of a detention officer. The alleged incident occurred on October 4, 2015. The Workers' Compensation date of accident was listed as June 21, 2013.

Respondents offered that statement (complete with embellishment) in order to raise the ire of the Court. Respondents did not provide the Court with any relevant information. They failed to state that when Appellant requested the video surveillance from the cafeteria (the location of the alleged assault), the State failed to provide it. They failed to report that Appellant never had a preliminary hearing. They failed to include that the State never got an indictment for the alleged "crime". Respondents did not tell the Court the truth-the case was dismissed without the slightest furtherance of a prosecution.

The only issue before the Court is whether Appellant's submission on May 13, 2019, was timely. Counsel for the Appellant served the documents on the Commission and on the Respondents on Monday, May 13, 2019. The requests made by Respondents will not change anything and have no place in an appeal in which the only issue is timeliness. The Commission dismissed the Request for Review with the following verbiage:

The Request for Commission Review in the above captioned case is dismissed. The appellant brief was not timely filed pursuant to R.67-705 H(3). Brief was due by May 12, 2019 and no extension was requested.


Respondents are attempting to manufacture the record with innuendo. Service was completed on May 13, 2019. There is nothing within the record that contradicts this fact.

CONCLUSION

For these reasons, as well as those addressed in his Initial Brief, Appellant respectfully requests that the Commission's judgment and/or order be reversed, and this case be remanded for a Commission Review.

Anderson, SC
February 24, 2020.

Respectfully submitted by:



Donald L. Smith (Bar No.:6699)

122 N. Main Street

Anderson SC 29621

Telephone: (864) 642-9284

Facsimile: (864) 642-9285

attorneydonaldsmith@gmail.com

Attorney for Appellant

**FORM 7
PROOF OF SERVICE**

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In the Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA WORKERS'
COMPENSATION COMMISSION

T. Scott Beck, Commissioner

WCC File No.: 1322347
Appellate Case No.: 2019-001361

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Courtney Ray Mitchell,

Appellant,

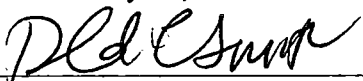
v.

United Parcel Service and
Liberty Insurance Corporation,

Respondents.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I certify that I have served a copy of the Reply Brief of Appellant and Proof of Service for same, upon The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings, Clerk of South Carolina Court of Appeals, located at Post Office Box 11629, Columbia, SC 29211; and, upon Respondents, by and through their counsel of record, Ms. Helen F. Hiser, Esquire and O. Shayne Williams, Esquire, at McAngus Goudelock & Courie, LLC, at P.O. Box 650007, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 29465, by depositing copies of it in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, on February 24, 2020.


Donald L. Smith (Bar No.: 6699)
122 N. Main Street
Anderson SC 29621
Telephone: (864) 642-9284
Facsimile: (864) 642-9285
attorneydonaldsmith@gmail.com
Attorney for Appellant

February 24, 2020

FORM 8
LETTER TO THE APPELLATE COURT CLERK

February 24, 2020

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings
Clerk of Court, South Carolina Court of Appeals
Post Office Box 11629
Columbia South Carolina 29211

**RE: Courtney Ray Mitchell v. United Parcel Service and
Liberty Insurance Corporation
WCC File No.: 1322347
Appellate Case No.: 2019-001361**

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SC Court of Appeals

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

Please find enclosed the following materials for filing:

- (1) A copy of Appellant's Reply Brief; and,
- (2) Proof of Service for same.

Sincerely,



Donald L. Smith (Bar No.: 6699)
122 N. Main Street
Anderson SC 29621
Telephone: (864) 642-9284
Facsimile: (864) 642-9285
attorneydonaldsmith@gmail.com
Attorney for Appellant

cc: Ms. Helen F. Hiser, Esquire
Mr. O. Shayne Williams, Esquire

ATTORNEY OFFICE OF DONALD SMITH

122 N. Main St.
Anderson SC 29621
attorneydonaldsmith@gmail.com

Donald L. Smith, Esquire

Telephone: (864) 642-9284
Facsimile: (864) 642-9285

February 24, 2020

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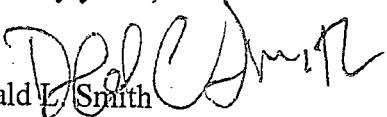
SC Court of Appeals

**RE: Courtney Ray Mitchell vs. United Parcel Service and
Liberty Insurance Corporation
WCC File No. 1322347
Appellate Case No.: 2019-001361**

Dear Ms. Hiser and Mr. Williams:

Please find enclosed a copy of the Reply Brief of the Appellant, which I have filed in reference to the above-mentioned case. Also enclosed is a Proof of Service for same.

With highest regards, I remain
Very truly yours,

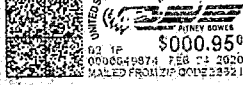

Donald L. Smith
DLS/aaf
Enclosures



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SC Court of Appeals



Attorney Office of Donald Smith
122 North Main St.,
Anderson, SC 29621

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings
Clerk of Court, South Carolina Court of Appeals
Post Office Box 11629
Columbia South Carolina 29211