

IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In the Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM YORK COUNTY
CIRCUIT COURT

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Daniel D. Hall, Circuit Court Judge

JUL 20 2020

SC Court of Appeals

Case No. 2017-CP-46-01964
Appellant Case No. 2020-000027

Winston Shell.....Respondent,

vs.

Nathaniel Shell.....Appellant.

INITIAL REPLY BRIEF OF APPELLANT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Authorities ii

Argument 1

 I. Despite respondent’s arguments, Appellant has substantially complied with the conditions of rule 40(i)(2) and the trial court abused its discretion in moving forward with the trial without Appellant being present for the trial 1

Conclusion 2

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 40..... 1

ARGUMENT IN REPLY

I. DESPITE RESPONDENT'S ARGUMENTS, APPELLANT HAS SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLIED WITH THE CONDITIONS OF RULE 40(i)(2) AND THE TRIAL COURT ABUSED ITS DISCRETION IN MOVING FORWARD WITH THE TRIAL WITHOUT APPELLANT BEING PRESENT FOR THE TRIAL.

Despite Respondent's assertions to the contrary, Appellants substantially complied with SCRCRCP Rule 40(i)(2) which states in relevant part, "No motion for continuance shall be granted on account of the absence of a witness without the oath of the party, his counsel or agent, to the following effect, to wit: That the testimony of the witness is material to the support of the action or defense of the party moving; that the motion is not intended for delay; but is made solely because the party cannot go safely to trial without such testimony; that there has been due diligence to procure the testimony of the witness or of such other circumstances as will satisfy the court that the motion is in not intended for delay."

While Respondent contends no motion for continuance was for the court to consider, it can be seen from the trial transcript that Appellant's counsel was seeking additional time from the court to notify his client that the case had been called for trial that morning, that the judge considered the request and decided to move forward with the trial without Appellant's presence. There had also been a meeting in the judge's chambers all of which is not repeated on the record. The record does indicate, however, that the court was well aware that counsel for Appellant found out about the case being called about an hour before the trial began, that he could not put his case on without the presence of Appellant, and that he needed more time to contact his client since he had always been able to contact him throughout the case. While counsel for Appellant did not use the words, "I move for a continuance", it is not hard to glean from the transcript that counsel for Appellant needed and was seeking from the court additional time to communicate the fact that the

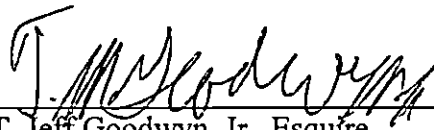
court had called the case for trial for that same day. Respondent points to no authority requiring a party to use any specific language to seek a continuance. The only cases Respondent cites are two Georgia case that have no binding effect on this court.

As a result, it can fairly be said that counsel for Appellant sufficiently conveyed the fact that Appellant could not properly move forward with the trial without the presence of Appellant and was requesting additional time to notify Appellant that trial was being held that day. The trial court then abused its discretion to move forward with the trial and this court should reverse this decision and grant Appellant a new trial.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth in its Initial Brief, and incorporated herein, the Appellant respectfully requests that the Court reverse the rulings of the trial court to move forward with the trial without a necessary witness and remand the case for a new trial and for such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Respectfully Submitted,



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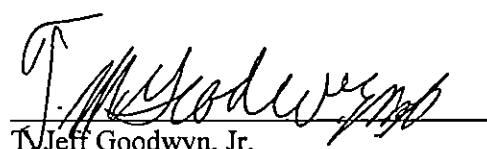
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CERTIFICATE OF COUNSEL

The undersigned certifies that this Initial Reply Brief of Appellant complies with Rule 211(b), SCACR.



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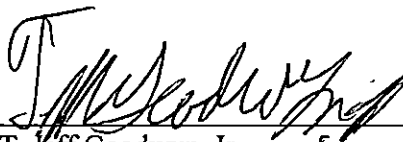
Nathaniel Shell.....Appellant.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I certify that I have served a copy of the **Initial Reply Brief of Appellant** upon Beverly A. Carroll, Esquire, Counsel for the Respondent, at the address below by depositing a copy of same in the United States

Mail, postage prepaid, on **July 20, 2020**.

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July 20, 2020

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings
Clerk of Court, South Carolina Court of Appeals
1015 Sumter Street
Columbia, SC 29201

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SC Court of Appeals

RE: ***Winston Shell v. Nathaniel Shell***
Civil Action No.: 2017-CP-46-01964
Appellant No.: 2020-000027
Our File No.: 3000-0555

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

Enclosed for filing, please find the original and one copy of the **Initial Reply Brief of Appellant** and **Proof of Service** in regards to the above referenced matter. Please have your office file the original and return the filed, stamped copies to me via my carrier.

As evidenced in the Proof of Service, I have served all interested parties, with a copy of this Initial Reply Brief of Appellant.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


T. Jeff Goodwyn, Jr.

TJG/msb
Enclosures

cc: Nathaniel Shell
Beverly A. Carroll, Esquire