

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF CHESTER )  
  
Artavius Rice, )  
 )  
Plaintiff )  
vs. )  
 )  
Chester County School District, )  
Defender Services, Inc., and Steve M. )  
Bright, individually and as agent of )  
Defender Services, Inc. )  
 )  
Defendants )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
Case No. 2017-CP-12- 0079

ORDER  
**RECEIVED**  
JAN 28 2021  
SC Court of Appeals

This matter came before the Court on or about January 7, 2021, on the motion of the Plaintiff, Tanya Murphy, as Natural Guardian, to seek dismissal of the assigned judge and on the joint motion of the defendants, Chester County School District, Defender Services, Inc., and Steve M. Bright, to join Artavius Rice as a necessary party.

The motion to dismiss Judge Eugene Griffith, Jr. from this matter is respectfully denied. Ms. Murphy sought to have the judge dismissed or requested that he recuse himself. The basis of the motion was that a prior hearing was cancelled without notice to Ms. Murphy. The court explained that he and his staff had an unexpected quarantine imposed for two weeks after a COVID contact during a prior week of court at another county court house. The Court also notes that Mrs. Murphy required communication from the court to be via regular mail.

The motion to add Artavius Rice as a necessary party is granted. The Court inquired and asked Mr. Rice about his level of education and health to determine if he is able and competent to appear as a party in this case now that he is over the age of eighteen (18). Mr. Rice confirmed that he felt fine to appear as a party. Therefore, the caption will be amended to reflect Artavius Rice as the plaintiff. The Court was aware that prior counsel had been relieved and that no

substitute counsel had appeared to represent Ms. Murphy. Upon response to inquiries, Mr. Rice indicated that he would like to retain counsel to represent him. The Court suggested that the South Carolina Bar Referral service would be a good place to get some attorney references. The Court grants Artavius Rice until May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to hire an attorney to represent him on this matter.

The Court will reconvene for a status conference and to consider any motions which may be filed in the interim in early May 2021. If Mr. Rice secures representation sooner, any hearings necessary can be scheduled upon request by any of the parties.

Any other motions or issues not addressed herein are held in abeyance.

IT IS SO ORDERED

\_\_\_\_\_, 2020  
\_\_\_\_\_, South Carolina

\_\_\_\_\_

Eugene C. Griffith, Jr.

FILED  
26 JAN '21 AM11:21

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**Chester Common Pleas**

**Case Caption:** Tanya Murphy as the natural mother and legal guardian of minor A R  
VS Chester County School District , defendant, et al  
**Case Number:** 2017CP12 0079  
**Type:** Order/Other

It is so ordered

Eugene C. Griffith, Jr. \_ 2154

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