

0-15 years

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF Lexington  
STATE VS.

Steven Dewayne Edwards

AKA:

Race: White Sex: M Age: 43

DOB: SS#:

Address:

City, State, Zip: Gaston, SC 290538771

DL#:

SID#:

\*CDL Yes  No  CMV Yes  No  Hazmat Yes  No

In disposition of the said indictment comes now the Defendant who was  
TO: Arson / Arson - Third Degree (effective 06-02-2010)

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2020GS3200120

A/W#: 2019A4021601192

Date of Offense: 4/19/2019

S.C. Code §: 16-11-0110(B)

CDR Code #: 2351

SENTENCE SHEET

CONVICTED OF or  PLEADS

in violation of § 16-11-0110(C) of the S.C. Code of Laws, bearing CDR Code # 3435  
 NON-VIOLENT  VIOLENT  SERIOUS  MOST SERIOUS  Mandatory GPS  §17-25-43  
(CSC w/minor 1st or CSC w/minor 3rd)

The charge is  As Indicted,  Lesser Included Offense,  Defendant Waives Presentation to Grand Jury,  §17-25-43  
The plea is:  Without Negotiations or Recommendation,  Negotiated Sentence,  Recommendation by the State.  
ATTEST: *Wilson Parker Jr* 102091 SC Bar# *[Signature]* Defendant *[Signature]* Attorney for Defendant *[Signature]* SC Bar# *CRS 63*

WHEREFORE, the Defendant is committed to the  State Department of Corrections,  County Detention Center,  
for a determinate term of 10 days/months/years or  under the Youthful Offender Act not to exceed \_\_\_\_\_ years  
and/or to pay a fine of \$ \_\_\_\_\_; provided that upon the service of \_\_\_\_\_ days/months/years and/or payment  
of \$ \_\_\_\_\_; plus costs and assessments as applicable\*; the balance is suspended probation for \_\_\_\_\_  
months/years and subject to South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services standard conditions of  
probation, which are incorporated by reference.

CONCURRENT or  CONSECUTIVE to sentence on:  
 The Defendant is to be given credit for time served pursuant to S.C. Code § 64-1340 to be calculated and applied by the SCDOC. *Any federal sentence*  
 The Defendant is to be placed on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect pursuant to S.C. Code § 17-25-135.  
*audit 564 days = now*

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C Section 922, it is unlawful for a person convicted of a violation of Section 16-25-20 or 16-25-65 (Domestic  
Violence) to ship, transport, possess, or receive a firearm or ammunition.

RESTITUTION:  Deferred  Def. Waives Hearing  Ordered PTUP  
Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ plus 20% fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Terms:  Set by SCDPPPS

Recipient: \_\_\_\_\_

*Fine:		\$
§ 14-1-206 (Assessments 107.5%)		\$
§ 14-1-211(A)(1) (Conv. Surcharge)	\$100	\$
§ 14-1-211(A)(2) (DUI Surcharge)	\$100	\$
§ 56-5-2995 (DUI Assessment)	\$12	\$
§ 56-1-286 (DUI Breath Test)	\$25	\$
Proviso (Public Def/Probation)	\$500	\$
§ 14-1-212 (Law Enforce. Funding)	\$25	\$
§ 14-1-213 (Drug Court Surcharge)	\$150	\$
§ 50-21-114 (BUI Breath Test Fee)	\$50	\$
§ 56-5-2942(J) (Vehicle Assessments)	\$40/ea	\$
3% to County (if paid in installments)		\$

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk of Court/ Deputy Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

Court Reporter: \_\_\_\_\_

SCCA217 (04-2018)

\_\_\_\_\_ days/hours Public Service Employment  
Obtain GED   
Attend Voc. Rehab. or Job Corp. \_\_\_\_\_  
May serve W/E beginning \_\_\_\_\_  
Substance Abuse Counseling   
Random Drug/Alcohol testing   
Fine may be pd. in equal, consecutive weekly/monthly  
pmts. of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ beginning \_\_\_\_\_  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ paid to Public Defender Fund  
Other: *\*ATU\**

Appointed PD or appointed other counsel,  
§ Proviso requires \$500 be paid to Clerk  
during probation and shall be collected before  
any other fees.  
Presiding Judge: *[Signature]*  
Judge Code: 2159  
Sentence Date: *Nov.*

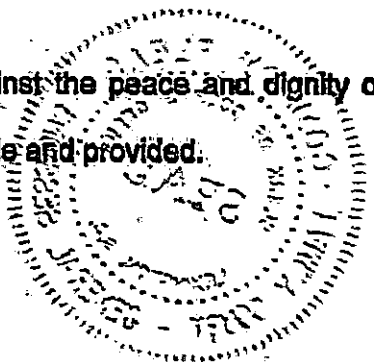
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF LEXINGTON )  
 )

INDICTMENT FOR  
Arson, 2nd degree  
§ 16-11-0110(B)

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on January 2020, the Grand Jurors of Lexington County present upon their oath:

That Steven Dewayne Edwards did in Lexington County, South Carolina, on or about April 16, 2019, wilfully and maliciously cause an explosion, set fire to, burn, or cause to be burned or aided, counseled, or procured a burning that resulted in damage to a dwelling house, church or place of worship, public or private school facility, manufacturing plant or warehouse, building where business is conducted, institutional facility, or any structure designed for human occupancy including local and municipal buildings, whether the property of the person or another; to wit: lighting a fire causing approx \$5,000,000 in damage to Walmart, located at 360 Harbison Blvd in the Columbia area of Lexington County, in violation of §16-11-110(B) of the South Carolina Code of Laws of 1976, as amended.

Against the peace and dignity of the State, and contrary to the statute in such case made and provided.



ASSISTANT SOLICITOR

**WITNESSES**

Columbia Police Department

Matthew P Jenkins

Law Enforcement Case #: 190010180

NRP

**ARREST WARRANT NUMBER**

2019A4021801192

**ACTION OF GRAND JURY**

**TRUE BILL**

*Ch. E. ...*  
Foreperson of Grand Jury  
Date: 3/09/20

**VERDICT**

Foreperson of Petit Jury  
Date:

DOCKET NO. 2020GS3200120

**The State of South Carolina**

**County of Lexington**

**COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS**

**MARCH TERM 2020**

**THE STATE**

vs.

**Steven Dewayne Edwards**

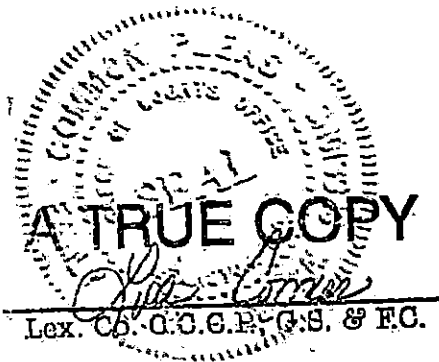
**CDR #: 2551**

**Indictment for**

**Arson, 2nd degree**

**§ 16-11-0110(B)**

**S.R. Hubbard III, SOLICITOR**



ARREST WARRANT

2019A4021601192

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/ Municipality of

City of Columbia

THE STATE against

Steven Dewayne Edwards

Address:

Phone: SSN:

Sex: M Race: W Height: 6 2 Weight: 190

DL State: DL #:

DOB: Agency ORI #: SC0400100

Prosecuting Agency: Columbia Police Department

Prosecuting Officer: Matthew P Jenkins - S01055

Offense: Arson / Arson - Second degree

Offense Code: 2551

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-11-0110(B)

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the County/ Municipality of

The accused is to be arrested and brought before me to be dealt with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to defendant on

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

Columbia Municipal Court
811 Washington Street
Columbia, SC 29201

AUDIT COPY

AUDIT COPY

AUDIT COPY

AUDIT COPY

AUDIT COPY

AUDIT COPY

AUDIT COPY

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/ Municipality of

LEXINGTON COUNTY AFFIDAVIT

City of Columbia

Personally appeared before me the affiant Matthew P Jenkins who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Steven Dewayne Edwards

did within this county and state on or about 4/16/2019 violate the criminal laws of the

State of South Carolina (or ordinance of County/ Municipality of City of Columbia)

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Arson / Arson - Second degree

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:

While at 360 Harbison Blvd. (Walmart), City of Columbia, County of Lexington, the def. selected various items from throughout the store and placed them into a shopping cart. The def. then left the shopping cart with an associate. Def then proceeded to aisle A-14 of the grocery section where he set fire to a shopping cart containing boxes that were left in the aisle by an employee of Walmart. The fire caused damage to the items inside the shopping cart as well as nearby merchandise. The def. then proceeded to meet up with the other associate where he took the loaded shopping cart she was in possession of and attempted to leave the store without an attempt to render payment. The fire, smoke from the fire as well as the water from the fire suppression system caused approx. \$5 million in damages. The subjects were identified after news media published portions of the Walmart video and anonymous tips gave information that identified the involved persons.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/ Municipality of

City of Columbia

Affiant's Address #1 Justice Square

Columbia, SC 29201-

Affiant's Telephone (803)545-3500

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 4/16/2019 defendant Steven Dewayne Edwards

did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of

County/ Municipality of City of Columbia) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Arson / Arson - Second degree

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as soon thereafter as is practicable

Sworn to and subscribed before me

on 4/19/2019

Signature of Issuing Judge

Shirley J Daniels

Judge Code: 6353

Judge's Address P.O. Box 644

Columbia, SC 29202

Judge's Telephone (803)545-3128

Issuing Court: Magistrate Municipality Circuit

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF LEXINGTON

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IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS  
2020-GS-32-120

STATE of SOUTH  
CAROLINA,

ORDER DENYING RECONSIDERATION OF  
SENTENCE IMPOSED

-v-

STEVEN D.  
EDWARDS,  
*Defendant.*

RECEIVED

FEB 16 2021

SC Court of Appeals

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Addy, J.

**THIS MATTER ORIGINALLY CAME BEFORE THE COURT** on November 2, 2020 wherein the Defendant entered a plea of guilty to the charge of Arson 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree. He was represented by Ola Johnson, Esq., and the State was represented by Assistant Solicitor Russell Parker. The Court imposed an active sentence of ten (10) years. Mr. Edwards timely moved for reconsideration of his sentence, and the Court has reviewed the written motion filed by counsel dated February 3, 2020. The Court also reviewed the Court's notes and the redacted criminal history furnished by the solicitor. Having reconsidered the sentence imposed and for the following reasons, the Court declines to convene a hearing and reaffirms the sentence previously imposed.

Having reviewed the above documents, the Court has a firm, clear recollection of the plea. The allegations in this case involve Mr. Edwards intentionally setting a fire in the Lexington WalMart to create a distraction so that he and his co-defendants could shoplift. He is also facing federal charge and had pled guilty to those charges at the time of this plea. In his motion, Mr. Edwards takes issue with his 1995 conviction for robbery, asserting that it should not be considered by the Court because he was a juvenile. He also notes that the 2018 conviction for receiving stolen goods was a magistrate's offense and asserts that the probation revocation from Georgia was actually dismissed. He is also correct that his criminal history reveals a gap in time where he was able to comport himself with the requirements of the law.

Although Mr. Edwards' criminal history is concerning, even if one were to set aside consideration of the above charges, the primary driver of the sentence was the factual allegations as coupled with his admitted criminal history. Roughly \$3 million in damage was done to the

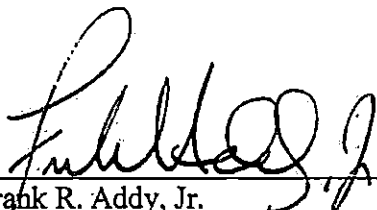


store's inventory. Furthermore, igniting a blaze in a popular retail venue, even if the blaze is set at night, poses a serious potential risk to the general public, store employees, and firefighters who are summoned to extinguish the fire. Mr. Edwards is lucky that no one was seriously injured by his actions.

The Court also fully considered Mr. Edwards' family situation, his severe meth and heroin addiction, his professed desire for treatment, and his positive prospects for employment. However, based upon the serious nature of the crime, the potential for injury to innocent third parties, the substantial cost in inventory which was damaged or had to be discarded, and his uncontested criminal history, the Court finds that the sentence imposed remains warranted even after taking into account the mitigation presented.

**WHEREFORE**, having fully reconsidered the ten (10) year sentence imposed, Mr. Edwards' motion for reconsideration is denied.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank R. Addy, Jr.  
Presiding Circuit Judge

February 4, 2021  
Greenwood, South Carolina