

STATE GRAND JURY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Case No. 2025-GS-47-16

v.

SHARON W. STAGGERS,
Defendant.

FILED

AUG 12 2025

MARGARET J. SELF
CLERK, SC STATE GRAND JURY

INDICTMENT FOR OFFICIAL
MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE;
EMBEZZLEMENT; USE OF OFFICIAL
POSITION OR OFFICE FOR FINANCIAL
GAIN; AND OFFERING, GIVING,
SOLICITING, OR RECEIVING ANYTHING
OF VALUE TO INFLUENCE ACTION OF
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE, MEMBER OR
OFFICIAL

At a session of the State Grand Jury of South Carolina, convened in Columbia, South Carolina, on August 12, 2025, the State Grand Jurors present upon their oath and charge as follows:

COUNT ONE
OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE
Common Law
CDR CODE: 0819

That on or about November 2019 to October 2023, in Williamsburg County, and while elected Clerk of Court of Williamsburg County, and thus a public official, SHARON W. STAGGEERS willfully and dishonestly failed to properly and faithfully discharge the duties of her public office imposed upon her by law; to wit: STAGGERS did commit acts and omissions in breach of her duty of good faith, honesty, and accountability to the public, by obtaining an personal profit and benefit to herself by having government funds, above and beyond her legitimate salary, improperly paid to her.

This was done in violation of the Common Law of South Carolina, and such conduct involving public corruption and arising out of or in connection with a crime involving public corruption, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

COUNT TWO
EMBEZZLEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS, VALUE LESS THAN \$10,000
S.C. Code Ann. § 16-13-210(A)
CDR CODE: 3460

That SHARON W. STAGGERS in Williamsburg County, from on or about November 20, 2019, while STAGGERS was responsible for the safekeeping, transfer and disbursement of public funds, did embezzle and convert less than ten thousand dollars of the public funds, with the intention to defraud the County of Williamsburg, to wit: While the elected Clerk of Court, STAGGERS, did embezzle public funds by causing \$4,000.00 of Title IV-D funds of the federal Social Security Act to be paid to her as Title IV-D incentive payments.

All in violation of section 16-13-210 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended; and such conduct involving public corruption and arising out of or in connection with a crime involving public corruption, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

COUNT THREE
EMBEZZLEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS, VALUE \$10,000 OR MORE
S.C. Code Ann. § 16-13-210(A)
CDR CODE: 3459

That SHARON W. STAGGERS, in Williamsburg County, from on or about February of 2020 to on or about in December of 2020, while STAGGERS was responsible for the safekeeping, transfer and disbursement of public funds, did embezzle and convert ten thousand dollars or more (\$10,000) of the public funds, with the intention to defraud the County of Williamsburg, to wit: While the elected Clerk of Court, STAGGERS, did embezzle public funds by causing \$14,500.00 of Title IV-D funds of the federal Social Security Act to be paid to her as Title IV-D incentive payments.

All in violation of section 16-13-210 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended; and such conduct involving public corruption and arising out of or in connection with a crime involving public corruption, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

COUNT FOUR
EMBEZZLEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS, VALUE \$10,000 OR MORE
S.C. Code Ann. § 16-13-210(A)
CDR CODE: 3459

That SHARON W. STAGGERS, in Williamsburg County, from on or about March of 2021 to on or about December of 2021, while STAGGERS was responsible for the safekeeping, transfer and disbursement of public funds, did embezzle and convert ten thousand dollars or more (\$10,000) of the public funds, with the intention to defraud the

County of Williamsburg, to wit: While the elected Clerk of Court, STAGGERS, did embezzle public funds by causing \$31,115.32 of Title IV-D funds of the federal Social Security Act to be paid to her as Title IV-D incentive payments.

All in violation of section 16-13-210 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended; and such conduct involving public corruption and arising out of or in connection with a crime involving public corruption, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

COUNT FIVE
EMBEZZLEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS, VALUE \$10,000 OR MORE
S.C. Code Ann. § 16-13-210(A)
CDR CODE: 3459

That SHARON W. STAGGERS, in Williamsburg County, from on or about August 2021 to December 2021, while STAGGERS was responsible for the safekeeping, transfer and disbursement of public funds, did embezzle and convert ten thousand dollars or more (\$10,000) of the public funds, with the intention to defraud the County of Williamsburg, to wit: While the elected Clerk of Court, STAGGERS, did embezzle public funds by causing \$11,536.00 of public funds to be paid to her as excess salary payments.

All in violation of section 16-13-210 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended; and such conduct involving public corruption and arising out of or in connection with a crime involving public corruption, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

COUNT SIX
EMBEZZLEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS, VALUE \$10,000 OR MORE
S.C. Code Ann. § 16-13-210(A)
CDR CODE: 3459

That SHARON W. STAGGERS, in Williamsburg County, from on or about January of 2022 to on or about December of 2022, while STAGGERS was responsible for the safekeeping, transfer and disbursement of public funds, did embezzle and convert ten thousand dollars or more (\$10,000) of the public funds, with the intention to defraud the County of Williamsburg, to wit: While the elected Clerk of Court, STAGGERS, did embezzle public funds by causing \$29,993.60 of public funds to be paid to her as excess salary payments.

All in violation of section 16-13-210 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended; and such conduct involving public corruption and arising out of or in connection with a crime involving public corruption, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

COUNT SEVEN
EMBEZZLEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS, VALUE \$10,000 OR MORE
S.C. Code Ann. § 16-13-210(A)
CDR CODE: 3459

That SHARON W. STAGGERS, in Williamsburg County, from on or about January of 2023 to on or about July of 2023, while STAGGERS was responsible for the safekeeping, transfer and disbursement of public funds, did embezzle and convert ten thousand dollars or more (\$10,000) of the public funds, with the intention to defraud the County of Williamsburg, to wit: While the elected Clerk of Court, STAGGERS, did embezzle public funds by causing \$17,304.00 of public funds to be paid to her as excess salary payments.

All in violation of section 16-13-210 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended; and such conduct involving public corruption and arising out of or in connection with a crime involving public corruption, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

COUNT EIGHT
EMBEZZLEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS, VALUE LESS THAN \$10,000
S.C. Code Ann. § 16-13-210(A)
CDR CODE: 3460

That SHARON W. STAGGERS, in Williamsburg County, from on or about August of 2023 to on or about October of 2023, while STAGGERS was responsible for the safekeeping, transfer and disbursement of public funds, did embezzle and convert less than ten thousand dollars of the public funds, with the intention to defraud the County of

Williamsburg, to wit: While the elected Clerk of Court, STAGGERS, did embezzle public funds by causing \$4,818.09 of Title IV-D funds of the federal Social Security Act to be paid to her as Title IV-D incentive payments.

All in violation of section 16-13-210 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended; and such conduct involving public corruption and arising out of or in connection with a crime involving public corruption, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

COUNT NINE
USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION OR OFFICE FOR FINANCIAL GAIN
ETHICS ACT VIOLATION
S.C. Code Ann. § 8-13-700
CDR CODE: 0673

That from on or about November 2019 to October 2023, SHARON W. STAGGERS did, in Williamsburg County, while in office as Clerk of Court, knowingly use her official office, membership, or employment to obtain an economic interest for herself; to wit: STAGGERS did improperly cause thousands of dollars in government funds to be disbursed to herself beyond her legitimate salary.

This was done in violation of § 8-13-700 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, and such conduct involving public corruption and arising out of or in connection with a crime involving public corruption, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

COUNT TEN
OFFERING, GIVING, SOLICITING, OR RECEIVING ANYTHING OF VALUE TO
INFLUENCE ACTION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEE, MEMBER OR OFFICIAL
ETHICS ACT VIOLATION
S.C. Code Ann. § 8-13-705
CDR CODE: 0409

That from on or about August 2022 to on or about December 2022, SHARON W. STAGGERS did, in Williamsburg County, while in office as Clerk of Court, a public official, directly or indirectly, knowingly ask, demand, exact, solicit, seek, accept, assign, receive, or agree to receive anything of value for herself or for another person in return for being: (2) influenced to commit, aid in committing, collude in, allow fraud, or make an opportunity for fraud on a governmental entity; to wit: STAGGERS did receive \$6,232.05 in additional payments over her salary for alleged participation in "community projects." STAGGERS also allowed fraud on the government by permitting employees of her office to receive excess compensation from said "community projects."

This was done in violation of § 8-13-705 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, and such conduct involving public corruption and arising out of or in connection with a crime involving public corruption, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case
made and provided.

A TRUE Bill



FOREPERSON

Alan Wilson
ALAN WILSON (sg)
ATTORNEY GENERAL