

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF SUMTER )  
South Carolina Department )  
of Social Services, )  
Plaintiff, )  
vs. )  
Kimberly A Esco )  
David Steele )  
Defendant(s), )  
IN THE INTEREST OF: )  
Emily G Steele (4/24/2015) )  
Maya Steele (4/24/2015) )  
Minor(s) Under the Age of 18 )

RECORDED  
2026 MAR 25 AM 10:33  
J. S. CAMPBELL  
CLERK OF COURT  
SUMTER COUNTY, S.C.

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF THE  
THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
2023-DR-43-00321

**AFFIDAVIT OF CASE MANGER**

Affiant, being duly sworn as a representative of the South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS), states the following:

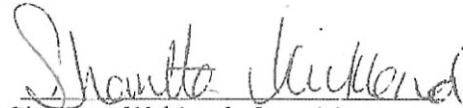
1. Affiant is the Case manager currently assigned to this case;
2. The Defendants' parental rights have been terminated. They have appealed the Order terminating their parental rights.
3. The Defendants have sent unsolicited packages, either personally or through a third party to the home of the foster parents of the minor child, Emily Steele, on at least two occasions. The Defendants learned the address during a visit with the minor child who brought a water bottle to the visit that had the address written on it. The foster parents exchanged emails with the Defendants in order to help facilitate contact with the minor child, however the foster parents no longer want to communicate via email because in January 2026 the Defendants

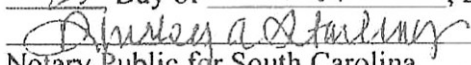
sent an electric scooter to the foster parents' home contrary to the expressed wishes of the foster parents.

4. The Defendants have observed a livestream of the place of worship of the minor child, Maya Steele, on at least one occasion on or about August 4, 2025.
5. On March 24, 2026, the Defendant, Kimberly Esco, wrote an editorial regarding SC Code Annotated Section 63-7-2570, "When Time Becomes the Judge: A Quiet Crisis in South Carolina's Child Welfare System," on the web site of The Daily Counter News. Enclosure 1.
6. The Daily Counter News previously published several articles relating to this action and these Defendants. An article on July 14, 2025, published photographs from a report of the minor children's Guardian *ad Litem*. These excerpts were not redacted and published the full names of the minor children. This article conflates child protective services conducted pursuant to state and federal statutes with "child trafficking," and that "child trafficking" may have occurred in this action. Furthermore, this article also encouraged supporters to attend the termination of parental rights hearing, including date and location. Enclosure 2.
7. Another article was published on January 22, 2026, that included publishing a memorandum opinion from a November 26, 2025 hearing. Enclosure 3.
8. The children's foster parents said that they felt afraid that the minor children's address or schools would be published, and that could result in false reports or

vigilante action because of the articles published regarding this case mentioning human trafficking.

Further, Affiant sayeth not,

  
Shanetta Kirkland, Case Manager  
Sumter County DSS

SWORN TO BEFORE ME this  
25 Day of March, 2026.  
  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
Print name of Notary: SHIRLEY A STARLING  
My Commission Expires: 4-22-2031