

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
RECEIVED 11/22/24 8:11 AM

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:
CASE NUMBER
C 2024-056

COMPLAINT FORM

COMPLAINANT: Nicholas Duncan
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
TITLE: _____

RESPONDENT: Charles "Chuck" Wright
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
TITLE: Sheriff

Set forth in detail specific facts upon which you based your complaint against above-named respondent (only detailed, clear factual allegations will be considered. If additional space is needed, attach supplemental sheets).

On July 1, 2024, Chuck Wright swore in his son, Jared "Andy" Wright at the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office. See attached papers for more information.

If there is a finding of probable cause, the following documents become public record: the complaint, the response (if any) by respondent, and the notice of hearing. If a hearing is to be held, the final order and all exhibits become public record. If no hearing is held following a finding of probable cause, the final disposition of the matter becomes public record.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF Greenville

Personally appeared before me Nicholas Duncan who, first being duly sworn, says that he/she has read and knows the contents of the above complaint and that the allegations contained therein, are true and correct to the best of his/her own knowledge, except for those matters therein based upon information and belief, and as to those he/she believes them to be true.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this
15th day of July, 2024

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]
Complainant Signature

[REDACTED]
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission expires 9/12/2032

SEC-7 (Revised 3/2022)

REPLY TO: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210 (803)253-4192
ELECTRONIC COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Nicholas Duncan
P.O. Box 161025
Boiling Springs, SC 29316

South Carolina State Ethics Commission
201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150
Columbia, SC 29310

July 15, 2024

Dear members of the South Carolina State Ethics Commission,

I am writing to file a formal complaint against Charles L. Wright of Spartanburg, South Carolina, for violation of South Carolina ethics laws outlined in Section 8-13-750 in the South Carolina Code of Laws. On July 1, 2024, Sheriff Charles "Chuck" Wright swore in his son, Jared "Andy" Wright into the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office. This action appears to directly violate the following law.

- Section 8-13-750 (A)**: This section prohibits public officials from using their official position from causing the employment, appointment, promotion, transfer, or advancement of a family member to a state or local office or a position that the public official supervises or manages. By Sheriff Wright hiring his son Andy into the department that he supervises, directly violates this statute. In addition to Sheriff Wright creating a special position for his son Andy, above all other Deputies at SCSO.
- Section 8-13-750 (B) **: This section further prohibits public officials from participating in any action related to the discipline of their family members. With Sheriff Wright's direct supervisory role of his son Jared "Andy", he directly violates this statute.

The actions of Sheriff Chuck Wright undermine the trust that the public has put into both he and the office of Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office. Chuck Wright has intentionally broken the above referenced laws, for the benefit of himself as well as that of his son, Andy. This is a direct conflict of both the ethical standards of the SC Ethics Commission as well as the Laws set forth by the state of South Carolina. These statutes have a place in SC Law, to prevent nepotism and to ensure that the public's safety is put first without personal or family bias. The actions by Chuck Wright are disrespectful to the citizens of Spartanburg County and a testament of the respect that Chuck Wright has for the citizens of the county.

I request that the South Carolina Ethics Commission investigate this matter fully and without bias to determine if ethical violations and the law have in fact taken place, and to take appropriate action, in a timely manner. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, feel free to reach me at 864-923-1971 or nicholaseduncan@hotmail.com

Respectfully,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Nicholas E. Duncan.

Nicholas E. Duncan

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:)

Complaints C2024-051)
C2024-055)
C2024-056)

Kyle Joslin, Brittney Duncan,)
and Nicholas Duncan)
Complainants.)

NOTICE OF HEARING

Charles "Chuck" Wright)
Respondent.)

The State Ethics Commission has determined that there is probable cause pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, in the above-captioned complaints. The State Ethics Commission will, therefore, convene a formal hearing into the matters, in accordance with Section 8-13-320(10)(i) & (j), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, and State Ethics Commission Regulations, S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-707 (1997 Cum. Supp.) on Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. at the State Ethics Commission Hearing Room located at: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

The following allegations will be heard:

COUNT ONE
FAILURE TO RECUSE FROM A GOVERNMENTAL DECISION IN WHICH AN
FAMILY MEMBER HAS AN ECONOMIC INTEREST
SECTION 8-13-700(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

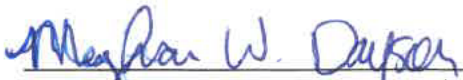
That Charles "Chuck" Wright, Spartanburg County Sheriff, did fail to recuse from the hiring process of his son as a deputy sheriff for the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office in July of 2024, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

COUNT TWO
PARTICIPATION IN ACTION RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OF A FAMILY MEMBER
SECTION 8-13-750(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Charles "Chuck" Wright, Spartanburg County Sheriff, did appoint his son as a compensated deputy sheriff for the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office on July 1, 2024, in violation of Section 8-13-750(B).

You have the right to be represented by counsel, the right to call and examine witnesses, the right to introduce exhibits, and the right to cross-examine opposing witnesses. This hearing will be open to the public as required by Section 8-13-320(10)(j), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended. The procedures to be followed are set forth in the Administrative Procedures Act, Section 1-23-10, et seq., Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, the State Ethics Act, Section 8-13-100, et seq., Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, and State Ethics Commission Regulations S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-707 (1997 Cum. Supp.).

A pre-hearing conference may be scheduled prior to the hearing to allow exchange of witness lists and evidence, marking of exhibits, and disposition of motions or pleadings. In the event you fail to appear, judgment by default will be rendered against you. If there are any questions concerning the above notice or hearing times, please contact the State Ethics Commission.



Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director
State Ethics Commission

Dated this 26th day,
of September 2025.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on Respondent's Attorney Steve Denton, 178 W. Main Street, Spartanburg, SC 29306 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this ____ day of September 2025, by **CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.



Rachael O'Bryan, Administrative Assistant
State Ethics Commission (803) 253-4192

Columbia, South Carolina

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:)

Complaints C2024-051)
C2024-055)
C2024-056)

Kyle Joslin, Brittney Duncan,)
and Nicholas Duncan)
Complainants.)

Charles "Chuck" Wright)
Respondent.)

**AMENDED
NOTICE OF HEARING**

The State Ethics Commission has determined that there is probable cause pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, in the above-captioned complaints. The State Ethics Commission will, therefore, convene a formal hearing into the matters, in accordance with Section 8-13-320(10)(i) & (j), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, and State Ethics Commission Regulations, S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-707 (1997 Cum. Supp.) on Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. at the State Ethics Commission Hearing Room located at: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

The following allegations will be heard:

COUNT ONE
**FAILURE TO RECUSE FROM A GOVERNMENTAL DECISION IN WHICH AN
FAMILY MEMBER HAS AN ECONOMIC INTEREST
SECTION 8-13-700(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Charles "Chuck" Wright, Spartanburg County Sheriff, did fail to recuse from the hiring process of his son as a deputy sheriff for the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office in July of 2024, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

COUNT TWO
PARTICIPATION IN ACTION RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OF A FAMILY
MEMBER
SECTION 8-13-750(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Charles "Chuck" Wright, Spartanburg County Sheriff, did appoint his son as a compensated deputy sheriff for the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office on July 1, 2024, in violation of Section 8-13-750(B).

You have the right to be represented by counsel, the right to call and examine witnesses, the right to introduce exhibits, and the right to cross-examine opposing witnesses. This hearing will be open to the public as required by Section 8-13-320(10)(j), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended. The procedures to be followed are set forth in the Administrative Procedures Act, Section 1-23-10, et seq., Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, the State Ethics Act, Section 8-13-100, et seq., Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, and State Ethics Commission Regulations S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-707 (1997 Cum. Supp.).

A pre-hearing conference may be scheduled prior to the hearing to allow exchange of witness lists and evidence, marking of exhibits, and disposition of motions or pleadings. In the event you fail to appear, judgment by default will be rendered against you. If there are any questions concerning the above notice or hearing times, please contact the State Ethics Commission.



Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director
State Ethics Commission

Dated this 5th day,
of February 2026.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on Respondent's Attorney Steve Denton, 178 W. Main Street, Spartanburg, SC 29306 by depositing said **AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 6th day of February 2026, by CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.

[REDACTED]

Rachael O'Bryan, Administrative Assistant

Columbia, South Carolina

State Ethics Commission

(803) 253-4192

Walker, Meghan

From: Steve Denton <sdenton@kdtriallawyers.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 9:53 AM
To: Walker, Meghan
Cc: Steve Denton; Laster, Courtney
Subject: [External] Hearing Scheduled for Charles Wright

Director Dayson,

This email will serve as my request to continue the hearing currently set for February 19, 2026. I believe the federal sentencing matter will be concluded by April.
The United States office of Probation and Parole are still conducting the pre-sentence report that the Court will use for sentencing purposes.
I would like to have a chance to look at the report prior to our hearing although frankly I believe Mr. Wright will enter into a consent order with your commission.

Thank you for considering my request. Please let me know if you need anything from me.

Kind Regards,

Steve Denton



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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

Kyle Joslin, Brittney Duncan, and
Nicholas Duncan

Complainant,

vs.

Charles Wright,

Respondent.


Case Numbers: C-2024-051
C-2024-055
C-2024-056
C-2024-089

**ORDER GRANTING RESPONDENT'S
MOTION FOR CONTINUANCE**

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) on Respondent Charles Wright's (Respondent) Motion to Continue (Motion) which was received by the Commission on January 22, 2026. Respondent requests that the hearing, originally scheduled for February 19, 2026, be continued to allow the United States Office of Probation and Parole to conclude the pre-sentence investigation and report for United States of America v. Charles Wright et. al.. Commission staff has no objection to this request.

The above-captioned hearing will be held on June 18, 2026.

And it is **SO ORDERED!**


F. Xavier Starkes
Chairman

January 23, 2026
Columbia, South Carolina.