

**THIS OPINION HAS NO PRECEDENTIAL VALUE. IT SHOULD NOT BE  
CITED OR RELIED ON AS PRECEDENT IN ANY PROCEEDING  
EXCEPT AS PROVIDED BY RULE 268(d)(2), SCACR.**

**THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
In The Court of Appeals**

South Carolina Department of Social Services,  
Respondent,

v.

Travis Phillips and Elease Hickson, Defendants,

Of whom Travis Phillips is the Appellant.

In the interest of a minor under the age of eighteen.

Appellate Case No. 2022-001540

---

Appeal From Florence County  
FitzLee H. McEachin, Family Court Judge

---

Unpublished Opinion No. 2023-UP-131  
Submitted March 20, 2023 – Filed March 29, 2023

---

**AFFIRMED**

---

Nancy Carol Fennell, of Irmo, for Appellant.

Taylor Jule Yarnal, of South Carolina Department of  
Social Services, of Florence, for Respondent.

Stuart Wesley Snow, Jr., of Snow & Bailey Law Firm,  
P.A., of Florence, for the Guardian ad Litem.

---

**PER CURIAM:** Travis Phillips appeals the family court's final order removing his minor child from his custody and finding there was a substantial risk of physical abuse. *See* S.C. Code Ann. § 63-7-20(6)(a)(i) (Supp. 2022). Upon a thorough review of the record and the family court's findings of fact and conclusions of law pursuant to *Ex parte Cauthen*, 291 S.C. 465, 354 S.E.2d 381 (1987),<sup>1</sup> we find no meritorious issues warrant briefing. Accordingly, we affirm the family court's ruling and relieve Phillips's counsel.

**AFFIRMED.**<sup>2</sup>

**WILLIAMS, C.J., and GEATHERS and VERDIN, JJ., concur.**

---

<sup>1</sup> *See also* S.C. Dep't of Soc. Servs. v. Downer, S.C. Sup. Ct. Order dated Feb. 2, 2005 (expanding the *Cauthen* procedure to situations when "an indigent person appeals from an order imposing other measures short of termination of parental rights").

<sup>2</sup> We decide this case without argument pursuant to Rule 215, SCACR.