

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
) FOR THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF CHARLESTON) CASE NO.: 2025-CP-10-
)
JESSICA L. PERRY and REIS A. PERRY,)
as the Co-Special Administrators of the)
Estate of David R. Perry,)
)
Plaintiffs,) **SUMMONS**
) **(Jury Trial Demanded)**
v.)
)
CHARLES GORDON PERRY, IV,)
)
Defendant.)

TO: THE DEFENDANT ABOVE NAMED:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint herein, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer to said Complaint upon the subscribers, Rosen Hagood, LLC, at their offices at 40 Calhoun Street, Suite 450, Charleston, South Carolina 29401, within thirty (30) days of the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service. YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN FURTHER NOTICE that, if you fail to appear and defend and fail to answer the Complaint as required by this Summons within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

[SIGNATURE BLOCK ON NEXT PAGE]

ROSEN HAGOOD, LLC

By: s/ Andrew D. Gowdown

Andrew D. Gowdown (#17222)

James A. Bruorton, IV (#71300)

Mary Harriet Moore (#105312)

agowdown@rosenhagood.com

cbruorton@rosenhagood.com

mhmoore@rosenhagood.com

40 Calhoun Street, Suite 450

Charleston, SC 29401

(843) 577-6726

Charleston, South Carolina

April 29, 2025

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
) FOR THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF CHARLESTON) CASE NO.: 2025-CP-10-_____
)
JESSICA L. PERRY and REIS A. PERRY,)
as the Co-Special Administrators of the)
Estate of David R. Perry,)
)
Plaintiffs,) **COMPLAINT**
) **(Jury Trial Demanded)**
v.)
)
CHARLES GORDON PERRY, IV,)
)
Defendant.)

Plaintiffs Jessica L. Perry and Reis A. Perry, as the Co-Special Administrators of the Estate of David R. Perry, complaining of the above-named Defendant Charles Gordon Perry, IV, allege and state as follows:

PARTIES, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE

1. Plaintiffs Jessica L. Perry and Reis A. Perry (“Plaintiffs”) are the duly appointed Co-Special Administrators of the Estate of David R. Perry by the Charleston County Probate Court, case number 2024-ES-10-02282. At all pertinent times herein, Decedent David R. Perry (“Decedent”), who died on December 18, 2024, was a citizen and resident of Charleston County, South Carolina.

2. Defendant Charles Gordon Perry, IV (“Defendant Perry”) was Decedent’s brother. At all times pertinent herein, Defendant Perry was and is a citizen and resident of Charleston County, South Carolina.

3. At all times relevant hereto, the most substantial part of the acts and/or omissions committed by Defendant Perry giving rise to this action occurred in Charleston County, South

Carolina, and, therefore, venue is proper in Charleston County pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 15-7-30.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

4. Plaintiffs reallege and reincorporate the paragraphs set forth above as if fully set forth herein verbatim.

5. On December 18, 2024, the Decedent and Defendant Perry were both present at Carolina Sound Communications, Inc. (“Carolina Sound”) located at 7630 Southrail Road, North Charleston, SC, 29420.

6. Between approximately 5:20 p.m. and 6:18 p.m., Defendant Perry bound the Decedent in a company warehouse, brutally attacked and beat Decedent, and then shot Decedent in the chest at close range.

7. Prior to committing the brutal acts of violence against the Decedent, Defendant Perry intentionally turned off security cameras and building entry access at Carolina Sound.

8. At approximately 8:00 p.m., Decedent was reported missing by his fiancée to the Charleston City Police Department as he could not be reached on his cellphone and his whereabouts were unknown.

9. Through “Life 360,” Decedent’s cellphone was traced and found in his truck, which was abandoned behind a North Charleston retail store.

10. Upon discovering Decedent’s abandoned truck and cellphone, police responded to Carolina Sound, the last place Decedent was seen alive, to investigate the missing person report of Decedent.

11. En route to Carolina Sound, police passed a man that met the description of Defendant Perry, walking along the road carrying a backpack.

12. As police were on the scene at Carolina Sound, Defendant Perry walked up the driveway of Carolina Sound without a backpack, stating to the police he was looking for his cellphone that must have fallen off his truck when he went to get something to eat.

13. Defendant Perry's truck never left Carolina Sound on the evening of December 18, 2024, only Decedent's truck was seen leaving Carolina Sound with Defendant Perry believed to have been the driver.

14. Upon information and belief, when questioning Defendant Perry about his whereabouts earlier in the evening, he lied to police and told conflicting stories.

15. Police discovered a backpack abandoned on the side of the road near Carolina Sound in the general location where police had previously observed an individual walking along the road.

16. Police questioned Defendant Perry about the backpack. Defendant Perry admitted that the backpack police had discovered was his as was the gun found inside the backpack. Defendant Perry claimed, however, that the backpack and gun had been missing for several days. During this exchange with Defendant Perry, police noticed red spots on Defendant Perry's shoes and pants, which resembled blood.

17. While searching the premises of Carolina Sound, police discovered Decedent in a warehouse with blunt force trauma to his head and a single gunshot wound to his chest. Decedent was pronounced dead at the scene.

18. The Charleston County Coroner ruled the death a homicide.

19. Evidence obtained from Defendant Perry's office at Carolina Sound, included a handwritten note, which revealed a "to-do" list. Upon information and belief, the list mentions a

gun, cutting off cameras, leaving behind a cellphone, burning clothes, cleaning and discarding a shell casing, and changing his clothes.

20. Additional evidence such as receipts for the purchase of rope, box cutters, and a tarp, along with the discovery of the murder weapon, directly points to Defendant Perry as the perpetrator of this heinous crime.

21. Defendant Perry has been charged with the murder of his brother. A copy of the Arrest Warrants and Affidavits are attached as "**Exhibit 1**."

22. On February 6, 2025, Defendant Perry was denied bond. He is currently in custody at the Charleston County Detention Center on two counts: (1) murder; and (2) use of a firearm in carrying out an act of violence.

23. Decedent was 51 years of age at the time of his death.

FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
(Wrongful Death)

24. Plaintiffs reallege and reincorporate the above paragraphs as if fully set forth herein verbatim.

25. Plaintiffs, as the Co-Special Administrators of the Estate of David R. Perry, bring this action under the South Carolina Wrongful Death Act, S.C. Code Ann. §§ 15-51-10 to -60 (Law. Co-op. 1976), for the benefit of the statutory beneficiaries of David R. Perry, namely his two children, the Plaintiffs herein.

26. On December 18, 2024, Defendant Perry planned and prepared to assault, batter, and kill Decedent and did thereafter brutally, intentionally, and with malice aforethought bind, attack, and shoot the Decedent in the chest at close range with a gun. Defendant Perry acted with wanton, reckless, willful, and malicious disregard for the rights of the Decedent and with the full knowledge and intent that he would suffer immense pain and fear and, ultimately, die as a result

of his actions. Alternatively, Defendant Perry was careless, negligent, grossly negligent, and heedless in causing the Decedent's death.

27. At the time of his death, Decedent was 51 years old and had a life expectancy of 28.28 years pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 19-1-150.

28. As a direct, proximate, and foreseeable result of the conduct of the Defendant Perry, as set forth above, and the Decedent's premature death, the Decedent's statutory beneficiaries have suffered damages in the form of outrage; mental shock and suffering; wounded feelings; grief and sorrow; loss of companionship; deprivation of the use and comfort of Decedent's society; loss of Decedent's experience, knowledge, and judgment in managing the affairs of himself and his beneficiaries; loss of services; loss of prospective inheritance; pecuniary loss; medical expenses; and funeral and burial expenses; therefore, Plaintiffs, for the benefit of Decedent's statutory beneficiaries, are entitled to recover actual damages in an amount to be determined by the trier of fact together with the costs and disbursements of this action.

29. In doing the acts alleged above, Defendant Perry was reckless, willful, wanton, and/or malicious. As a result, Plaintiffs, for the benefit of Decedent's statutory beneficiaries, are entitled to recover punitive damages in an amount to be determined by the trier of fact.

FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION
(Assault)

30. Plaintiffs reallege and reincorporate the above paragraphs as if fully set forth herein verbatim.

31. By his conduct, Defendant Perry placed Decedent in reasonable fear of bodily harm.

32. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Perry's assault, Decedent suffered bodily injuries and damages, including, but not limited to a gunshot wound to the chest; severe

head trauma; debilitating pain and suffering; fear; trauma; anxiety; severe emotional distress and mental anguish; death; and other tangible and intangible damages.

33. In doing the acts alleged above, Defendant Perry acted willfully, maliciously, intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, and wantonly.

34. As a result of Defendant Perry's conduct, Plaintiffs, for the benefit of Decedent's statutory beneficiaries, are entitled to an award of actual and punitive damages against Defendant Perry in an amount to be determined by the trier of fact.

FOR A THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION
(Battery)

35. Plaintiffs reallege and reincorporate the above paragraphs as if fully set forth herein verbatim.

36. Defendant Perry grabbed, bound, hit, beat, and shot Decedent.

37. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Perry's battery, Decedent suffered severe bodily injuries and damages, including, but not limited to a gunshot wound to the chest; severe head trauma; debilitating pain and suffering; fear; trauma; anxiety; severe emotional distress and mental anguish; death; and other tangible and intangible damages.

38. In doing the acts alleged above, Defendant Perry acted willfully, maliciously, intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, and/or wantonly.

39. As a result of Defendant Perry's conduct, Plaintiffs, for the benefit of Decedent's statutory beneficiaries, are entitled to an award of actual and punitive damages against Defendant Perry in an amount to be determined by the trier of fact.

FOR A FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION
(Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress)

40. Plaintiffs reallege and reincorporate the above paragraphs as if fully set forth herein verbatim.
41. Defendant Perry's conduct was so extreme and outrageous as to exceed all possible bounds of decency and is regarded as atrocious and utterly intolerable in a civilized society.
42. Defendant Perry knew or should have known that severe emotional distress was highly likely to result from his conduct.
43. Despite the knowledge of foreseeability of harm, Defendant Perry undertook to assault, batter, and kill Decedent, in reckless disregard for the emotional and safe well-being of Decedent.
44. Defendant Perry knew by virtue of his conduct that it was reasonably foreseeable, rising to the level of substantial certainty, that Decedent would experience severe emotional harm and distress as a direct result of the assault, battery, and murder.
45. The actions of Defendant Perry caused Decedent severe emotional distress.
46. The emotional distress suffered by Decedent was so severe that no reasonable man could be expected to endure it.
47. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Perry's assault and battery, Decedent suffered severe bodily injuries and damages, including, but not limited to a gunshot wound to the chest; severe head trauma; debilitating pain and suffering; fear; trauma; anxiety; severe emotional distress and mental anguish; death; and other tangible and intangible damages.
48. In doing the acts alleged above, Defendant Perry acted willfully, maliciously, intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, and/or wantonly.

49. As a result of Defendant Perry's conduct, Plaintiffs, for the benefit of Decedent's statutory beneficiaries, are entitled to an award of actual and punitive damages against Defendant Perry in an amount to be determined by the trier of fact.

FOR A FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION
(Survival)

50. Plaintiffs reallege and reincorporate the above paragraphs as if fully set forth herein verbatim.

51. Plaintiffs, as the Co-Special Administrators of the Estate of David R. Perry, bring this action under S.C. Code Ann. § 15-5-90 (Law. Co-Op 1976), for the benefit of the statutory beneficiaries of David R. Perry, namely his two children, the Plaintiffs herein.

52. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Perry's conduct, Decedent suffered injuries to his person, including, but not limited to severe and debilitating conscious pain and suffering; discomfort; trauma; emotional distress; mental anguish; fear; anxiety; and death. Because of his untimely death, Decedent has suffered impairment of future earning capacity and lost future earnings and wages. The Estate of David R. Perry has also been deprived of the present value of the accumulations that Decedent would have made to the estate had he lived out his normal life expectancy and has become liable for large sums of money for medical expenses and funeral expenses. Therefore, Plaintiffs, for the benefit of Decedent's estate, are entitled to an award of actual damages to be determined by the trier of fact.

53. In doing the acts alleged above, Defendant Perry was reckless, willful, wanton, and/or malicious. As a result, Plaintiffs, for the benefit of Decedent's estate, are entitled to recover punitive damages in an amount to be determined by the trier of fact.

54. Decedent's claims for damages survive his death and inure to the benefit of his estate.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendant Perry for actual and punitive damages, for the costs of this action, and for any additional relief this Court may deem just and proper.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

ROSEN HAGOOD, LLC

By: s/ Andrew D. Gowdown
Andrew D. Gowdown (#17222)
James A. Bruorton, IV (#71300)
Mary Harriet Moore (#105312)
agowdown@rosenhagood.com
cbruorton@rosenhagood.com
mhmoore@rosenhagood.com
40 Calhoun Street, Suite 450
Charleston, SC 29401
(843) 577-6726

Charleston, South Carolina

April 29, 2025

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS