



South Carolina

STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

P.O. Box 21398
Columbia, South Carolina
29221-1398

Henry D. McMaster, Governor

Mark A. Keel, Chief

WWW.SLED.SC.GOV

(803) 737-9000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 19, 2026

Renée Wunderlich
Director of Public Information

SLED CHARGES GEORGIA MAN IN CONNECTION WITH AIKEN COUNTY OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) charged Anthony Hayes Cantwell, 39, with two counts of Assault and Battery – 1st Degree, Possession of Firearm or Ammunition by Person Convicted of Certain Crimes, and three counts of Pointing and Presenting a Firearm, on Thursday, May 14, 2026. The Aiken County Sheriff's Office and the South Carolina Department of Public Safety requested the SLED investigation.

Cantwell is the subject of the Officer Involved Shooting that occurred in Aiken County on Friday, May 8, 2026. SLED's investigation is active and ongoing at this time.

Details can be found in the attached warrants.

Cantwell was booked into the Aiken County Detention Center.

The case will be prosecuted by the 2nd Circuit Solicitor's Office.

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SLED news releases are published on SLED's website: www.sled.sc.gov
For media inquiries, please email SLED's Public Information Office: pio@sled.sc.gov

ARREST WARRANT

2026A0210700141

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Aiken

THE STATE

against

Anthony Hayes Cantwell

Address:

Augusta, GA 30907-

Phone: SSN: Sex: M Race: W Height: 5 11 Weight: 180

DL State: GA DL #: DOB: 1986 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: William R Padgett, Jr - S00931

Offense: Assault / Assault & Battery 1st degree

Offense Code: 3412
Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-03-0600(C)(1)This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the
☐ County/ ☐ Municipality ofThe accused
is to be arrested and brought before me to be
dealt with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to

defendant Anthony Cantwell
on 5/14/2026

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
P O Box 583
109 Park Avenue
Aiken, SC 29802

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Aiken

Personally appeared before me the affiant William R Padgett, Jr whobeing duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Anthony Hayes Cantwelldid within this county and state on or about 5/8/2026State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Aiken)

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Assault / Assault & Battery 1st degree

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit
the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:

On May 8, 2026, in Aiken County, South Carolina, Anthony Hayes Cantwell did unlawfully and without cause offer to injury with the present ability to do so by pointing a firearm at Aiken County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) Deputy (Dep.) [REDACTED]. The firearm was a [REDACTED] AR-15 [REDACTED]. This incident occurred on Interstate 20 near mile marker 23 within the County of Aiken. Hayes took a shooting stance and raised the firearm to his shoulder in an aggressive posture towards Dep. [REDACTED]. This belief is based on video recordings, witness statements, and additional evidence discovered during this SLED investigation. This is in violation of Section 16-3-600 South Carolina Code of Laws (1976, as amended).

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Aiken

Affiant's Address P. O. Box 21398
Columbia, SC 29221-

Affiant's Telephone

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 5/8/2026 defendant Anthony Hayes Cantwell

did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Aiken) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Assault / Assault & Battery 1st degree

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as soon thereafter as is practicable

Sworn to and subscribed before me
on 5/8/2026

Signature of Issuing Judge

Patricia Yvonne Arthur Rushton

Judge's Address

Judge's Address

Langley, SC 29834-

Judge's Telephone

(803)593-5171

Issuing Court:

☒ Magistrate☐ Municipal☐ CircuitForm Approved by
S.C. Attorney General
April 21, 2003
SCCA 518

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ARREST WARRANT

2026A0210700140

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Aiken

THE STATE

against

Anthony Hayes Cantwell

Address:

Augusta, GA 30907-

Phone: SSN: [REDACTED]
Sex: M Race: W Height: 5 11 Weight: 180

DL State: GA DL #: [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED] 1986 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: William R Padgett, Jr - S00931

Offense: Assault / Assault & Battery 1st degree

Offense Code: 3412

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-03-0600(C)(1)

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the

☐ County/ ☐ Municipality ofThe accused
is to be arrested and brought before me to be
dealt with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to

defendant Anthony Cantwell

on 5/19/2026

[Signature]

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
P O Box 583
109 Park Avenue
Aiken, SC 29802

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Aiken

Personally appeared before me the affiant William R Padgett, Jr who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Anthony Hayes Cantwell

did within this county and state on or about 5/8/2026 violate the criminal laws of the

State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Aiken)

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Assault / Assault & Battery 1st degree

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit
the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:On May 8, 2026, in Aiken County, South Carolina, Anthony Hayes Cantwell did unlawfully and without cause offer to injury with
the present ability to do so by pointing a firearm at Aiken County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) Sergeant (Sgt.) [REDACTED]
The firearm was a [REDACTED] AR-15 [REDACTED]. This incident occurred on Interstate 20 near mile marker 23 within
the County of Aiken. Hayes took a shooting stance and raised the firearm to his shoulder in an aggressive posture towards Dep.
[REDACTED] This belief is based on video recordings, witness statements, and additional evidence discovered during this SLED
investigation. This is in violation of Section 16-3-600 South Carolina Code of Laws (1976, as amended).

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Aiken

Affiant's Address P. O. Box 21398

Columbia, SC 29221-

Affiant's Telephone

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 5/8/2026 defendant Anthony Hayes Cantwell

did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Aiken) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Assault / Assault & Battery 1st degree

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or
her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as
soon thereafter as is practicable
Sworn to and subscribed before me

on 5/8/2026

[Signature] (L.S.)

Signature of Issuing Judge

Patricia Yvonne Arthur Rushton

Judge Code: 7372

Judge's Address

Langley, SC 29834-

Judge's Telephone (803)593-5171

Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

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Form Approved by
S.C. Attorney General
April 21, 2003
SCCA 518

AFFIDAVIT

ARREST WARRANT

2026A0210700146

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Aiken

THE STATE

against

Anthony Hayes Cantwell

Address:

Augusta, GA 30907-

Phone: SSN:

Sex: M Race: W Height: 5 11 Weight: 180

DL State: GA DL #:

DOB: 1986 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: William R Padgett, Jr - S00931

Offense: Weapons / Possession of Firearm or Ammunition
by person convicted of certain crimes -- First

Offense Code: 3434

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-23-0500(A)

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the

☐ County/ ☐ Municipality ofThe accused
is to be arrested and brought before me to be
dealt with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to

defendant Anthony Cantwell

on 5/14/2026

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
P O Box 583
109 Park Avenue
Aiken, SC 29802

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Aiken

Personally appeared before me the affiant William R Padgett, Jr who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Anthony Hayes Cantwell

did within this county and state on or about 5/8/2026 violate the criminal laws of the

State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Aiken)

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Weapons / Possession of Firearm or Ammunition by person convicted of certain crimes -- First Offense

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit
the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:On May 8, 2026, in Aiken County, South Carolina, Anthony Hayes Cantwell did unlawfully and without cause point and present a
firearm at Aiken County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) deputies. The firearm was a AR-15 Cantwell
is prohibited from possessing a firearm due to convictions of a violent offense. This incident occurred on Interstate 20 near mile
marker 23 within the County of Aiken. This belief is based on video recordings, witness statements, and additional evidence
discovered during this SLED investigation. This is in violation of Section 16-23-500 South Carolina Code of Laws (1976, as
amended).

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Aiken

Affiant's Address P. O. Box 21398

Columbia, SC 29221-

Affiant's Telephone

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 5/8/2026 defendant Anthony Hayes Cantwell

did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Aiken) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Weapons / Possession of Firearm or Ammunition by person convicted of certain crimes -- First

Offense:

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or
her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as
soon thereafter as is practicable
Sworn to and subscribed before me

on 5/8/2026

Judge's Address

Langley, SC 29834-

Judge's Telephone (803)593-5171

Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

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Form Approved by
S.C. Attorney General
April 21, 2003
SCCA 518

ARREST WARRANT

2026A0210700142

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Aiken

THE STATE

against

Anthony Hayes Cantwell

Address:

Augusta, GA 30907-

Phone: SSN:

Sex: M Race: W Height: 5 11 Weight: 180

DL State: GA DL #:

DOB: 1986 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: William R Padgett, Jr - S00931

Offense: Weapons / Pointing and presenting firearms at a person

Offense Code: 0122

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-23-0410

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the

☐ County/ ☐ Municipality of

The accused is to be arrested and brought before me to be dealt with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to

defendant Anthony Cantwell

on 5/14/2026

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
P O Box 583
109 Park Avenue
Aiken, SC 29802

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ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Aiken

Personally appeared before me the affiant William R Padgett, Jr who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Anthony Hayes Cantwell

did within this county and state on or about 5/8/2026 violate the criminal laws of the

State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Aiken)

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Weapons / Pointing and presenting firearms at a person

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:

On May 8, 2026, in Aiken County, South Carolina, Anthony Hayes Cantwell did unlawfully and without cause point and present a firearm at Aiken County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) Sergeant (Sgt.) [REDACTED]. The firearm was a [REDACTED] AR-15 [REDACTED]. This incident occurred on Interstate 20 near mile marker 23 within the County of Aiken. Hayes took a shooting stance and raised the firearm to his shoulder in an aggressive posture towards Sgt. [REDACTED]. This belief is based on video recordings, witness statements, and additional evidence discovered during this SLED investigation. This is in violation of Section 16-23-410 South Carolina Code of Laws (1976, as amended).

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Aiken

Affiant's Address P. O. Box 21398

Columbia, SC 29221-

Affiant's Telephone

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 5/8/2026 defendant Anthony Hayes Cantwell

did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Aiken) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Weapons / Pointing and presenting firearms at a person

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as soon thereafter as is practicable

Sworn to and subscribed before me

on 5/8/2026

(L.S.)
Signature of Issuing Judge
Patricia Yvonne Arthur Rushton

Judge Code: 7372

Judge's Address

Langley, SC 29834-

Judge's Telephone (803)593-5171

Issuing Court:

☒ Magistrate☐ Municipal☐ Circuit

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Form Approved by
S.C. Attorney General
April 21, 2003
SCCA 518

ARREST WARRANT

2026A0210700143

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Aiken

THE STATE

against

Anthony Hayes Cantwell

Address:

Augusta, GA 30907-

Phone: SSN:

Sex: M Race: W Height: 5 11 Weight: 180

DL State: GA DL #:

DOB: 1986 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: William R Padgett, Jr - S00931

Offense: Weapons / Pointing and presenting firearms at a person

Offense Code: 0122

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-23-0410

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the

☐ County/ ☐ Municipality of

The accused is to be arrested and brought before me to be dealt with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to defendant Anthony Cantwell on 5/19/2026

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
P O Box 583
109 Park Avenue
Aiken, SC 29802

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Aiken

Personally appeared before me the affiant William R Padgett, Jr who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Anthony Hayes Cantwell

did within this county and state on or about 5/8/2026 violate the criminal laws of the

State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Aiken)

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Weapons / Pointing and presenting firearms at a person

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:

On May 8, 2026, in Aiken County, South Carolina, Anthony Hayes Cantwell did unlawfully and without cause point and present a firearm at Aiken County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) Deputy (Dep.) . The firearm was a AR-15 . This incident occurred on Interstate 20 near mile marker 23 within the County of Aiken. Hayes took a shooting stance and raised the firearm to his shoulder in an aggressive posture towards Dep. . This belief is based on video recordings, witness statements, and additional evidence discovered during this SLED investigation. This is in violation of Section 16-23-410 South Carolina Code of Laws (1976, as amended).

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Aiken

Affiant's Address P. O. Box 21398

Columbia, SC 29221-

Affiant's Telephone

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

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on or about 5/8/2026 defendant Anthony Hayes Cantwell

did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Aiken) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Weapons / Pointing and presenting firearms at a person

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as soon thereafter as is practicable

Sworn to and subscribed before me on 5/8/2026

Judge's Address

Langley, SC 29834-

Judge's Telephone (803)593-5171

Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

Signature of Issuing Judge Patricia Yvonne Arthur Rushton

Judge Code: 7372

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Form Approved by
S.C. Attorney General
April 21, 2003
SCCA 518

AFFIDAVIT

ARREST WARRANT

2026A0210700144

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Aiken

THE STATE

against

Anthony Hayes Cantwell

Address:

Augusta, GA 30907-

Phone: SSN: [REDACTED]

Sex: M Race: W Height: 5 11 Weight: 180

DL State: GA DL #: [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED] 1986 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: William R Padgett, Jr - S00931

Offense: Weapons / Pointing and presenting firearms at a person

Offense Code: 0122

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-23-0410

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the

☐ County/ ☐ Municipality of

The accused is to be arrested and brought before me to be dealt with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to

defendant Anthony Cantwellon 5/14/2026

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
P O Box 583
109 Park Avenue
Aiken, SC 29802

ORIGINAL

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Aiken

Personally appeared before me the affiant William R Padgett, Jr whobeing duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Anthony Hayes Cantwelldid within this county and state on or about 5/8/2026 violate the criminal laws of theState of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Aiken)

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Weapons / Pointing and presenting firearms at a person

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:

On May 8, 2026, in Aiken County, South Carolina, Anthony Hayes Cantwell did unlawfully and without cause point and present a firearm at South Carolina Highway Patrol (SCHP) Senior Trooper (S/Trp.) [REDACTED]. The firearm was a [REDACTED] AR-15 [REDACTED]. This incident occurred on Interstate 20 near mile marker 23 within the County of Aiken. Hayes took a shooting stance and raised the firearm to his shoulder in an aggressive posture towards S/Trp. [REDACTED]. This belief is based on video recordings, witness statements, and additional evidence discovered during this SLED investigation. This is in violation of Section 16-23-410 South Carolina Code of Laws (1976, as amended).

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Aiken

Affiant's Address P. O. Box 21398Columbia, SC 29221-

Affiant's Telephone

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 5/8/2026 defendant Anthony Hayes Cantwell

did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Aiken) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Weapons / Pointing and presenting firearms at a person

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as soon thereafter as is practicable

Sworn to and subscribed before me

on 5/8/2026

Signature of Issuing Judge (L.S.)

Patricia Yvonne Arthur Rushton

Judge Code 7372

Judge's Address

Langley, SC 29834-Judge's Telephone (803)593-5171Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

ORIGINAL

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ORIGINAL

Form Approved by
S.C. Attorney General
April 21, 2003
SCCA 518

AFFIDAVIT