



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
June 18, 2026

Renée Wunderlich
Director of Public Information

SLED CHARGES TWO FORMER DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS WITH NEGLECT OF A VULNERABLE ADULT IN UNRELATED CASES, AT THE SAME FACILITY

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) charged Deatrice Nichole Brown, 39, with Neglect of a Vulnerable Adult on Wednesday, June 17, 2026.

SLED also charged Samuel Emanuel Hickson, 41, with Neglect of a Vulnerable Adult on Wednesday, June 17, 2026.

The Pee Dee Regional Center, a state-operated facility for the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, requested the SLED investigation for both cases.

Details for both Brown's and Hickson's cases can be found in the attached warrants.

Both Brown and Hickson were booked into the Florence County Detention Center.

The cases will be prosecuted by the 12th 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



An Accredited Law Enforcement Agency



ARREST WARRANT

2026A2110100191

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Florence

THE STATE

2026-02716

against

Deatrice Nichole Brown

Address:

Pamplico, SC 29583-3918

Phone: [REDACTED] SSN: [REDACTED]
Sex: F Race: B Height: 5 3 Weight: 200

DL State: SC DL #: [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED] 1987 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: Russell S Causey - S00330

Offense: Neglect / Neglect of vulnerable adult

Offense Code: 2656

Code/Ordinance Sec: 43-35-0085(C)

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: Deatrice Nichole Brown
on 6/17/2026

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions Court
181 North Irby Street, Suite 1100
Florence, SC 29501

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Florence

AFFIDAVIT

ORIGINAL

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

Personally appeared before me the affiant Russell S Causey who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Deatrice Nichole Brown

did within this county and state on or about 4/30/2026 violate the criminal laws of the

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

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Neglect / Neglect of vulnerable adult

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 APRIL 30, 2026, THE DEFENDANT, DEATRICE NICHOLE BROWN, WAS WORKING AS A DIRECT SUPPORT
PROFESSIONAL FOR THE PEE DEE REGIONAL CENTER, LOCATED AT 714 NATIONAL CEMETERY RD, FLORENCE,
SC WITHIN FLORENCE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA. BROWN DID KNOWINGLY AND WILLFULLY NEGLECT THE
VICTIM, [REDACTED], IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER. BROWN WAS THE ASSIGNED STAFF TO OVERSEE THE
HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE VICTIM. BROWN WALKED OUT OF THE UNIT AND LEFT WITHOUT INFORMING
ANYONE. THESE ACTIONS ALLOWED THE VICTIM TO ELOPE FROM THE UNIT, GO TO THE CENTRAL KITCHEN
BUILDING, AND EAT FOOD OUTSIDE OF [REDACTED] MEAL PLAN. THE VICTIM CHOKED, AND THE HEIMLICH MANEUVER
HAD TO BE PERFORMED. THE VICTIM IS A RESIDENT OF THE PEE DEE REGIONAL CENTER.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Florence

Affiant's Address P. O. Box 21398

Columbia, SC 29221-

Affiant's Telephone (843)662-6245

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 4/30/2026 defendant Deatrice Nichole Brown

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

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

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Neglect / Neglect of vulnerable adult

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 6/17/2026

Signature of Issuing Judge

Joe Timothy Suggs

Judge Code: 7539

Judge's Address 180 North Irby Street

Msc-W Florence, SC 29501-

Judge's Telephone (843)665-0031

Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

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ARREST WARRANT

2026A2110100192

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Florence

THE STATE

2026-02360

against

Samuel Emanuel Hickson

Address:

Florence, SC 29501-7225

Phone: SSN: [REDACTED]

Sex: M Race: B Height: 5 8 Weight: 230

DL State: SC DL #: [REDACTED]

DOB: 1984 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: Ashtyn E Perry - S01714

Offense: Neglect / Neglect of vulnerable adult

Offense Code: 2656

Code/Ordinance Sec: 43-35-0085(C)

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the

☐ County/ ☐ Municipality of

The accused

is to be arrested and brought before me to be

seized with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to

defendant Samuel E. Hickson

on 6/17/2026

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions Court
181 North Irby Street, Suite 1100
Florence, SC 29501

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Florence

Personally appeared before me the affiant Ashtyn E Perry

who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Samuel Emanuel Hickson

did within this county and state on or about 4/16/2026

violate the criminal laws of the

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

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Neglect / Neglect of vulnerable adult

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 APRIL 16, 2026, THE DEFENDANT, SAMUEL HICKSON WAS WORKING AS A DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL AT THE PEE DEE REGIONAL CENTER, LOCATED AT 714 NATIONAL CEMETERY RD, FLORENCE, SC, WITHIN FLORENCE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA. THE PEE DEE REGIONAL CENTER IS OPERATED BY THE OFFICE OF INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES. THE DEFENDANT WAS ASSIGNED TO GROUP B, WHICH INCLUDED THE VICTIM. THE VICTIM WAS PLACED OUTSIDE AND LEFT THERE FOR ONE HOUR AND 27 MINUTES. THE VICTIM WAS TO BE CHECKED ON EVERY 15 MINUTES, WHICH THE DEFENDANT FAILED TO DO ADEQUATELY. WHILE OUTSIDE THE VICTIM THREW UP AND ASPIRATED, REQUIRING MEDICAL INTERVENTION. THE VICTIM IS A RESIDENT AT THE PEE DEE REGIONAL CENTER AND IS A VULNERABLE ADULT.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Florence

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 4/16/2026

defendant Samuel Emanuel Hickson

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

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Florence

) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Neglect / Neglect of vulnerable adult

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 6/17/2026

Signature of Issuing Judge

Joe Timothy Suggs

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Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

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