



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
July 14, 2026

Renée Wunderlich
Director of Public Information

SLED CHARGES FORMER BELTON POLICE CHIEF AND HONEA PATH POLICE OFFICER WITH MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE AND ASSAULT & BATTERY

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) charged former Belton Police Chief James Ross Richey, 38, and former Honea Path Police Officer Brantley Keith Creel, 37, with Misconduct in Office on Tuesday, July 14, 2026. SLED also charged Richey with two counts of Assault & Battery – Third Degree and charged Creel with Assault & Battery – First Degree.

Details can be found in the attached warrants.

Richey and Creel were booked into the Anderson County Detention Center.

The case will be prosecuted by the South Carolina Attorney General'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

2026A0410101342

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Anderson

THE STATE

2025-06408

against

Brantley Keith Creel

Address:

Abbeville, SC 29620-

Phone:

Sex: M Race: W Height: 6 weight: 208

DL State: SC DL #:

DOB: 1988 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: James M Collins - S00179

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 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

on 7/19/25

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
100 South Main Street
Po Box 8002
Anderson, SC 29622

ORIGINAL

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Anderson

Personally appeared before me the affiant James M Collins who being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Brantley Keith Creel did within this county and state on or about 4/25/2025 violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Anderson) 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 or about April 25, 2020, in the County of Anderson, SC, the defendant, Officer Brantley Creel, while employed as an officer with the Honea Path Police Department, assisted in the arrest and apprehension of [REDACTED] After arriving on scene at [REDACTED] O'Neal St., Belton, SC, Creel committed the offense of Assault and Battery 1st Degree, when he willfully and unlawfully injured [REDACTED] by means likely to produce great bodily injury. Creel struck [REDACTED] in the head and face area multiple times with the muzzle of a rifle while [REDACTED] was on the ground, handcuffed, nonresistant, and unable to defend [REDACTED] Evidence is based upon victim and witness interviews, BWC videos, and other information and evidence obtained under SLED Investigation 2025-06408.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Anderson

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 4/25/2025

defendant Brantley Keith Creel

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

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Anderson) 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 7/12/2025

Signature of Issuing Judge

William Daniel Sharp

Judge Code: 7013

(L.S.)

Judge's Address 2404 N. Main St.
Anderson, SC 29621-

Judge's Telephone (864)260-4156

Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

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Form Approved by
S.C. Attorney General
April 21, 2003
SCGA 516

ORIGINAL

AFFIDAVIT

ARREST WARRANT

2026A0410101343

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Anderson

THE STATE

2025-06408

against

Brantley Keith Creel

Address:

Abbeville, SC 29620-

Phone:

Sex: M Race: W Height: 6 Weight: 208

DL State: SC DL #: [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED] 1988 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: James M Collins - S00179

Offense: Misconduct / Misconduct in office, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance

Offense Code: 0819

Code/Ordinance Sec: 17-25-0030

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 BRANTLEY CREELon 7/14/26

[Signature]

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
100 South Main Street
Po Box 8002
Anderson, SC 29622

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Anderson

Personally appeared before me the affiant James M Collins whobeing duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Brantley Keith Creeldid within this county and state on or about 4/25/2025 violate the criminal laws of theState of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Anderson)

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Misconduct / Misconduct in office, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance

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 or about April 25, 2020, in the County of Anderson, SC and while in his official capacity as a law enforcement officer with the Honea Path Police Department, the defendant, Brantley Creel, willfully and unlawfully failed to properly and faithfully discharge the duty imposed upon him by law when he used excessive force on the victim [REDACTED] to affect an arrest. The defendant struck the victim multiple times in the head and face area with the muzzle of a rifle while the victim was on the ground, handcuffed, nonresistant, and unable to defend [REDACTED]. The defendant's action was against the peace and dignity of the State of South Carolina and in violation of the Common Law of South Carolina. Evidence is based upon witness interviews, BWC videos, and other information and evidence obtained under SLED Investigation 2025-06408.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Anderson

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 4/25/2025 defendant Brantley Keith Creel

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

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

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Misconduct / Misconduct in office, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance

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 7/2/2026

[Signature]

Signature of Issuing Judge

William Daniel Sharp

Judge Code: 7013

(L.S.)

Judge's Address 2404 N. Main St.
Anderson, SC 29621-Judge's Telephone (864)260-4156Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

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

AFFIDAVIT

ARREST WARRANT

2026A0410101344

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Anderson

THE STATE

2025-06408

against

James Ross Richey

Address:

Belton, SC 29627-9006

Phone: [REDACTED] SSN: [REDACTED]
 Sex: M Race: W Height: 6 Weight: 225
 DL State: SC DL #: [REDACTED]
 DOB: [REDACTED] 1987 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: James M Collins - S00179

Offense: Assault / Assault & Battery 3rd degree

Offense Code: 3414

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

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 JAMES RICHEY
 on 7/14/26

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
 100 South Main Street
 Po Box 8002
 Anderson, SC 29622

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Anderson

Personally appeared before me the affiant James M Collins whobeing duly sworn deposes and says that defendant James Ross Richeydid within this county and state on or about 4/25/2025

violate the criminal laws of the

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

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Assault / Assault & Battery 3rd 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 or about April 25, 2020, in the County of Anderson, SC, the defendant, Officer James Richey, and while employed as an officer with the Belton Police Department, was involved in a vehicle pursuit in which [REDACTED] was the driver of the vehicle being pursued. Richey immobilized the vehicle at [REDACTED] O'Neal St., Belton, SC and assisted with the arrest and apprehension of [REDACTED]. While affecting the arrest on [REDACTED] Richey committed the offense of Assault and Battery 3rd Degree, when he willfully and unlawfully struck [REDACTED] in the head and face area multiple times with a closed fist while [REDACTED] was compliant and nonresistant. Evidence based upon defendant's statement, victim and witness interviews, BWC videos, and other information and evidence obtained under SLED Investigation 2025-06408

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Anderson

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 4/25/2025defendant James Ross Richey

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

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Anderson

) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Assault / Assault & Battery 3rd 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 7/12/2026

Signature of Issuing Judge
William Daniel Sharp
 Judge Code: 7013

(L.S.)

Judge's Address 2404 N. Main St.Anderson, SC 29621-Judge's Telephone (864)260-4156

Issuing Court:

☒ Magistrate☐ Municipal☐ Circuit

ARREST WARRANT

2026A0410101345

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Anderson

THE STATE

2025-06408

against

James Ross Richey

Address:

Belton, SC 29627-9006

Phone: [REDACTED] SSN: [REDACTED]

Sex: M Race: W Height: 6 Weight: 225

DL State: SC DL #: [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED] 1987 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: James M Collins - S00179

Offense: Assault / Assault & Battery 3rd degree

Offense Code: 3414

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

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 JAMES RICHEY

on 7/14/26

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
100 South Main Street
Po Box 8002
Anderson, SC 29622

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Anderson

Personally appeared before me the affiant James M Collins

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant James Ross Richey

did within this county and state on or about 4/25/2025

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

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Assault / Assault & Battery 3rd 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 or about April 25, 2020, in the County of Anderson, SC, the defendant, Officer James Richey, while employed as an officer with the Belton Police Department was involved in a vehicle pursuit in which [REDACTED] was a passenger in the vehicle being pursued. Richey immobilized the vehicle at [REDACTED] O'Neal St., Belton, SC and assisted with the arrest and apprehension of [REDACTED]. While affecting the arrest on [REDACTED] Richey committed the offense of Assault and Battery 3rd Degree. Richey willfully and unlawfully struck [REDACTED] in the head and face area multiple times with a closed fist while [REDACTED] was on the ground, handcuffed, nonresistant, and unable to defend [REDACTED]. Evidence based upon defendant's statement, victim and witness interviews, BWC videos, and other information and evidence obtained under SLED Investigation 2025-06408.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Anderson

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 4/25/2025 defendant James Ross Richey

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

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

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Assault / Assault & Battery 3rd 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 7/2/2026

(L.S.)

Signature of Issuing Judge

William Daniel Sharp

Judge Code: 7013

Judge's Address 2404 N. Main St.
Anderson, SC 29621-

Judge's Telephone (864)260-4156

Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

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

ARREST WARRANT

2026A0410101346

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Anderson

THE STATE

2025-06408

against

James Ross Richey

Address:

Belton, SC 29627-9006

Phone: [REDACTED] SSN: [REDACTED]

Sex: M Race: W Height: 6 Weight: 225

DL State: SC DL #: [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED] 1987 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: James M Collins - S00179

Offense: Misconduct / Misconduct in office, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance

Offense Code: 0819

Code/Ordinance Sec: 17-25-0030

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

on 7/19/26 JAMES RICHEY

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
100 South Main Street
Po Box 8002
Anderson, SC 29622

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

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ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Anderson

Personally appeared before me the affiant James M Collins who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant James Ross Richey

did within this county and state on or about 4/25/2025 violate the criminal laws of the

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

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Misconduct / Misconduct in office, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance

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 or about April 25, 2020, in the County of Anderson, SC and while in his official capacity as a law enforcement officer with the Belton Police Department, the defendant, Officer James Richey, willfully and unlawfully failed to properly and faithfully discharge the duty imposed upon him by law when he used excessive force on the victims [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], to affect arrests. The defendant struck both victims multiple times in the head and face areas with a closed fist while the victims were on the ground and nonresistant. Additionally, [REDACTED] was handcuffed prior to the assault. Richey's actions were against the peace and dignity of the State of South Carolina and in violation of the Common Law of South Carolina. Evidence is based upon defendant statement, victim and witness interviews, BWC videos, and other information and evidence obtained under SLED Investigation 2025-06408.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Anderson

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 4/25/2025 defendant James Ross Richey

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

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Anderson as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Misconduct / Misconduct in office, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance

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 7/2/2026

Signature of Issuing Judge

William Daniel Sharp

Judge Code: 7013

(L.S.)

Judge's Address 2404 N. Main St.

Anderson, SC 29621-

Judge's Telephone (864)260-4156

Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

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ORIGINAL

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

ORIGINAL

AFFIDAVIT