

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW COURT**

South Carolina Secretary of State,

Docket No. 25-ALJ-30-0064-IJ

Petitioner,

v.

**ORDER**

Wild Things Freedom Center, Inc.

Respondent.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

This matter came before the Administrative Law Court (ALC or Court) pursuant to a Petition for Injunctive Relief filed March 7, 2025, by the South Carolina Secretary of State (Petitioner) against Wild Things Freedom Center Inc. (Respondent). Petitioner is seeking to enjoin Respondent from engaging in charitable solicitation activities in South Carolina in violation of the South Carolina Solicitation of Charitable Funds Act, S.C. Code of Laws Ann. §§ 33-56-10, et seq., and in violation of South Carolina law governing nonprofit raffles for charitable purposes, S.C. Code of Laws Ann. §§ 33-57-100, et seq. The ALC has jurisdiction to hear this matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §§ 33-56-140 and 33-57-160 (Supp. 2024).

Prior to the filing of the present action under Docket No. 25-ALJ-30-0064-IJ, this Court had enjoined Respondent from engaging in charitable solicitation activities in violation of the Solicitation of Charitable Funds Act by Order dated February 22, 2024, under Docket No. 23-ALJ-30-0498-IJ. Additionally, this Court held Respondent in contempt for violating that Order on November 4, 2024. This action addresses additional violations and administrative fines incurred by Respondent since the filing of the initial action under Docket No. 23-ALJ-30-0498-IJ.

**FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

On March 27, 2025, the Court issued a Notice of Hearing to the parties, which stated that the contested case hearing would be held on Monday, April 28, 2025, at 10:00 AM, at the South Carolina Administrative Law Court, Edgar A. Brown Building, Second Floor, 1205 Pendleton Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Notice of Hearing advised the parties that failure to appear at the hearing may result in a finding that the party who fails to appear does not object to relief of which notice has been given; dismissal of the case of the party who fails to appear; exclusion of



evidence proffered by the party who fails to appear; or such other rulings as are deemed appropriate by the Court.

Pursuant to Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Administrative Law Court, the Notice of Hearing was served upon Respondent by depositing a copy in the United States mail, addressed to the following last known address of Respondent: Wild Things Freedom Center Inc., ATTN: Jeanette L. Ouellette, Owner/Director, 308 Ryan Morant Lane, Georgetown, SC 29440. The mailed Notice of Hearing was not returned to the Court by the United States Postal Service.

On April 28, 2025, the contested case hearing was convened at the time prescribed in the Notice of Hearing. Respondent did not appear at the hearing and no attorney made an appearance on behalf of Respondent. Consequently, Petitioner moved for the Court to find that Respondent did not object to the relief sought by Petitioner based on Respondent's failure to appear, and to enter judgment against Respondent for the relief as stated in the Petition for Injunctive Relief. Rule 23(A) of the Rules of Procedure for the Administrative Law Court provides that:

The administrative law judge may dismiss a contested case or dispose of a contested case adversely to the defaulting party. A default occurs when a party fails to plead or otherwise prosecute or defend, fails to appear at a hearing without the proper consent of the judge or fails to comply with any interlocutory order of the administrative law judge. Any non-defaulting party may move for an order dismissing the case or terminating it adversely to the defaulting party.

The Court finds that a default judgment in favor of Petitioner is appropriate under Rule 23(A), because Respondent failed to appear at the hearing without consent of the Court, or respond in any manner to Petitioner's Petition for Injunctive Relief or the Court's Notice of Hearing. The Court further finds that Respondent does not object to the relief requested in the Petition filed on March 7, 2025, and that Petitioner is entitled to the relief requested therein, including findings that Respondent has knowingly and willfully operated in violation of the South Carolina Solicitation of Charitable Funds Act, and that Respondent has operated in violation of the provisions of Chapter 57, Title 33 of the South Carolina Code of Laws governing nonprofit raffles for charitable purposes. Specifically, the Court finds that:

1. Respondent violated S.C. Code of Laws § 33-56-60 by failing to file with Petitioner an annual financial report for fiscal year January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021;
2. Respondent violated S.C. Code of Laws § 33-56-60 by failing to file with Petitioner an annual financial report for fiscal year January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022;

3. Respondent violated S.C. Code of Laws § 33-57-120(A) by conducting a nonprofit raffle for charitable purposes in March 2024, while Respondent was enjoined from soliciting charitable contributions in the State of South Carolina;
4. Respondent violated S.C. Code of Laws § 33-57-120(A) by conducting a nonprofit raffle for charitable purposes in February 2025, while Respondent was enjoined from soliciting charitable contributions in the State of South Carolina; and
5. Respondent failed to remit to Petitioner administrative fines assessed for these violations, which total five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

### **ORDER**

Having found that Respondent failed to appear at the hearing without consent of the Court and after service of the Notice of Hearing as required under Rule 5 of the Administrative Law Court's Rules of Procedure, and therefore did not object to the findings that Respondent violated the South Carolina Solicitation of Charitable Funds Act and law governing nonprofit raffles for charitable purposes, the Court grants the relief requested by Petitioner in its Petition for Injunctive Relief. **THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. Respondent Wild Things Freedom Center Inc. and its officers, agents, and representatives are hereby enjoined from engaging in the solicitation of charitable contributions in the State of South Carolina until Respondent has filed with Petitioner its annual financial reports for fiscal years January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021, and January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 and has remitted to Petitioner the administrative fines of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) assessed for its violations of § 33-56-60 of the Solicitation of Charitable Funds Act. The Court orders Respondent to file with Petitioner the annual financial reports for fiscal years January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021, and January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022, and to remit to Petitioner the administrative fines of four thousand dollars (\$4,000), within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order.
2. Respondent Wild Things Freedom Center Inc. and its officers, agents, and representatives are hereby enjoined from conducting nonprofit raffles in the State of South Carolina until Respondent has complied with the registration requirements of the Solicitation of Charitable Funds Act, and has remitted to Petitioner the administrative fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) assessed for its violations of § 33-57-120(A) of the South Carolina law governing nonprofit raffles for charitable purposes. The Court orders Respondent to remit

to Petitioner the administrative fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order.

3. Respondent Wild Things Freedom Center Inc. and its officers, agents, and representatives are enjoined from engaging in the solicitation of charitable contributions in the State of South Carolina until such time, if ever, that it properly registers with Petitioner pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 33-56-30.
4. Respondent Wild Things Freedom Center Inc. and its officers, agents, and representatives **SHALL CEASE AND DESIST** from engaging in the solicitation of contributions and conducting nonprofit raffles for charitable purposes in the State of South Carolina, until such time that Respondent has complied with the Orders of this Court under Docket No. 23-ALJ-30-0498-IJ and Docket No. 25-ALJ-30-0064-IJ.
5. Respondent is hereby notified that failure to comply with the terms of this Order shall subject Respondent to contempt of court, including fine or imprisonment or both.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the South Carolina Secretary of State may, but is not required to, file a copy of this final order as a judgment as provided in S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-600(I) (Supp. 2024), provided that any such filing shall not relieve Respondent of the obligation created by this final order to pay the administrative fine. Further, the South Carolina Secretary of State shall have the option to collect said judgment, as provided by the law applicable to collection of judgments.

**AND IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Deborah Brooks Durden, Judge  
S.C. Administrative Law Court

May 6 2025  
Columbia, South Carolina

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Robin E. Coleman, hereby certify that I have this date served this Order upon all parties to this cause by depositing a copy hereof, in the United States mail, postage paid, or by electronic mail to the address provided by the party(ies) and/or their attorney(s).

*Robin Coleman*

Robin E. Coleman  
Judicial Aide to Judge Deborah Brooks Durden

May 6, 2025  
Columbia, South Carolina

