No. 26-562

In the Supreme Court of the United States

JAMES C. "CHRIS" MCNEIL, ET AL.

Petitioners,

v.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CHARLESTON COUNTY,

Respondent.

ON PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE SUPREME COURT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF

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NOVEMBER MMXXVI

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Authorities i

Supplemental Brief for Petitioners 1

I. The Degradation of the E-mailed Petition ... 2

II. Refusal to Docket Another E-mailed Filing Without Degradation Through Scanning 3

III. Ohio Court Scanning Degradation Incident 5

IV. Visual Comparison of the Petition Images Against the Lower Court's Docketed Scan .. 7

Conclusion 9

Appendix

Appendix A
P1A65 Fidelity Audit Summary 1

Appendix B
Ohio Comparator Authentication 2

Appendix C
Ohio Comparator Visual Panel 6

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

Cases

Mathews v. *Eldridge*,
424 U. S. 319 (1976) 1, 9
State v. *Landenberger*,
No. 2026 CR 00528 D (Court of Common Pleas,
Portage County, Ohio) 5
Tennessee v. *Lane*,
541 U. S. 509 (2004) 2, 9
Village of Willowbrook v. *Olech*,
528 U. S. 562 (2000) 1–2, 9

Statutes

Americans with Disabilities Act 1, 5
Title II 5

Rules

This Court's Rule 15.1 ..... 1, 9

SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF FOR PETITIONERS

On August 20, 2026, the Court of Common Pleas of South Carolina, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Charleston County, demonstrated visual evidence degradation with the Supreme Court of the United States petition for a writ of certiorari addressing its visual evidence degradation.

In doing so, it also demonstrated the capability to accept and docket e-mailed filings from self-represented parties, which petitioners had requested as an ADA accommodation on January 30, 2026, to mitigate extreme PTSD (76 out of 80 PCL-5 score) acquired during the litigation through coordinated harassment and gaslighting by multiple parties, including the court itself.

In light of this self-authenticating event, should respondent waive or fail to file a substantive response by November 27, 2026, petitioners respectfully request that the Court call for a response pursuant to this Court's Rule 15.1 directing respondent to address the question presented in light of the unnecessary degradation of the Supreme Court of the United States petition in its August 20, 2026 docketing and its October 26–28, 2026 refusal of nondegrading electronic intake.

Upon receipt of respondent's response, the petition for a writ of certiorari should be granted for plenary review, or, in the alternative, the judgment below should be summarily reversed, or the petition should be granted, the judgment vacated, and the case remanded pursuant to *Mathews* v. *Eldridge*, 424 U. S. 319 (1976), *Village of Willowbrook* v. *Olech*, 528 U. S.

562 (2000), and *Tennessee* v. *Lane*, 541 U.S. 509 (2004).

I. The Degradation of the E-mailed Petition

Petitioners filed and served their petition on August 19, 2026. On the same day, petitioners e-mailed the respondent court, along with defense counsel, a native PDF of their petition for certiorari as an advance courtesy copy. The next morning, the clerk's office printed the e-mailed PDF onto paper, stamped the first page of both the 115-page petition and the 2-page proof of service, scanned those stamped pages at 8-bit grayscale quality, and scanned the remaining 114 pages of the petition and 1 page of the proof of service in 1-bit bitonal black-and-white, which degraded the full-color control photograph on page 7 of the petition into the same 1-bit monochrome format shown on facing page 6. App. to Suppl. Br. 1.

Then, rather than using the unmolested digital file as received, the clerk placed the degraded digital version of the petition on the county docket. They had to have printed out the digital PDF to paper rather than scanned a booklet because USPS tracking records demonstrate the mailed booklets did not arrive until August 24, four days after the docket entry.

This stacked another generation of 1-bit bitonal degradation on an already degraded image in the case of the "after" image of the degradation of the image of petitioner Meaghan Poyer in her home on page 6 of the petition. And the same 1-bit bitonal quality setting degraded the full-color "before" control photograph on page 7 of the petition so its quality was reduced to the "after" level of the scanned version of the image, preventing anyone encountering the petition

for a writ of certiorari on the lower court's docket from seeing the difference as intended.

Yet, by docketing the courtesy copy of the petition for a writ of certiorari, the court demonstrated it will docket a filing that was e-mailed to it by a self-represented litigant. However, it refused to repeat that act when asked to do so without the accompanying degradation of scanning.

II. Refusal to Docket Another E-mailed Filing Without Degradation Through Scanning

Petitioners submitted a filing on October 23, 2026, on the same e-mail thread through which they had transmitted the August 19 PDFs that respondent docketed on August 20. In that e-mail, petitioners wrote:

> "As set forth in the Notice, we respectfully request that this PDF be uploaded directly to the Public Index in its native, text-searchable vector PDF format without first printing the entire document to paper and re-scanning it into an image file, so that search indexers, legal software crawlers, and AI systems have status-neutral access to the machine-readable text of Plaintiffs' active appellate and Supreme Court filings."

In addition to requesting the digital docketing, petitioners offered a nondestructive stamping workflow that overlays the Clerk's physical page 1 stamp pixel-for-pixel onto the native PDF without stripping the underlying vector text layer or degrading embedded images.

On October 26 and 28, 2026, respondent removed the judges and opposing counsel from the e-mail chain

and replied, refusing with, "The Clerk of Court does not accept emailed filing. Please mail the original to our office at the address below" on October 28.

The court thus refused to docket the filing without the accompanying degradation, despite the offer of a solution enabling use of its physical stamp with a digital file and likely costing it less time and effort than the act of scanning a multiple-page paper filing.

Petitioners were able to offer that nondestructive stamp integration because petitioner McNeil had developed software for that purpose as part of Scannergate, of which the trial court had been notified through two post-petition filings: a September 4, 2026 notice announcing a free scan-quality testing portal for self-represented litigants in South Carolina civil cases at Scannergate.com, and a September 23, 2026 notice.

That September 23, 2026 notice announced a document-restoration proof of concept named Mirror Docket, which restores scanned *pro se* filings to full native quality by applying the Clerk's scanned page 1 stamp onto the original PDF without touching the vector text layer. McNeil offered that service at no cost or effort to the court beyond e-mailing a PDF of the stamped first page.

It is important to acknowledge the existence of the Scannergate scan-testing portal and accompanying Mirror Docket at the same website because they attracted the attention of self-represented litigants encountering similar evidentiary degradation through scanning in a different State. An October 20, 2026 *pro se* scanning degradation incident in an Ohio Court of Common Pleas was reported to petitioners through

the dedicated e-mail address published on the Scannergate website. App. to Suppl. Br. 2–5.

III. Ohio Court Scanning Degradation Incident

In *State* v. *Landenberger*, Case No. 2026 CR 00528 D, in the Court of Common Pleas of Portage County, Ohio, a self-represented litigant suffering from a severe speech disability e-mailed a 39-page emergency motion and Title II ADA accommodation request in native PDF format to the Clerk of Courts at 2:55 a.m. on October 20, 2026, ahead of a 9:00 a.m. pretrial hearing, pursuant to a local rule permitting e-mail transmission to the clerk.

The Ohio incident was reported to petitioners through the Scannergate contact channel by Nicholas Smith, who provided the docketed 32-page Emergency Master Motion and written permission at 4:01 a.m. on November 10, 2026, to reference *State* v. *Landenberger* in federal filings; his fiancé James Landenberger is drafting an original-jurisdiction petition to the Supreme Court of Ohio that cross-references this litigation.

At 9:14 a.m., a Clerk of Courts supervisor replied by e-mail confirming receipt.

At 9:43 a.m., she e-mailed again in reply, stating, "We will docket it now." The Portage County Clerk printed the e-mailed PDF onto paper and ran it through a scanner.

In the resulting 32-page docketed file, the final seven pages of the submission, including the litigant's proposed order for Title II ADA communication accommodations, were omitted; pages were scanned sideways and upside down; the machine-readable vector text layer was removed; and the filing was

degraded with heavy black-and-white speckling, wavy text distortion, and obscured exhibits. See App. to Suppl. Br. 3, 5–9. The trial court then proceeded as if the filing had not been read.

Together with respondent's August 20 docketing of petitioners' e-mailed petition, the Ohio incident demonstrates that electronic court access for self-represented litigants has two distinct components: electronic delivery, which removes the physical courthouse travel, parking, and security-gate friction that counsel bypass with one click, and native electronic docketing, which preserves visual evidence and machine-readable text for judicial review, legal software, and search crawlers.

When a court receives a native PDF by e-mail and still prints and scans it into a degraded image file, expending unnecessary additional clerical time and paper to produce an inferior record, it eliminates time-saving, cost-saving, and technical capability as explanations for the degradation.

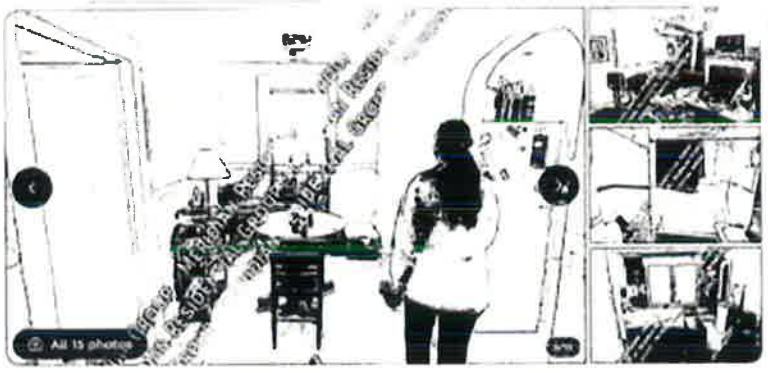
IV. Visual Comparison of the Petition Images Against the Lower Court's Docketed Scan

Following are the before-and-after images from the petition for a writ of certiorari as presented originally and as displayed on the Ninth Judicial Circuit's docket. The images have been cropped to the original image.

Below, the "before" image from the petition.



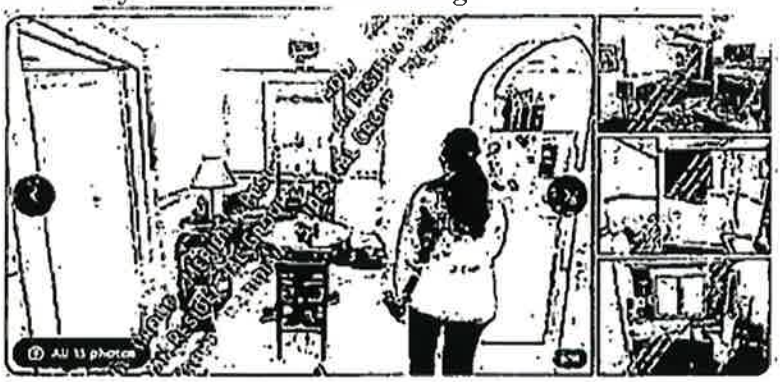
Below, the "after" image from the petition, demonstrating the 1-bit bitonal degradation of the first-generation scanned image.



Below, the "before" image as presented on the lower court docket, now a first-generation scan, and with the text still standing above it, stating "Panel 4 shows the same photograph as published on Realtor.com: a full-color interior in which a person with dark hair, wearing a mustard-gold garment, stands at the center of the frame."



Below, the "after" image as presented on the docket of the Court of Common Pleas of South Carolina, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Charleston County, now a second-generation scan through the lower court's 1-bit bitonal scanning of a demonstration of the degradation caused by 1-bit bitonal scanning.



CONCLUSION

Should respondent waive or fail to file a brief in opposition by November 27, 2026, petitioners respectfully request that the Court call for a response pursuant to Rule 15.1 directing respondent to address the question presented in light of the August 20, 2026 docketing of an unnecessarily printed and scanned version of the Supreme Court petition, the October 26–28, 2026 refusal of nondegrading electronic intake, and the Ohio example demonstrating that the issue is not limited to South Carolina.

Upon receipt of respondent's response, the petition for a writ of certiorari should be granted for plenary review, or, in the alternative, the judgment below should be summarily reversed, or the petition should be granted, the judgment vacated, and the case remanded pursuant to *Mathews* v. *Eldridge*, 424 U. S. 319, 334–335 (1976); *Village of Willowbrook* v. *Olech*, 528 U. S. 562, 564–565 (2000); and *Tennessee* v. *Lane*, 541 U. S. 509, 522, 533–534 (2004).

Respectfully submitted.

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NOVEMBER 2026

Appendix Table of Contents

APPENDIX

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Appendix A
P1A65 Fidelity Audit Summary 1

Appendix B
Ohio Comparator Authentication 2

Appendix C
Ohio Comparator Visual Panel 6

Appendix A

P1A65 Fidelity Audit Summary

Source: Charleston County Public Index, Case No. 2025–CP–10–05095, Document Sequence P1A65 (docketed August 20, 2026). **SHA-256:** 04911ad06699ae68b58e695f515346463556941dfbc98ac585729e954bb396d0.

Audit Tool: 1 True Source Software as used in Scannergate (iTextSharp inventory).

PDF Page	XObject	Filter	Color Space
1	386	/DCTDecode	/DeviceGray
7	18	/CCITTFaxDecode	/DeviceGray
116	345	/DCTDecode	/DeviceGray

PDF Page	Bits	DPI X/Y	Luminance
1	8	300.00/249.07	256
7	1	300.00/255.00	1
116	8	300.00/243.22	256

The audit inventoried 117 pages in the docketed PDF. Page 1 and Page 116 are encoded in 8-bit grayscale (/DCTDecode).

The remaining 115 pages are encoded in 1-bit bitonal (/CCITTFaxDecode). All pages are stored at 300 DPI X 300 DPI.

The two grayscale pages correspond to the physically stamped first page of the 115-page Petition and the physically stamped first page of the 2-page Proof of Service. The 115 bitonal pages include the color comparator photograph on Petition page 7, which was reduced to the same 1-bit monochrome format as the degraded image on Petition page 6.

Appendix B

Ohio Comparator Authentication

From:	Robert N. S. Brooksmith
To:	chris thaut.io
Cc:	scannergate26@gmail.com
Subject:	Re: Inquiry
Date:	Monday, November 9, 2026 2:05:13 AM
Attachments:	searchresults.page 35.pdf Final James FINAL-output.pdf EMERGENCY FILING INSTANTER - Case No. 2026 CR 00528 D - State v.Landenberger - H.pdf

---

Hello,
Thanks for getting back to me I'm
Just trying everything at this point we are preparing a petition to the Supreme Court of Ohio to

The following verbatim quotes are drawn from the email thread supplied by Nicholas Scott Smith to Scannergate.com on November 8, 2026, and from the reply sent by Petitioner McNeil on November 9, 2026. The full email thread, with timestamps, is retained by Petitioners and is available upon request. A cropped screenshot of the timestamped reply is reproduced below.

> From Nicholas Scott Smith, November 8, 2026, 8:35 p.m.:
> My name is Nicholas Scott Smith y fiencee and I are fighting a city and a bank Pro Se currently in the summit county court of common pleas and we were doing quite well but the judge out of nowhere just dropped both of our cases on completely erroneous grounds and a few days later my fiencee get set up while on his lunch break at

work and thrown in jail held in a cell with a his cousin and defendant for the whole weekend on Monday as he is getting out I get arrested at probation on an illegal rich test after being forced to confess and thrown in jail immediately for the rest of the week at court on Friday my public defender refuses to represent me so I either go back to jail until Tuesday or represent myself. Do I did. I get released at 9:30 am with a report directly to probation order the jail holds me until 6:30 pm and releases me. Fast forward we then find out my fiencees lawyer is the same lawyer that refused to help me after sentencing the year prior and my fiencee was forced to try to advocate on my behalf. He is now his lawyer on some secret endorsement where they are obviously trying to use his cousin to set him up. So we work all night and file a petition for new council, act pro se in the interim, and an extension of deadlines and continuance and they did to his filing exactly what you describe happening to yours they cut out his ADA accommodation scanned it upside down and made it all wavy and illegible and cut out like seven pages worth of mandatory content some pages are even scaned sideways and worst part the issue is pretending like she did not read it and proceeding with his conflicted council filing a continuance on hi behalf. Thats where we are with that meanwhile over I our other case we just barely got our ninth district appeal filed in time but things are strange here too the judge it unexplocably overturned the sty of execution on our illegally stolen house and is sitting on our were not

Appendix B

motion for reconsideration. I am just wondering if you have any ideas on best way to handle this and if our case can help yours in my way I would be happy to help. Our case numbers are summit county Ohio CV–2025–07–3080, CV–2025–11–5504 and the related appeal let me know what you think. Sincerely Nicholas Scott Smith P.s. my Fiencee has never been arrested except for a DWI like a decade ago otherwise a clean record. And before this five year nightmare started with the city I did not either I was a Media Psychology professor for 15yrs and I have got an ABD Ph.D. And an Emmy Award if any of that helps in any way.

From Petitioner McNeil, November 9, 2026, 1:57 a.m.:

Mr Smith, Thanks for writing and I am really sorry about your experience. I am not sure what I can do to help but you can certainly use the scannergate portal to test the scan quality of the filings and have a page by page report using software libraries enabling other developers to replicate the results. But the docket check aspect built in is set up for the South Carolina civil case docket system. If you want to email me the filings, I will be glad to test. If we prevail in the US Supreme Court (just got docket number 26–562 on October 28) that could create a mandate for states to allow electronic filing access for pro se, I am not an attorney so cannot give legal advise but I will do what I can to help while respecting that boundary.

Appendix B

Best Chris McNeil Founder,
Thaut Systems Thinking-Based Consulting
Strategic Thought Leadership
Mobile [phone number redacted
http://thaut.io
Host of Podcast: Thought Leadership Studio
Forthcoming: Strategic Thought Leadership: The Book
LinkedIn https://www.linkedin.com/in/chris-mcneil-chs/

From Nicholas Scott Smith, November 9, 2026, 2:05 a.m.:
Hello, Thanks for getting back to me I am Just trying everything at this point we are preparing a petition to the Supreme Court of Ohio to stay all proceeding so anything you could identify would be of great help. I have included the email correspondence and the filed version vs the docketed version we have been trying for over two years now to get a lawyer and no one will help us so we have been going it alone for over 18 months now and as three days after the summit county Jude issued a slew of rulings dismissing both our cases this happened on James lucnch break at work. Thanks again Best, Nick Scott Smith

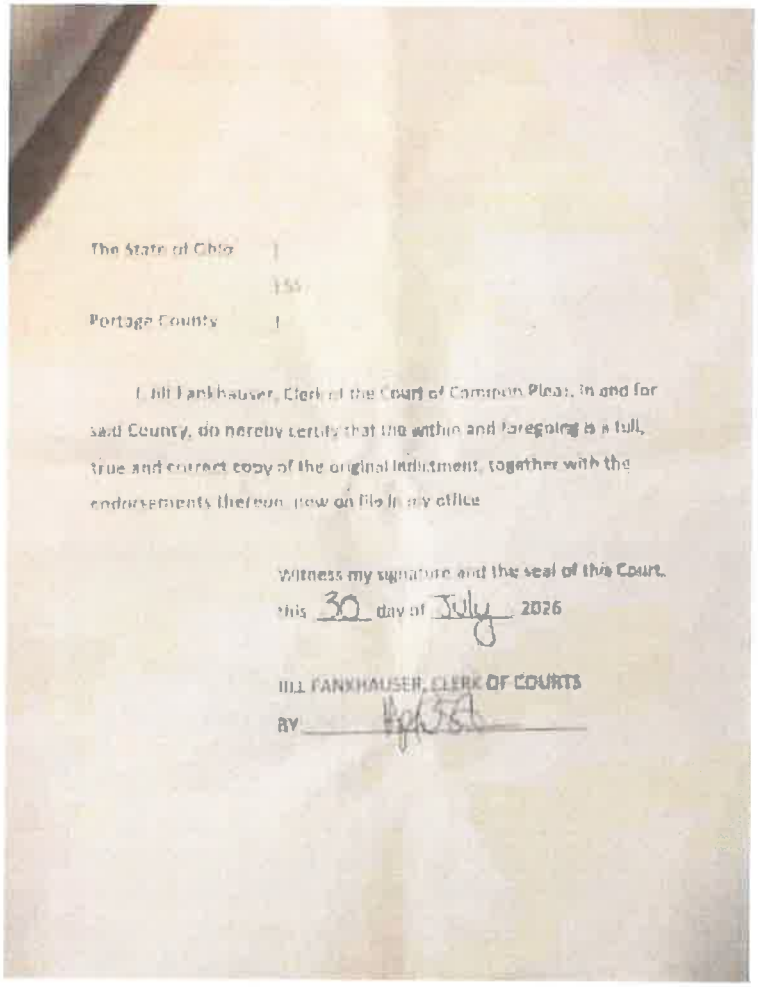
Note: The attached PDFs include the 39-page native emergency motion filed at 2:55 a.m. on October 20, 2026, and the 32-page degraded docketed version showing the omitted pages and orientation errors described in Section III of this Brief.

Appendix C

Ohio Comparator Visual Panel

The panel below places the original native-PDF pages (left) beside the degraded docketed scans (right) from State v. Landenberger, Portage County Court of Common Pleas, Ohio.

Page 26 before



The State of Ohio)
)ss
Portage County)

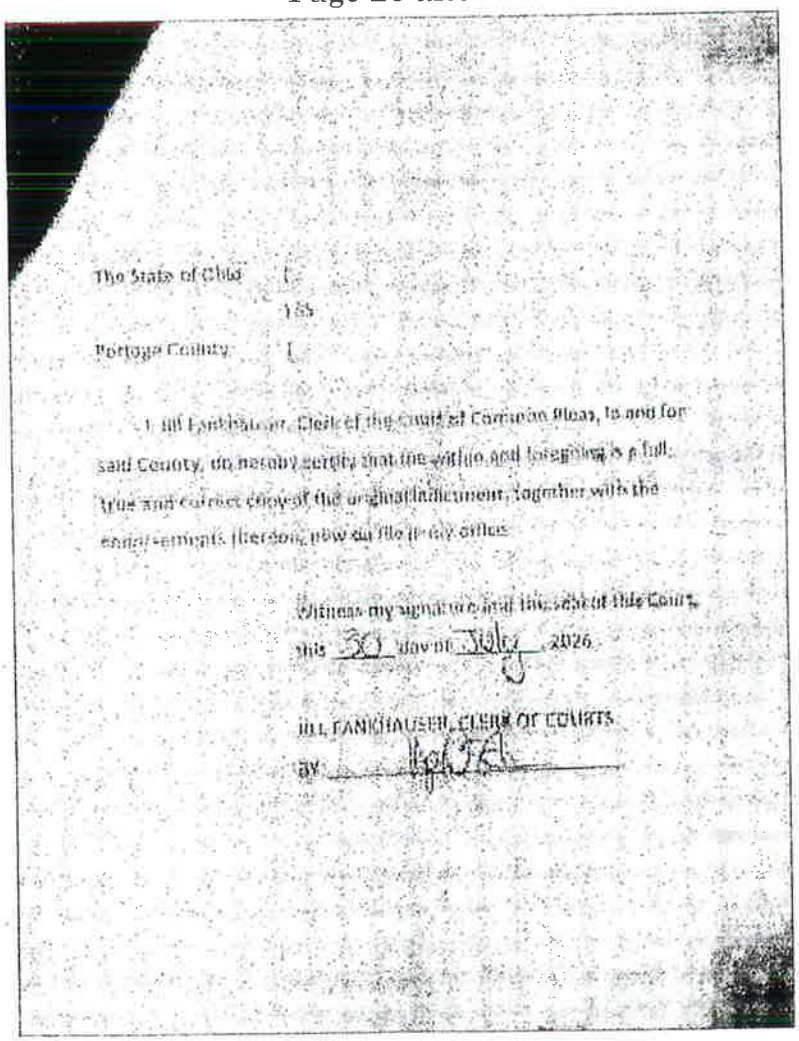
I, Bill Fankhauser, Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, in and for said County, do hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the original indictment, together with the endorsements thereon, now on file in my office

Witness my signature and the seal of this Court,
this 30 day of July 2026

BILL FANKHAUSER, CLERK OF COURTS
BY

Appendix C

Page 26 after



The State of Ohio }
} SS
Portage County }

I, Jill Fankhauser, Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, in and for said County, do hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the original document, together with the endorsements thereon, now on file in my office.

Witness my signature and the seal of this Court, this 30 day of July, 2026.

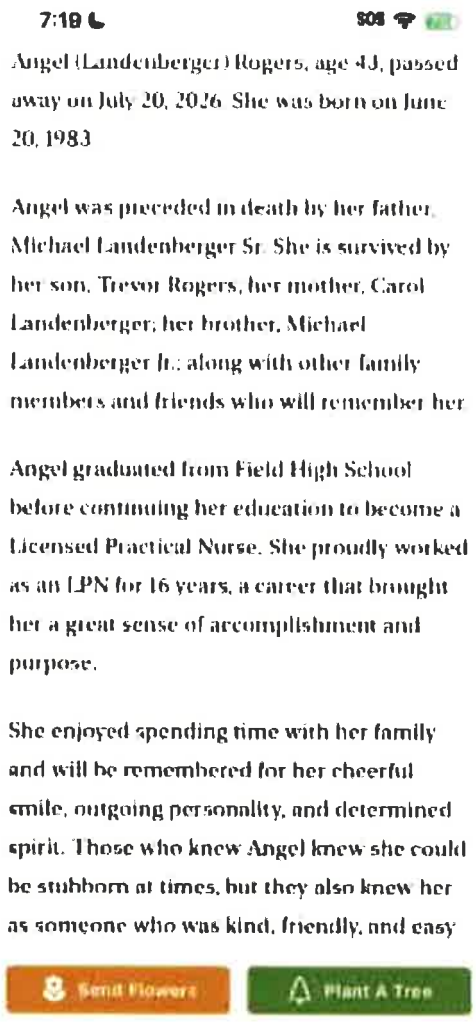
JILL FANKHAUSER, CLERK OF COURTS

BY _____

Appendix C

The docket version of Page 31 is not only degraded, but inverted, putting it upside down.

Page 31 before



7:19 908

Angel (Landenberger) Rogers, age 43, passed away on July 20, 2026. She was born on June 20, 1983.

Angel was preceded in death by her father, Michael Landenberger Sr. She is survived by her son, Trevor Rogers, her mother, Carol Landenberger; her brother, Michael Landenberger Jr.; along with other family members and friends who will remember her.

Angel graduated from Field High School before continuing her education to become a Licensed Practical Nurse. She proudly worked as an LPN for 16 years, a career that brought her a great sense of accomplishment and purpose.

She enjoyed spending time with her family and will be remembered for her cheerful smile, outgoing personality, and determined spirit. Those who knew Angel knew she could be stubborn at times, but they also knew her as someone who was kind, friendly, and easy

Send Flowers Plant A Tree

Appendix C

Page 31 after

