



South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

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

Henry D. McMaster, Governor

Mark A. Keel, Chief

Tel: (803) 737-9000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 24, 2020

Contact: Tommy Crosby
tcrosby@sled.sc.gov
(803) 896-8396

SUSPECT INVOLVED IN FLORENCE COUNTY OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING INCIDENT CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED MURDER, ARSON

Agents from the S.C. Law Enforcement Division arrested a man Monday in connection to the Feb. 17 confrontation in which gunfire was exchanged with deputies from the Florence County Sheriff's Office (FCSO).

Deputies were responding to a call for service where a man had barricaded himself and was threatening to set a house on fire. During the incident, the suspect discharged a firearm towards law enforcement more than 10 times, striking an occupied FCSO vehicle twice. He ultimately set fire to the house to destroy the structure.

Christopher J. Gaskins, 49, was charged with Assault/Attempted Murder, Arson 2nd Degree, Arson 3rd Degree, Possession of A Weapon During A Violent Crime, Discharging Firearm Into Vehicle While Occupied, and Disturbance of Religious Worship.

SLED's investigation into the incident remains active. Information gathered in the SLED investigation of the incident will be summarized in a case file report to be submitted to prosecutors.

This is an ongoing investigation. As such, no other information about the case will be disclosed by SLED at this time. SLED will defer to the Florence County Sheriff's Office for any information about their deputies.

Gaskins was booked at the Florence County Detention Center.

The case will be prosecuted by the 12th Circuit Solicitor's Office.

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Warrants Attached
www.sled.sc.gov

ARREST WARRANT

2021A2110100208

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/ ☐ Municipality of

Florence

33-21-0021

THE STATE

against

Christopher J Gaskins

Address:

Coward, SC 29530-5384

Phone:

Sex: M Race: W Height: 5 7 Weight: 236

DL State: SC DL #: [REDACTED] SSN: [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED] 1971 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: Ashley E Jolda - S00964

Offense: Assault / Attempted Murder

Offense Code: 3410

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-03-0029

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 Christopher Gaskins

on 2/22/2021

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions Court

181 North Irby Street, Suite 1100

Florence, SC 29501

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☐ Circuit☐ Municipal☒ Magistrate

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Florence

Personally appeared before me the affiant Ashley E Jolda

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Christopher J Gaskins

did within this county and state on or about 2/17/2021

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

in the following particulars: Florence

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Assault / Attempted Murder

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 February 17, 2021, one Christopher J. Gaskins, did unlawfully and intentionally discharge a firearm towards law enforcement officers from the Florence County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) while the FCSO responded to his residence after Gaskins' threatened to burn his house down and shoot responding law enforcement. Gaskins called his wife and left a voice mail stating, "Your house is burning down and you are gonna have a lot of death on your hands because I'm in the house loaded with guns waiting for the law to show up." Gaskins discharged his firearm over ten times, striking the occupied FCSO armored vehicle twice. Gaskins admitted post-Miranda warning, to shooting towards law enforcement and setting the house on fire. This violation taking place at [REDACTED] Coward, in Florence County, South Carolina. This being in violation of Section 16-3-29, South Carolina Code of Laws.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Florence

Affiant's Address

P. O. Box 21398

Columbia, SC 29221-

Affiant's Telephone

(803)896-7000

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 2/17/2021 defendant Christopher J Gaskins

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: Assault / Attempted Murder

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 2/22/2021

Signature of Issuing Judge (L.S.)

Frank White

Judge Code: 7226

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

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of
Florence

ARREST WARRANT
2021A2110100209

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of
Florence

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of
Florence

ARREST WARRANT
2021A2110100209

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of
Florence

Personally appeared before me the affiant Ashley E Jolda being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Christopher J Gaskins did within this county and state on or about 2/17/2021 violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Florence) in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Weapons / Poss. weapon during violent crime, if not also sentenced to life without parole or death

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 February 17, 2021, one Christopher J Gaskins, did unlawfully and intentionally discharge a firearm towards law enforcement officers from the Florence County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) while the FCSO responded to his residence after Gaskins' threatened to burn his house down and shoot responding law enforcement. Gaskins discharged his firearm over ten times, striking the occupied FCSO armored vehicle twice. Gaskins admitted, post-Miranda warning, to shooting towards law enforcement. This violation taking place at [redacted] Coward, in Florence County, South Carolina. This being in violation of Section 16-23-490, South Carolina Code of Laws.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of
Florence

Signature of Affiant

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

Affiant's Telephone
(803)896-7000

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of
Florence

Signature of Judge

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

RETURN
A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to defendant Christopher J Gaskins on 2/17/2021

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Weapons / Poss. weapon during violent crime, if not also sentenced to life without parole or death

RETURN WARRANT TO:
General Sessions Court
181 North Irby Street, Suite 1100
Florence, SC 29501

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

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

Sworn to and subscribed before me on 2/22/2021

Signature of Issuing Judge
Frank White (L.S.)

Judge's Address
180 North Irby Street (Msc-W)
Florence, SC 29501-

Judge's Telephone
(843)665-0031

Issuing Court
☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

Judge Code: 7226

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ARREST WARRANT

2021A2110100210

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of
Florence

33-21-0021

THE STATE
against

Christopher J Gaskins

Address:

Coward, SC 29530-5384

Phone: Sex: M Race: W Height: 5 7 Weight: 236
SSN: [REDACTED]

DL State: SC DL #: [REDACTED] 236
DOB: [REDACTED] 1971 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division
Prosecuting Officer: Ashley E Jolda - S00964

Offense: Weapons / Discharging firearm into vehicle,
aircraft, etc. while occupied

Offense Code: 2907

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-23-0440(B)

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the
☐ County/ ☐ Municipality of

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 Christopher Gaskins
on 2/22/2021

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

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

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of
Florence

Personally appeared before me the affiant
being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Christopher J Gaskins
did within this county and state on or about 2/17/2021:

State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of
in the following particulars: Florence

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Weapons / Discharging firearm into vehicle, aircraft, etc. while occupied

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 February 17, 2021, one Christopher J. Gaskins, did unlawfully and intentionally discharge a firearm towards law enforcement
officers from the Florence County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) while the FCSO responded to his residence after Gaskins' threatened to
burn his house down and shoot responding law enforcement. Gaskins discharged his firearm over ten times, striking the occupied
FCSO armored vehicle twice. Gaskins admitted, post-Miranda warning, to shooting towards law enforcement. This violation taking
place at [REDACTED] Coward, in Florence County, South Carolina. This being in violation of Section 16-23-440, South
Carolina Code of Laws.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of
Florence

Affiant's Address

P. O. Box 21398
Columbia, SC 29221-

Affiant's Telephone

(803)896-7000

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 2/17/2021 defendant Christopher J Gaskins

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: Weapons / Discharging firearm into vehicle, aircraft, etc. while occupied

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 2/22/2021

Signature of Issuing Judge
Frank White (L.S.)

Judge Code: 7226

Judge's Address

180 North Irby Street (Msc-W)

Florence, SC 29501-

(843)665-0031

Issuing Court:

☒ Magistrate

☐ Municipal

☐ Circuit

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ARREST WARRANT

2021A2110100211

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Florence

THE STATE 33-21-0021

against

Christopher J Gaskins

Address:

Coward, SC 29530-5384

Phone: Sex: M Race: W Height: 5 7 Weight: 236

DL State: SC DL #: SSN: [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED] 1971 Agency ORI #: SCLED00000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: Ashley E Jolda - S00964

Offense: Religion / Disturbance of religious worship

Offense Code: 0751

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-17-0520

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

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to

defendant Christopher Gaskins

on 2/22/2021

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions Court

181 North Irby Street, Suite 1100

Florence, SC 29501

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Florence

Personally appeared before me the affiant Ashley E Jolda

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Christopher J Gaskins

did within this county and state on or about 2/17/2021

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

in the following particulars: Florence

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Religion / Disturbance of religious worship

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 February 17, 2021, one Christopher J. Gaskins, did unlawfully and intentionally discharge a firearm towards law enforcement officers from the Florence County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) while the FCSO responded to his residence after Gaskins' threatened to burn his house down and shoot responding law enforcement. Gaskins discharged his firearm over ten times, striking the occupied FCSO armored vehicle twice. Gaskins admitted, post-Miranda warning, to shooting towards law enforcement. Gaskins' residence was directly across the street from the Coward Church of God, while the congregation was assembled for Wednesday evening worship. The church service was interrupted. This violation taking place at [REDACTED] Coward, in Florence County, South Carolina. This being in violation of Section 16-17-520, South Carolina Code of Laws.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Florence

Affiant's Address

P. O. Box 21398

Columbia, SC 29221-

Affiant's Telephone

(803)896-7000

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 2/17/2021

defendant Christopher J Gaskins

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: Religion / Disturbance of religious worship

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 2/22/2021

Judge's Address

180 North Irby Street (Msc-W)

Florence, SC 29501-

(843)665-0031

Judge's Telephone

Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

Judge Code: 7226

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ARREST WARRANT

2021A2110100213

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ Municipality of

Florence

THE STATE

35-21-0013

Christopher J Gaskins

against

Address

Coward, SC 29530-5384

Phone

SSN

Sex: M Race: W Height: 5 7 Weight: 236

DL State: SC DL #: Agency ORI #: SCLD00000

DOB: 1971

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: David B Gulley - S00968

Offense: Arson / Arson - Third Degree (effective

06-02-2010)

Offense Code: 3435

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-11-0110(C)

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the

☒ County/ Municipality of

Barlington

is to be arrested and brought before me to be

dealt with according to the law.

Signature of Judge

Date: February 23, 2021

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to

defendant on Christopher Gaskins

on 2/24/2021

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions Court

181 North Irby Street, Suite 1100

Florence, SC 29501

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ Municipality of

Florence

Personally appeared before me the affiant David B Gulley

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Christopher J Gaskins

did within this county and state on or about 2/17/2021

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

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Arson / Arson - Third Degree (effective 06-02-2010)

violate the criminal laws of the

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 February 17, 2021, Christopher J. Gaskins did willfully, unlawfully and maliciously set fire and cause to be burned a residential structure designed for human occupancy and a shed. Through a fire investigation, the fires were determined to be incendiary. In a post-Miranda interview, Gaskins admitted to starting the fires to destroy the structures so that his ex-wife would not possess them. Gaskins also called his wife and left a voicemail stating, "Hey, I just wanted to let you know you won't have a house to move into. I'll be serving prison so that means you don't get no monthly payment. So I just wanted to let you know, your house is burning down and you are gonna have a lot of death on your hands because I'm in the house loaded with guns waiting for the law to show up."

This violation took place at [redacted] in Florence County, South Carolina.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ Municipality of

Florence

Affiant's Address: P. O. Box 21398

Columbia, SC 29221-

Affiant's Telephone: (803)896-7009

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 2/17/2021

defendant Christopher J Gaskins

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: Arson / Arson - Third Degree (effective 06-02-2010)

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 2/23/2021

Signature of Issuing Judge

Peter E Becker

(L.S.)

Judge's Address

180 North Irby Street (MSC-W)

Florence, SC 29501-

(843)665-0031

Judge's Telephone

Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

7282

Judge Code: 7282

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ARREST WARRANT

2021A2110100214

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ Municipality of

Florencia

THE STATE

35-21-0013

Christopher J Gaskins

against

Address:

Coward, SC 29530-5384

Phone:

Sex: M Race: W Height: 5 7 Weight: 236

DL State: SC DL #: 1971

DOB: 1971 Agency ORI #: SCLIED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: David B Gully - S00968

Offense: Arson / Arson - Second degree

Offense Code: 2531

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-11-0110(B)

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the

☒ County/ Municipality of

Florence

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

Date: February 23, 2021 (L.S.)

Signature of Judge

February 23, 2021

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to defendant on Christopher Gaskins 2/23/2021

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

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

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ Municipality of

Florencia

Personally appeared before me the affiant David B Gully

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Christopher J Gaskins

did within this county and state on or about 2/17/2021

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

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Arson / Arson - Second 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 February 17, 2021, Christopher J Gaskins did willfully, unlawfully and maliciously set fire and cause to be burned a residential structure designed for human occupancy and a shed. Through a fire investigation, the fires were determined to be incendiary. In a post-Miranda interview, Gaskins admitted to starting the fires to destroy the structures so that his ex-wife would not possess them. Gaskins also called his wife and left a voicemail stating, "Hey, I just wanted to let you know you won't have a house to move into. I'll be serving prison so that means you don't get no monthly payment. So I just wanted to let you know, your house is burning down and you are gonna have a lot of death on your hands because I'm in the house loaded with guns waiting for the law to show up."

This violation took place at [redacted] in Florence County, South Carolina.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ Municipality of

Florencia

Affiant's Address: P. O. Box 21398

Columbia, SC 29221-

Affiant's Telephone: (803)896-7009

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 2/17/2021 defendant Christopher J Gaskins

☒ County/ Municipality of Florence) as set forth below

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Arson / Arson - Second 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 2/23/2021

Judge's Address: 180 North Iby Street (MSC-W)

Judge's Telephone: (843)665-0031

Signature of Issuing Judge

Peter E. Beckler

Judge Code: 7282

Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit