



# South Carolina

## STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

*Henry D. McMaster, Governor*

*Mark A. Keel, Chief*

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

WWW.SLED.SC.GOV

(803) 737-9000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 8, 2025

Renée Wunderlich  
Director of Public Information

### **SLED CHARGES DARLINGTON COUNTY MAN WITH ANIMAL FIGHTING AND ILL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS**

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) charged Michealus Antoine Jackson, 36, with Animal Fighting or Baiting and Ill Treatment of Animals on Thursday, August 7, 2025. The Darlington County Sheriff's Office requested the SLED investigation.

Details can be found in the attached warrants.

Jackson was booked into the Darlington County Detention Center.

The case will be prosecuted by the 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court Solicitor's Office.

###

SLED news releases are published on SLED's website: [www.sled.sc.gov](http://www.sled.sc.gov)  
For media inquiries, please email SLED's Public Information Office: [pio@sled.sc.gov](mailto:pio@sled.sc.gov)

## ARREST WARRANT

2025A1610100143

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Darlington

THE STATE

2025-04977

against

Michealus Antoine Jackson

Address:

Hartsville, SC 29550-

None: ☐ Sex: ☒ M Race: ☒ B Height: ☐ 5 ☐ 10 Weight: ☐ 180L State: ☐ DL #: ☐DOB: ☐ 1989 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: Jonathan L Nelson - S00899

Offense: Animals / Animal Fighting or Baiting Act, penalty

Offense Code: 0540

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-27-0030

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the

☐ County/ ☐ Municipality of

The accused

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

Michealus Antoine Jackson

8/7/25

Doug McElhiney

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions  
110 North Main Street  
Darlington, SC 29532

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Darlington

Personally appeared before me the affiant Jonathan L Nelson

who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Michealus Antoine Jackson

did within this county and state on or about 8/7/2025

violate the criminal laws of the

State of South Carolina (or ordinance of

☒

County/

☐ Municipality of

Darlington

in the following particulars.

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Animals / Animal Fighting or Baiting Act, penalty

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 8/7/25, THE DEFENDANT, MICHEALUS JACKSON DID COMMIT THE OFFENSE OF ANIMAL FIGHTING OR BAITING AT [REDACTED] HARTSVILLE SC. FACTS TO ESTABLISH: ON AUGUST 7, 2025, THE STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION DOG FIGHTING UNIT EXECUTED A SEARCH WARRANT AT THE DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS. 24 ADULT PIT BULL STYLE DOGS AND 1 PIT BULL STYLE PUPPY WERE LOCATED ON THE PROPERTY. NUMEROUS DOGS HAVE SCARRING, OPEN WOUNDS, NO FOOD, INADEQUATE HOUSING, AND ARE RESTRAINED WITH HEAVY CHAINS. THE SCARRING AND THE USE OF HEAVY LOGGING CHAINS ARE CONSISTENT WITH PERSONS WHO FIGHT DOGS. ALL OF THE ABOVE IS BELIEVED TO BE TRUE BASED ON THE INVESTIGATION OF SLED & VIOLATES S.C. CODE OF LAWS SECTION 16-27-0030

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Darlington

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 8/7/2025

defendant Michealus Antoine Jackson

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

☒

County/

☐

Municipality of

Darlington

) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Animals / Animal Fighting or Baiting Act, penalty

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 8/7/2025

(L.S.)  
Signature of Issuing Judge  
Valerie Swarts Gardner

Judge Code: 7525

Judge's Address 115 Camp Road

Darlington, SC 29532-

Judge's Telephone (843)398-4006

Issuing Court:

☒

Magistrate

☐

Municipal

☐

Circuit

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

AFFIDAVIT

## ARREST WARRANT

2025A1610100144

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Darlington

THE STATE

2025-04977

against

Michealus Antoine Jackson

dress:

Hartsville, SC 29550-

SSN: [REDACTED]

x: M Race: B Height: 5 10 Weight: 180State: DL #DOB: 1989 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement DivisionProsecuting Officer: Jonathan L Nelson - S00899Offense: Animals / Ill treatment of animals in general,  
tortureOffense Code: 2804Code/Ordinance Sec: 47-01-0040(B)This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

The accused

to be arrested and brought before me to be  
all with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

## RETURN

copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to

defendant Michealus Jackson8/7/25Doug McElwain  
Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

## RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions  
110 North Main Street  
Darlington, SC 29532

## STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Darlington

Personally appeared before me the affiant Jonathan L Nelson whobeing duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Michealus Antoine Jacksondid within this county and state on or about 8/7/2025 violate the criminal laws of theState of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Darlington)

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Animals / Ill treatment of animals in general, tortureI 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 8/7/25, THE DEFENDANT, MICHEALUS JACKSON DID COMMIT THE OFFENSE OF ILL-TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS AT [REDACTED] HARTSVILLE, SC. FACTS TO ESTABLISH: ON AUGUST 7, 2025, THE STATE  
LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION DOG FIGHTING UNIT EXECUTED A SEARCH WARRANT AT THE DEFENDANT'S  
ADDRESS. 24 ADULT PIT BULL STYLE DOGS AND 1 PIT BULL PUPPY WERE LOCATED ON THE PROPERTY.  
NUMEROUS DOGS HAVE SCARRING, OPEN WOUNDS, NO FOOD, INADEQUATE HOUSING, AND ARE RESTRAINED  
WITH HEAVY CHAINS. ALL OF THE ABOVE IS BELIEVED TO BE TRUE BASED ON THE INVESTIGATION OF SLED &  
VIOLATES S.C. CODE OF LAWS SECTION 47-01-0040(B).

Signature of Affiant

## STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Darlington

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 8/7/2025 defendant Michealus Antoine Jacksondid violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of  
☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Darlington) as set forth below:DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Animals / Ill treatment of animals in general, tortureHaving 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 meon 8/7/2025Valerie Swartz Gardner (L.S.)  
Signature of Issuing Judge

Valerie Swartz Gardner

Judge Code: 7525Judge's Address 115 Camp Road  
Darlington, SC 29532-Judge's Telephone (843)398-4006Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

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AFFIDAVIT

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