

ARKANSAS COURT OF APPEALS, DIVISION II

Falana Jackson-Rice v. Robert Rice

Jackson-Rice, 2026 Ark. App. 84 (Ark. Ct. App. 2026) · No. CV-24-856 · Decided February 11, 2026

SUMMARY

The Arkansas Court of Appeals dismissed Falana Jackson-Rice’s appeal from a divorce decree because her notice of appeal failed to substantially comply with multiple requirements of Arkansas Rule of Appellate Procedure–Civil 3(e). The court held that the deficiencies, including failure to designate the record contents, confirm transcript and reporter arrangements, and abandon unresolved claims, deprived it of jurisdiction.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Arkansas Court of Appeals, Division II
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Bart F. Virden; Klappenbach, C.J.; Murphy, J.
JURISDICTION	Arkansas Court of Appeals, Division II
DECIDED	February 11, 2026
DOCKET	CV-24-856
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Falana Jackson-Rice appealed pro se from a divorce decree, and the Arkansas Court of Appeals dismissed the appeal for failure to file an effective notice of appeal under Arkansas Rule of Appellate Procedure–Civil 3(e).
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviewed the effectiveness of the notice of appeal as a jurisdictional matter under Arkansas Rule of Appellate Procedure–Civil 3(e).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion
PARTIES	Falana Jackson-Rice v. Robert Rice

TOPICS

- family law procedure
- final judgment rule
- appellate procedure
- divorce
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- family law
- appellate procedure
- civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the appellant's notice of appeal substantially complied with Arkansas Rule of Appellate Procedure–Civil 3(e).
2. Whether the Court of Appeals had jurisdiction to hear the appeal when the notice of appeal omitted three of Rule 3(e)'s six required statements.

HOLDINGS

1. The filing of an effective notice of appeal is jurisdictional; absent an effective notice of appeal, the appellate court lacks jurisdiction and must dismiss the appeal.
2. Although only substantial compliance with Rule 3(e) is required, substantial compliance cannot be found where there has been a near-complete disregard for the rule's mandates; a notice complying with only two of six requirements is insufficient.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The filing of a notice of appeal is jurisdictional; absent an effective notice of appeal, we lack jurisdiction to consider the appeal and must dismiss it.”

“substantial compliance cannot be found where there has been a near complete disregard for the mandates of the rule.” (at 4)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Falana Jackson-Rice and Robert Rice were divorced by a decree entered on December 21, 2022. Jackson-Rice attempted to appeal from that decree, but her notice of appeal identified the parties and the order appealed from while omitting statements concerning the contents of the appellate record, transcript ordering and court-reporter financial arrangements, and abandonment of unresolved claims.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Pulaski County Circuit Court entered a decree divorcing Falana Jackson-Rice and Robert Rice on December 21, 2022. Jackson-Rice filed a notice of appeal from the decree, but the Court of Appeals determined that the notice omitted three required Rule 3(e) statements. The appellate court dismissed the appeal for lack of jurisdiction.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- McMillan v. McMillan, 2024 Ark. App. 630, at 3, 703 S.W.3d 493, 495
- Helton v. Jacobs, 346 Ark. 344, 57 S.W.3d 180 (2001)
- Rogers v. Tudor Ins. Co., 325 Ark. 226, 925 S.W.2d 395 (1996)

- *Henley v. Medlock*, 97 Ark. App. 45, 244 S.W.3d 16 (2006)
- *Williams v. St. Vincent Infirmary Med. Ctr.*, 2021 Ark. 14, at 6, 615 S.W.3d 721, 725
- *Farm Bureau Mut. Ins. Co. of Ark., Inc. v. Sudrick*, 49 Ark. App. 84, 896 S.W.2d 452 (1995)

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