

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

|                          |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| CORA BROWN, <sup>1</sup> | §                             |
|                          | § No. 372, 2021               |
| Petitioner Below,        | §                             |
| Appellant,               | § Court Below—Family Court of |
|                          | § the State of Delaware       |
| v.                       | §                             |
|                          | § File No. CN96-11425         |
| CHASE BROWN,             | § Petition No. 20-22569       |
|                          | §                             |
| Respondent Below,        | §                             |
| Appellee.                | §                             |

Submitted: December 2, 2021

Decided: December 21, 2021

Before **SEITZ**, Chief Justice; **VALIHURA** and **VAUGHN**, Justices.

**ORDER**

Upon consideration of the notice to show cause and the appellant's response, it appears to the Court that:

(1) On November 22, 2021, the appellant, Cora Brown, filed a notice of appeal from a Family Court order dated October 18, 2021 and docketed on October 19, 2021. A timely notice of appeal was due in this Court by November 18, 2021.<sup>2</sup> The Senior Court Clerk issued a notice directing Brown to show cause why this appeal should not be dismissed as untimely filed. In her response to the notice to

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<sup>1</sup> The Court assigns pseudonyms to the parties under Supreme Court Rule 7(d).

<sup>2</sup> Supr. Ct. R. 6(a)(i).

show cause, Brown argues the merits of her appeal, but does not address the untimeliness of her appeal in this Court.

(2) Time is a jurisdictional requirement.<sup>3</sup> A notice of appeal must be received by the Court within the applicable time period in order to be effective.<sup>4</sup> An appellant's *pro se* status does not excuse a failure to comply strictly with the jurisdictional requirements.<sup>5</sup> Unless an appellant can demonstrate that the failure to file a timely notice of appeal is attributable to court-related personnel, this Court cannot consider an untimely appeal.<sup>6</sup>

(3) Brown has not demonstrated that her failure to file a timely notice of appeal of the Family Court order is attributable to court-related personnel. Consequently, this case does not fall within the exception to the general rule that mandates the timely filing of a notice of appeal. The appeal must be dismissed.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, under Supreme Court Rules 29(b), that this appeal is DISMISSED.

BY THE COURT:

/s/ Karen L. Valihura  
Justice

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<sup>3</sup> *Carr v. State*, 554 A.2d 778, 779 (Del.1989).

<sup>4</sup> Supr. Ct. R. 10(a).

<sup>5</sup> *Ward v. Taylor*, 2019 WL 4784943, at \*1 (Del. Sept. 30, 2019); *Smith v. State*, 47 A.3d 481, 486-87 (Del. 2012).

<sup>6</sup> *Ward*, 2019 WL 4784943, at \*1; *Bey v. State*, 402 A.2d 362, 363 (Del. 1979).