

# The Supreme Court of South Carolina

In re: Marie-Therese Assa'ad-Faltas, MD., MPH,  
Petitioner.

Appellate Case No. 2015-001972

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S.C. SUPREME COURT

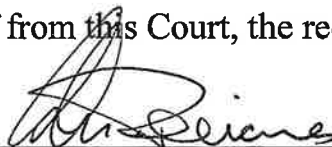
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ORDER

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Petitioner has filed a petition in this Court in which she states she seeks to file an application for post-conviction relief (PCR) in the circuit court but the Richland County Clerk of Court refuses to accept a PCR application from petitioner unless it is filed by a lawyer and refuses to accept a motion to appoint counsel from petitioner because there is no PCR action pending. Pursuant to this Court's order of January 30, 2014, placing limitations on petitioner's ability to appear *pro se* and make *pro se* filings, the Clerk of Court correctly refused to accept petitioner's *pro se* PCR application for filing. However, that same order also allows petitioner to file a written *pro se* motion to appoint counsel with the appropriate clerk of court as long as she has good cause to make the motion. While we realize a PCR action has not been commenced, petitioner is prohibited from commencing such an action except through counsel. Accordingly, we find it appropriate under these unusual circumstances for the motion to appoint counsel to be accepted for filing despite the fact that the underlying PCR action has not been commenced. We therefore direct the Richland County Clerk of Court to accept petitioner's motion for the appointment of counsel to represent her in a potential PCR action for filing and forward the motion to the appropriate judge for a ruling.

To the extent petitioner seeks further relief from this Court, the request is denied.



C.J.

FOR THE COURT

(Beatty, J., not participating)

Columbia, South Carolina

January 7, 2016

cc: Marie Assa'ad-Faltas  
The Honorable Alan M. Wilson  
The Honorable Teresa A. Knox  
The Honorable Jeanette W. McBride