

Jenny A. Kitchings  
Clerk of Court of Appeals  
PO Box 11629  
Columbia, SC 29211  
RE: APPEAL 2021-000599

**RECEIVED**  
FEB 09 2023  
SC Court of Appeals

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

My name is Sharon Blanton, I hope this finds you well. I am the POA for Mark A. Gilbert. The attorney who is handling the appeal for Mr. Gilbert is Rauch Wise, located in Greenwood, SC. The appeal was filed in June of 2021, but was held up by the state who extended the process for 120 days. It will soon be 2 years that he has been imprisoned.

Mr. Gilbert and I were planning our wedding when his trial was heard, trusting in the judicial process, that he would have been found not guilty due to lack of evidence. However, that was not the case. He was found guilty and convicted. He was sentenced to 25 years in prison, and is currently at the Ridgeland Correctional Institute located in Ridgeland, SC. Sadly, this is over 4 hours from home and very difficult to visit him.

I have been checking the Court of Appeals roster every month in hopes of his appeal to be scheduled. Mr. Gilbert had 4 heart attacks prior and 1 heart attack since he has been at Ridgeland. My biggest fear is that he will die in there. He is a severe diabetic as well. Serving in combat as a US Marine, and a disabled veteran, he has been through more than most of us could imagine, and does not deserve to die in prison. He is 52 years old.

I am asking, if you could please get his appeal on the docket as soon as possible. I live alone and worry about his health and well-being every day. I am confident that he will have a positive outcome from the appeal.

I surely would be grateful to you if you could get this scheduled soon that we may be able to move on from this nightmare and share our lives together.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. I realize that you have a busy role in the courts and know that these things take time, but 2 years is a long time for me and I know it is a horrible place for him to be.

I pray for God to Bless you in your role and life. Please reply if at all possible. And again, thank you for taking the time to read my letter and I pray that this appeal can be scheduled very soon.

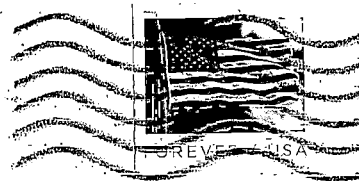
Sincerely,

Sharon Blanton

Sharon Blanton  
85 Bramlett Rd.  
Taylors, SC 29687

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