

The South Carolina Court of Appeals

Robert Watkins, #24803, Appellant,

v.

South Carolina Department of Corrections, Respondent.

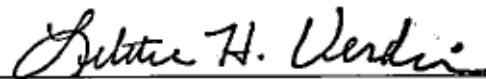
Appellate Case No. 2023-000603

ORDER

On April 14, 2023, Appellant filed a notice of appeal challenging an order issued by the administrative law court concerning the calculation of his sentence by the South Carolina Department of Corrections. Appellant failed to pay the required filing fee; therefore, on May 15, 2023, we dismissed his appeal. On May 26, 2023, Appellant filed a motion to reinstate his appeal, and providing this court with a request to proceed *in forma pauperis*. We grant Appellant's motion to reinstate.

We also grant Appellant's request to proceed *in forma pauperis*. *Ex parte Martin*, 321 S.C. 533, 535, 471 S.E.2d 134, 134-35 (1995) ("Motions to proceed *in forma pauperis* may be granted only when authorized by statute or required by constitutional provisions."); *Al-Shabazz v. State*, 338 S.C 354, 369-370, 527 S.E.2d 742, 750 (2000) ("The statutory right to sentence-related credits is a protected 'liberty' interest under the Fourteenth Amendment, entitling an inmate to minimal due process to ensure the state-created right was not arbitrarily abrogated.").

Finally, we grant Appellant's request for an extension of time to serve and file his initial brief and designation of matter. Appellant shall serve and file his initial brief and designation of matter within thirty days of the date of this order.



FOR THE COURT

Columbia, South Carolina

FILED
Jul 12 2023

cc:

Robert M. Watkins, 243803

Christina Catoe Bigelow, Esquire

Jana E. Shealy

The Honorable Ralph King Anderson, III

FILED
Jul 12 2023