

The South Carolina Court of Appeals

The State, Respondent,

v.

Travis Dwone Bryant, Appellant.

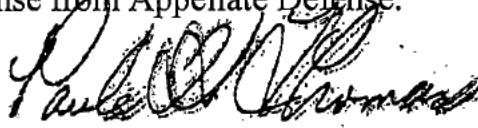
Appellate Case No. 2024-000239

ORDER

Appellant filed a notice of appeal challenging his criminal conviction and sentence through his counsel, Juankell Shingles, Esquire. Upon learning Appellant entered a guilty plea, this court wrote to Attorney Shingles and Walter R. Martin, Esquire, who also appeared in the public index as Appellant's counsel, requesting a written explanation showing there was an issue which could be reviewed on appeal in accordance with Rule 203(d)(1)(B)(iv) of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules. Attorney Martin responded by email on February 26, 2024, stating Appellant hired Attorney Shingles to replace him. On March 1, 2024, this court wrote to Attorney Martin explaining the public index showed he remained counsel of record for Appellant, requesting a copy of an order relieving him as counsel if one existed, and requiring him to file a motion to be relieved if he wished to be relieved. Attorney Shingles did not respond, and Attorney Martin did not provide an order relieving him as counsel or move this court to relieve him.

On April 16, 2024, this court received a letter from Appellant expressing his frustrations with his inability to reach Attorney Shingles. We construed this letter as a motion to relieve counsel and proceed pro se. We advised Appellant of the dangers and disadvantages of proceeding pro se and requested Appellant inform this court if, understanding those dangers and disadvantages, he wanted to proceed pro se. On May 1, 2024, Appellant responded that he wanted to relieve Attorney Shingles as counsel because he had not been responsive. On May 17, 2024, Appellant requested to have counsel appointed to represent him.

We hold this appeal in abeyance for thirty days to allow the Office of Appellate Defense to screen this case. We will act on the motions to relieve counsel and appoint counsel upon receipt of a response from Appellate Defense.



FOR THE COURT

Columbia, South Carolina

cc:

Travis Dwone Bryant, 00393314
Alan McCrory Wilson, Esquire
Mark Reynolds Farthing, Esquire
Cecil Yates Brown, Jr., Esquire
Juankell Shingles, Esquire
Walter R. Martin, Esquire
Robert Michael Dudek, Esquire

FILED
May 29 2024
