

# The South Carolina Court of Appeals

In the Matter of the Care and Treatment of Michael  
Terrance Lawyer, Appellant.

Appellate Case No. 2024-001439

---

## ORDER

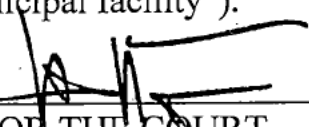
---

On November 26, 2024, we dismissed this appeal because Appellant failed to provide a status update regarding the transcript. On November 27, 2024, Appellant moved to reinstate his appeal, explaining he inquired into the status of the transcript, learned the court reporter received multiple extensions of time to complete the transcript, and believed this court was aware of the extensions of time granted to the court reporter. No return was filed. After careful consideration, we grant the motion to reinstate.

Next, Appellant moved to reduce the filing requirements for the record and final briefs. No return was filed. After careful consideration, we grant the motion to the extent that Appellant shall serve and file one unbound original and one bound copy of the final briefs and the record on appeal. In the event this court determines additional copies of certain filings are required, additional copies may be requested.

Finally, Appellant moved to proceed *in forma pauperis*. No return was filed. After careful consideration, we grant the motion. *See Ex parte Martin*, 321 S.C. 533, 471 S.E.2d 134 (1995) (explaining the right to proceed *in forma pauperis* must rest upon a statute or a fundamental constitutional right); S.C. Code Ann. § 44-48-90(B) (Supp. 2024) (explaining that "[a]t all stages of the proceedings under [the sexually violent predator act], a person subject to this chapter is entitled to the assistance of counsel, and if the person is indigent, the court must appoint counsel designated by the Office of Indigent Defense to handle sexual predator cases to assist the person"); S.C. Code Ann. § 17-3-360(C)(1) (2014) (requiring the Division of Appellate Defense to "represent a person who the office determines, subject to court review, falls within the guidelines promulgated pursuant to [s]ection 17-3-310(G)(2) who files [n]otice of [i]ntention to [a]ppeal a . . . decision

of a proceeding in civil commitment . . . in a state, county, or municipal facility"); S.C. Code Ann. § 17-3-360(C)(2) (2014) (explaining the Division of Appellate Defense "shall represent" a person who qualifies as an indigent "in his appeal of a conviction in a trial court, or decision of a proceeding in civil commitment or other involuntary placement in a state, county, or municipal facility").

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
FOR THE COURT

Columbia, South Carolina

cc:

Kindle Kay Johnson, Esquire  
Robert Michael Dudek, Esquire  
Deborah R.J. Shupe, Esquire  
Alan McCrory Wilson, Esquire

**FILED**  
**Dec 16 2024**

---