

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Supreme Court

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Feb 18 2025

APPEAL FROM LEXINGTON COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas
Edward W. Miller, Circuit Court Judge

S.C. SUPREME COURT

Appellate Case No. 2024-000979

Thomas Stafford,.....Petitioner,

v.

State of South Carolina,.....Respondent.

Petition to Extend Time

Thomas Stafford moves this Court for an order granting a final extension, extending the time to file the appendix and petition for a writ of certiorari by seven days until Tuesday, February 25, 2025. This request is based on undersigned counsel's other professional obligations and is not intended for delay. Today, counsel filed the petition for a writ of certiorari and appendix in *Gregory v. State*, Appellate Case No. 2024-000848. In January and February, counsel had three General Session Court cases that almost reached trial:

- *State v. Ard*, Indictment No. 2014-GS-40-01777, a case on remand following the grant of post-conviction relief (Appellant Case No. 2019-001925), which resolved by guilty plea on January 29, 2025, prior to jury selection;
- *State v. Crystal*, Indictment No. 2022-GS-24-00569, which was continued on February 11, 2025, during jury selection, after the parties learned new information that request investigation;
- *State v. Gutierrez*, Case No. 2023-A42-102-00595, 00596, was almost reached for trial during the week of February 10, 2025, after the *Crystal* case was continued.

Although none of the cases above were tried, these cases diverted counsel attention from this appeal and the *Gregory* petition. Counsel is confident that the petition in this case can be finalized in the time requested above.

IT IS MOVED.

By s/E. Charles Grose, Jr.

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