

Feb 20 2025

S.C. SUPREME COURT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE SUPREME COURT

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IN THE ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

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BRAD KEITH SIGMON,

*Petitioner,*

v.

BRYAN P. STIRLING, DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF  
CORRECTIONS, AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS,

*Respondents.*

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MOTION FOR A STAY OF EXECUTION

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Brad Keith Sigmon, a death-sentenced prisoner, respectfully moves this Court to stay his execution, currently scheduled for March 7, 2025, pursuant to *In re Stays of Execution in Capital Cases*, 321 S.C. 544, 741 S.E.2d 140 (1996). On February 20, 2025, contemporaneously with this stay motion, Mr. Sigmon filed a Petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus in this Court’s original jurisdiction. A stay is necessary while this Court considers that Petition to prevent his execution for a death sentence that was imposed despite constitutional violations that constitute “a denial of fundamental fairness shocking to the universal sense of justice.” *Butler v. State*, 302 S.C. 466, 468, 397 S.E.2d 87, 88 (1990) (quoting *State v. Miller*, 16 N.J. Super. 251, 258, 84 A.2d 459, 463 (1951)).

As detailed in that Petition, Mr. Sigmon received ineffective assistance from his inexperienced trial counsel, whose failure to conduct a reasonable investigation into Mr. Sigmon’s severe and inherited mental illness, organic brain damage, and childhood trauma deprived his jury (and, on review, this Court) of powerful mitigating evidence. *Strickland v.*

*Washington*, 466 U.S. 668 (1984). Mr. Sigmon also seeks proportionality review of his sentence of death, which was conducted incompletely on direct review, by the corrected standard announced by this Court in *Moore v. Stirling*, 436 S.C. 207, 871 S.E.2d 423 (2022).

For the reasons set forth in that Petition, Mr. Sigmon respectfully submits that “there are exceptional circumstances warranting the issuance of a stay.” See *In re Stays of Execution*, 321 S.C. at 548, 471 S.E.2d at 142, and moves this Court for a stay of execution pending the resolution of his petition for a writ of habeas corpus.

Respectfully submitted, this, the 20<sup>th</sup> of February, 2025.

*s/ Joshua Snow Kendrick*  
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