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May 28 2025

S.C. SUPREME COURT

ALAN WILSON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

May 28, 2025

The Honorable Patricia A. Howard  
Supreme Court of South Carolina  
Post Office Box 11330  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211  
(via e-filing only - [supctfilings@sccourts.org](mailto:supctfilings@sccourts.org))


**Re: Thomas Stafford, #357279 v. State of South Carolina**  
**Appellate Case No. 2024-000979**

Dear Ms. Howard:

Respondent's Return to Petition for Writ of Certiorari in the above-referenced post-conviction relief appeal is due to be served and filed today. Respondent respectfully requests a third, thirty-day extension to serve and file this return based on the heavy caseload of undersigned counsel. Counsel for Petitioner has consented to this extension request.

Please let me know if I can provide the Court with any additional information regarding this first extension request.

Sincerely,



Donald J. Zelenka  
Deputy Attorney General  
SC Bar No. 5758

DJZ/wjc

cc: E. Charles Grose, Jr., Counsel for Petitioner (via email only)