

Russell Lewis Walker
714 Spearhead Court
North Augusta, SC 29860
(803) 293-0558
harley74rlw@yahoo.com

RECEIVED

AUG 25 2025

SC Court of Appeals

Clerk of Court
South Carolina Court of Appeals
1220 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201

VIA U.S. MAIL

Certified Mail with Return Receipt tracking# 7020-2450-0001-3101-7678

August 18, 2025

RE: Appellate Case No. 2024-000643; *State v. Russell Lewis Walker* Demand for Ruling on Pending Motion to be Relieved as Counsel

Dear Clerk of Court:

I am writing as the Appellant in the above-referenced matter to address a critical and unconscionable delay that has completely paralyzed my appeal and is depriving me of my constitutional right of access to the courts.

The procedural history is straightforward. The South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense appointed Attorney Wanda Carter as my appellate counsel. In or around June of 2024, Ms. Carter filed a Motion to be Relieved as Counsel in this matter. As of the date of this letter, approximately fourteen (14) months have passed, and this Court has yet to issue a ruling on her motion.

This extraordinary inaction has placed me in an untenable legal predicament. I am being denied all access to this Court. When I have attempted to file substantive motions on my own behalf, they have been rejected under the well-established rule prohibiting hybrid representation. Simultaneously, my counsel of record, Ms. Carter, has been non-

Page 1 of 3

August 18, 2025
Letter to Clerk
Certificate of Service
South Carolina Court of Appeals

communicative and has taken no action whatsoever to advance my appeal since filing her motion to withdraw. I am, in effect, trapped—barred from representing myself, yet left without an attorney who will act on my behalf.

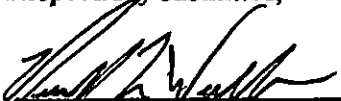
This indefinite procedural limbo is not a mere inconvenience; it is a flagrant violation of my constitutional right to due process of law and meaningful access to the courts. My appeal cannot be held in a state of suspended animation indefinitely while a simple procedural motion goes unresolved.

Accordingly, I respectfully demand that the Clerk's Office take immediate action to resolve this matter. I request that you either:

1. Immediately present Attorney Carter's pending Motion to be Relieved as Counsel to the Court for a ruling; or, in the alternative,
2. Provide me with a clear directive from the Court as to how I may proceed to have my substantive motions heard while Ms. Carter's status remains unresolved.

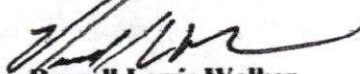
Please be advised that a failure to promptly resolve this procedural paralysis will leave me with no alternative but to seek a writ of mandamus from the South Carolina Supreme Court to compel action on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Russell Lewis Walker, Pro Se

You must inform me, in writing, of which course of action you will pursue within **ten (10) business days** of your receipt of this letter. Please be advised that your failure to take either of the actions demanded above will be considered a willful continuation of the violation of my right to counsel and access to the courts. It will leave me with no alternative but to file a formal and detailed grievance against you with the South Carolina Bar's Office of Disciplinary Counsel. I expect your prompt and decisive action on this matter. Respectfully,


Russell Lewis Walker


Enclosure: Motion to Dismiss Charges and Vacate Judgment

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SC Court of Appeals

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this date, I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing letter ~~and its stated enclosure~~ upon the Clerk of Court by depositing it in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

Clerk of Court South Carolina Court of Appeals 1220 Senate Street Columbia, SC 29201


Russell Lewis Walker

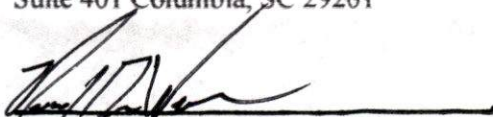
Date: August 18, 2025

2/2

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this date, I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing letter upon counsel of record by depositing it in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

Wanda Carter S.C. Commission on Indigent Defense, Appellate Division 1330 Lady Street,
Suite 401 Columbia, SC 29201


Russell Lewis Walker

Date: August 18, 2025

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VIA U.S. CERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Wanda Carter
S.C. Commission on Indigent Defense
Appellate Division
1330 Lady Street, Suite 401
Columbia, SC 29201

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SC Court of Appeals

**RE: Appellate Case No. 2024-000643; *State v. Russell Lewis Walker* DEMAND FOR
ACTION AS COUNSEL OF RECORD**

Dear Ms. Carter:

I am writing to you regarding my appeal in the above-referenced case. I must remind you that despite your Motion to be Relieved as Counsel, filed in or around June 2024, the Court of Appeals has not issued a ruling. Therefore, you remain my attorney of record. Your status as my counsel of record is not a mere formality. It carries with it a continuing *professional and ethical duty under the South Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct* to represent my interests diligently and to ensure my rights are protected throughout this appellate process.

Your inaction since filing your motion has caused me severe and ongoing prejudice. The Court has rejected my own attempts to file motions *pro se*, citing the rule against hybrid representation. Because you have taken no action to advance my appeal and the Court bars me from acting for myself, I am being effectively silenced and denied all meaningful access to the Court. My appeal is languishing, and my rights are being violated daily as a direct result of this procedural paralysis.

This situation cannot continue. Accordingly, I demand that you immediately perform one of the following two actions:

- (a) Fulfill your duty as my current counsel by filing the enclosed **Motion to Dismiss Charges and Vacate Judgment** on my behalf with the Court of Appeals without delay; or,
- (b) Take immediate and affirmative steps to notice your own Motion to be Relieved for a hearing before the Court. You must diligently and proactively pursue a ruling on that motion so that I can be freed from this procedural trap and either represent myself or have new, active counsel appointed.

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R.L. Walker
714 Spearhead Court
North Augusta, SC 29860

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