

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CHARLESTON

Sidney Fields, #254392,

Applicant,

v.

State of South Carolina,

Respondent.

) IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
) IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
)

) CASE NO. 2025-CP-10-03397
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ORDER OF DISMISSAL

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OCT 30 2025

SC Court of Appeals

FILED
2025 AUG 15 AM 10:21
JULIE J. ARTHUR
CLERK OF COURT

This matter comes before the Court by way of a Summons and Complaint¹ filed by Sidney Fields (Applicant) on June 12, 2025. Respondent moved to dismiss this action as it violates the South Carolina Supreme Court's Order, filed on February 20, 2019, which prohibits Applicant from filing any further collateral action challenging his 1998 convictions and sentences without first obtaining permission from the South Carolina Supreme Court. See attached Supreme Court Order, filed February 20, 2019. Because this filing violates the Supreme Court's Order, this action shall be dismissed.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Applicant is presently confined in the South Carolina Department of Corrections serving a life sentence. In August 1997, the Charleston County Grand Jury indicted Applicant for murder (1997-GS-10-05026) and armed robbery (1997-GS-10-05025). On November 6, 1998, Applicant

¹Although Applicant titled his action a Summons and Complaint, the Court construes the action as an application for post-conviction relief because it is a collateral challenge to his prior sentence. See S.C. Code Ann. § 17-27-20(B) (2014) (providing the Uniform Post-Conviction Procedure Act "comprehends and takes the place of all other common law, statutory or other remedies heretofore available for challenging the validity of the conviction or sentence. It shall be used exclusively in place of them.").

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appeared before the Honorable Thomas L. Hughston, Jr., and pled guilty to murder and armed robbery. Public Defender D. Ashley Pennington represented Applicant. Judge Hughston sentenced Applicant to confinement for a period of life for murder and a concurrent thirty (30) years for armed robbery. Applicant did not appeal his conviction or sentence.

On May 13, 1999, Applicant filed his first application for post-conviction relief. On June 20, 2000, he filed an amended application, in which he alleged the following grounds for relief:

1. Ineffective assistance of counsel:
 - a. Failed to investigate the case;
 - b. Failed to get Applicant mentally evaluated;
 - c. Pressured the Applicant to plead by "threatening" the Applicant with the death penalty;
 - d. Did not comply with the Applicant's wishes for a jury trial;
 - e. Deceived the Applicant into thinking he would be eligible for furlough;
 - f. Erred in advising the Applicant that if he went to trial the jury would not be instructed on the lesser included offense on manslaughter;
 - g. Misadvised the Applicant that his only two choices were the death penalty or the plea bargain;
 - h. Did not make the Applicant aware that armed robbery carried a minimum sentence of ten (10) years.
2. Violation of due process and equal protection rights.

On September 13, 2000, an evidentiary hearing was held before the Honorable R. Markley Dennis, Jr., at which Applicant was present and was represented by Jack D. Cordray, Esquire. By Order dated September 21, 2001, Judge Dennis denied and dismissed Applicant's application for PCR. Applicant filed a notice of appeal, which was perfected by Appellate Defender Eleanor Duffy Cleary through the filing of a Johnson² Petition for Writ of Certiorari. The South Carolina Supreme Court denied the Petition. The remittitur was sent on October 31, 2002.

Thereafter, Applicant filed four PCR applications that were summarily dismissed. Following the appeal of the denial of his fifth PCR application, the South Carolina Supreme Court

² Johnson v. State, 294 S.C. 310, 364 S.E.2d 201 (1988).

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issued an Order on February 20, 2019, dismissing the notice of appeal and prohibiting Applicant from further challenging his 1998 convictions. The Order states in relevant part as follows:

[W]e hereby prohibit petitioner from filing any further collateral actions in the circuit court, including PCR actions and habeas corpus actions, as well as any motions relating to the previously filed collateral actions, challenging his 1998 convictions and sentences for murder and armed robbery, or any motions in the underlying criminal case, including a motion pursuant to Rule 29, SCRCrimP, without first obtaining permission to do so from this Court.


The remittitur was sent on March 8, 2019.

FINDINGS OF FACT & CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent moved to dismiss this Summons and Complaint as violating the Supreme Court's February 2019 order. This action raises allegations that collaterally attack his sentence on his 1998 murder conviction. Applicant, following numerous frivolous and repetitive filings, was served with the South Carolina Supreme Court's Order restricting him from further filing without obtaining the Supreme Court's permission first. Applicant did not seek or receive permission from the South Carolina Supreme Court to file the instant action. Therefore, this Court finds this action shall be dismissed for failing to comply with the South Carolina Supreme Court's Order.


IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that based on the reasons stated herein, the instant summons and complaint is hereby denied and dismissed with prejudice.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED this 1 day of August, 2025.


JENNIFER B. MCCOY
Chief Administrative Judge
Ninth Judicial Circuit

Charleston, South Carolina

ATTEST: A TRUE COPY
JULIE J. ARMSTRONG (SEAL)
CLERK, C.P., G.S. & F.C.

By 
DEPUTY CLERK

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

COUNTY OF CHARLESTON)

Sidney Fields, #254392,)

Applicant,)

v.)

State of South Carolina,)

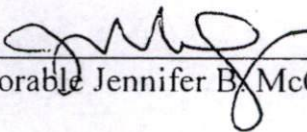
Respondent.)

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
CIVIL ACTION NO.: 2025-CP-10-03397

ORDER DENYING APPLICANTS
MOTION TO RECONSIDER PURSUANT
TO RULE 59(e) SCRPC

Applicant Sidney Fields filed a Motion to Reconsider on August 29, 2025. Upon careful consideration, this Court hereby DENIES Applicant's Motion.

IT IS SO ORDERED!


The Honorable Jennifer B. McCoy

October 14, 2025
Charleston, South Carolina

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OCT 30 2025

SC Court of Appeals

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