

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

In The Court of Appeals

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DEC 16 2025

SC Court of Appeals

Appellate Case No. 2025-001447

The State , Respondent

VS

RAY EDWARD CHESTNUT, Appellant.

MOTION FOR TEMPORARY RELIEF OF COUNSEL,
MOTION TO PROCEED PRO SE FOR LIMITED PURPOSE,
AND MOTION TO STAY APPEAL PENDING RESOLUTION OF
JURISDICTIONAL ISSUE

Ray Edward Chestnut, Appellant, respectfully moves
this Court for the following relief:

1. Motion for Temporary Relief of Appellate Counsel

Appellant respectfully requests that current appellate
counsel, Chandler Norville, be temporarily relieved
from representation in this appeal.

This request is not a full or permanent waiver of

the right to counsel.

Appellant seeks temporary relief of counsel solely to allow Appellant to personally address a jurisdictional defect that arose in the trial court.

Appellant expressly states he is not permanently waiving his right to counsel and intends to request the appointment of new appellate counsel after the jurisdiction issue is resolved, if necessary.

2. Motion to Proceed Pro Se for the Limited Purpose of Addressing Subject-matter Jurisdiction

Appellant requests permission to proceed pro se for the limited and specific purpose of filing and litigating a jurisdictional challenge in the Horry County Court of General Sessions.

The jurisdictional issue concerns the fact that two different circuit judges presided over separate portions of Appellant's trial proceedings without a lawful substitution order or assignment order on file, which implicates subject-matter jurisdiction

and the authority of the presiding judge.

Because subject-matter jurisdiction may be raised at any time and cannot be waived, Appellant seeks to address this matter directly and promptly in the trial court.

This request is limited only to the jurisdictional issue. Appellant does not intend to proceed pro se for the remainder of the appeal.

3. Motion to Stay the Direct Appeal

Appellant respectfully requests that the Court temporarily stay the appeal while Appellant litigates the jurisdictional defect in the trial court.

A stay is necessary to:

1. Prevent parallel litigation,
2. Protect judicial economy, and
3. Avoid unnecessary appellate briefing while a potentially dispositive jurisdictional issue remains unresolved.

If the trial court determines that it lacked subject-matter jurisdiction, the present appeal will be rendered moot, and the court of Appeals' resources will be preserved.

4. Reservation of Right to Request Appointment of New Counsel

Appellant respectfully requests that, after the jurisdiction issue is addressed and resolved in the trial court, this court allow Appellant to move for appointment of new appellate counsel so that the appeal may properly continue if necessary.

Appellant's request to proceed pro se is temporary and limited, and Appellant fully intends to request new appellate counsel following the resolution of the jurisdiction issue.

WHEREFORE, Appellant respectfully asks this Court to:

1. Temporarily relieve Attorney Chandler Norville

(SC010) as appellate counsel.

2. Allow Appellant to proceed pro se for the limited purpose of pursuing a jurisdictional challenge in the trial court;
3. Stay the present appeal pending resolution of that jurisdictional issue;
4. Permit Appellant to request new appointed counsel after the jurisdictional defect issue is resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

151 Ray Chestnut
Ray Edward Chestnut
Appellant, pro se
SCDC # 304094

Kirkland Correctional Institution
4344 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29210

December 11, 2025

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

SC Court of Appeals

I, Ray Edward Chestnut, hereby certify that on this 11th day of December, 2025, I have served a true and correct copy of the foregoing motions upon the following counsel of record [U.S. mail] with appropriate postage:

Chandler Norville, Esq.
SC commission on Indigent Defense
P.O. Box 34472
Columbia, SC 29234

Joshua Holford, Assistant solicitor
Horry County Solicitors Office
P.O. Box 1276
Conway, SC 29528

Respectfully submitted,

151 Ray Chestnut

Ray Edward Chestnut

Appellant, Pro se

SCDC # 304094

Kirkland Correctional Institution

4344 Broad River Road

Columbia, SC 29210

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COVER LETTER

To: Clerk of Court for the South Carolina Court of Appeals

From: Ray Edward Chestnut, Appellant

Re: Appellate Case No. 2025-001447 — Filing of Motion for Temporary Relief of counsel, Limited pro se Permission, and Stay of Appeal

Dear Clerk:

Enclosed please find the following documents for filing in the above-captioned appeal:

1. Motion for Temporary Relief of Appellate Counsel
2. Motion to Proceed Pro se for Limited Purpose
3. Motion to stay Appeal

Defendant/Appellant respectfully requests that these motions be filed and considered by the Court.

Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully submitted,

151 Ray Chestnut

Ray Edward Chestnut

Appellant, Pro Se

SCDC # 304094

Kirkland Correctional Institution

4344 Broad River Road

Columbia, SC 29210

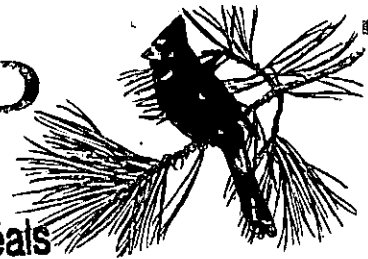
December 11, 2025

Ray, Edward Chestnut, SCDC #304094
Kirkland Correctional Institution, Unit B2, Cell #22
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Attn: Clerk's office
U.S. Court of Appeals
P.O. Box 11629
Columbia, SC 29211

2921134229 8012



* Legal mail