

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

In The Court of Appeals

Appellate Case No. 2025-001447

THE STATE,

Respondent.

VS

RAY EDWARD CHESTNUT,

Defendant.

RECEIVED  
DEC 29 2025  
SC Court of Appeals

MOTION TO RELIEVE APPELLANT COUNSEL  
(CHANDLER NORVILLE)

COMES NOW the Defendant, Ray Edward Chestnut, pro se, and respectfully moves this court to relieve Chandler Norville as appellate counsel in the above-captioned matter.

1. The Defendant has lost confidence in counsel's ability to timely and adequately represent his interest on appeal, as counsel has repeatedly failed to respond to inquires, communicate case strategy, and raise critical issues, including jurisdictional defects in

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in the trial court proceedings.

2. The Defendant intends to proceed pro se and is doing so freely and voluntarily.

3. Pursuant to *Faretta v. California*, 422 U.S. 806 (1975), a criminal defendant has the constitutional right to self-representation if done knowingly and intelligently. While *Martinez v. Court of Appeals of California*, 528 U.S. 152 (2000), confirms no constitutional right exists on direct appeal, the court retains discretion to permit pro se participation once counsel is relieved.

4. The Defendant submits that continued representation by current counsel will irreparably harm his interests, as critical jurisdictional and void-judgment claims may be waived if not raised timely.

WHEREFORE, the Defendant respectfully requests the court to:

a) Relieve Chandler Norville as appellate counsel;

b) Grant the defendant leave to proceed pro se to protect his rights.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ray Chestnut

Ray Edward Chestnut

SCDC # 304094

Kirkland Correctional Institution

4344 Broad River Rd.

Columbia, SC 29210

December 15, 2025

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing "motion to Relieve Counsel (Chandler Norville)" has been served on the parties addressed below by via U.S. mail with appropriate postage on this 15th day of December, 2025.

Addressee(s) :

Chandler Norville , Appellant counsel  
S.C. Commission on Indigent Defense  
P.O. Box 11589  
Columbia, SC 29211

Joshua Holford, senior solicitor  
Horry County Solicitor's Office  
P.O. Box 1276  
Conway, SC 29528

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Alan Wilson  
S.C. Attorney General Office  
P.O. Box 11549  
Columbia, SC 29211

151 Ray Chestnut  
Ray Edward Chestnut