



The Supreme Court of South Carolina

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January 06, 2026

Valentino M. Hayward, 00366107
Lee Correctional Inst.
990 Wisacky Highway
Bishopville, SC 29010

Re: Valentino M. Hayward v. State
Appellate Case No. 2025-001530

Dear Petitioner:

Your counsel has submitted a petition for writ of certiorari indicating that this appeal is without merit and moves to be relieved as your counsel. *Johnson v. State*, 294 S.C. 310, 364 S.E.2d 201 (1988). The records of this Court reflect that counsel served you with a copy of the Petition and Appendix.

You may, within forty-five (45) days of the date of this letter, file with this Court a *pro se* response to the petition filed by your counsel. In this response, you may raise and argue any issues you believe the Court should consider in this appeal. Upon receipt of your *pro se* response or the expiration of forty-five (45) days, the matter will be submitted to the Court for its consideration.

If you do decide to file a *pro se* response, the response must be either typewritten or legibly hand printed and must have at least an inch margin on all sides. Further, you will need to only submit one copy of your response, and this copy should not be stapled or bound in any manner.

Very truly yours,

Brenda J. Shaaly

CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

cc: D. Russell Barlow, II
David Alexander