



SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON INDIGENT DEFENSE

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Mar 23 2026

SC Court of Appeals

Wanda H. Carter, Chief Appellate Defender

March 23, 2026

Jenny Abbott Kitchings
Clerk, South Carolina Court of Appeals
PO Box 11629
Columbia, SC 29211

Re: Jody Lynn Ward v. The State | Appellate Case No. 2025-001703

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

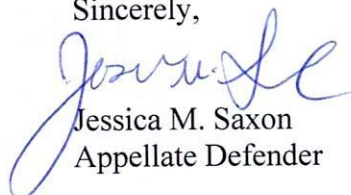
I am writing to request clarification from the Court on the status of this case.

Based upon my calendar, the second extension in which to file and serve the petition for writ of certiorari in this case is due to be filed today. However, upon reviewing the posture of the case on c-track, I realized that a ruling has not been issued on the first request for an extension on the appeal from the denial of post-conviction DNA testing that was filed on February 20, 2026. The extension request was filed pursuant to the order of this Court dated January 21, 2026, directing the petition for writ of certiorari to be filed within thirty days of the order. Additionally, there has not been a ruling on this office's petition to appoint outside counsel for the appeal from the denial of the Rule 29(b), SCRCrimP motion which was filed on February 12, 2026.

The case status on c-track states the case is "held in abeyance" – however there is no order from this Court holding the matter in abeyance. At this juncture, undersigned counsel is unsure of what action should be taken to preserve Mr. Ward's appellate rights. I kindly request clarification confirming whether the case is held in abeyance and that it does not require further action until this Court issues rulings on the pending petition to appoint outside counsel and the motion for first extension.

If the Court has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jessica M. Saxon
Appellate Defender

JMS/kw

cc: Melody J. Brown