



The Supreme Court of South Carolina

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POST OFFICE BOX 11330
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA
29211

1231 GERVAIS STREET
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201

TELEPHONE: (803) 734-1080

FAX: (803) 734-1499

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March 24, 2026

Mark Lorenzo Blake, Jr., 368687
Kershaw Correctional Institution
4848 Gold Mine Hwy
Kershaw, SC 29067

Re: Mark Blake v. State
Appellate Case No. 2025-000420

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.

Within forty-five (45) days of the date of this letter, you may file 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. If you decide to file a *pro se* response, the response must be either typewritten or legibly handwritten, and it 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda J. Shaly". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

cc: Denise Grainger Swope
Mark Reynolds Farthing