

The South Carolina Court of Appeals

Jody Lynn Ward, Petitioner,

v.

State of South Carolina, Respondent.

Appellate Case No. 2025-001703

ORDER

On August 25, 2025, Jody Lynn Ward filed a single notice of appeal from two different orders: (1) an order denying his motion for a new trial pursuant to Rule 29 of the South Carolina Rules of Criminal Procedure, and (2) an order denying his application for post-conviction DNA testing pursuant to sections 17-28-10 to -120 of the South Carolina Code (2014). After careful review of the orders on appeal, we find it necessary to separate these appeals. For the order denying post-conviction DNA testing, the parties shall use the caption and appellate case number listed above. For the order denying the motion for new trial, the parties shall use appellate case number 2025-002597 and a caption that refers to Ward as the appellant, and the State as the respondent.

On October 7, 2025, Ward's retained counsel moved to be relieved. On December 1, 2025, this court issued an order holding this appeal in abeyance for thirty days to allow the Office of Appellate Defense to screen the case for representation. On December 15, 2025, the Office of Appellate Defense sent a letter to this court stating Ward was approved for representation. On January 21, 2026, this court issued an order relieving retained counsel and stating the Office of Appellate Defense would assume representation. On February 12, 2026, the Office of Appellate Defense filed a motion for the appointment of outside counsel, stating it would only accept representation for the appeal of the order denying Ward's application for post-conviction DNA testing and that it did not represent individuals in appeals from orders denying motions for new trial. After careful consideration, we deny the motion to appoint outside counsel. The Office of Appellate Defense shall represent Ward in both appeals.

Finally, based upon this court's reading of the orders on appeal, it does not appear the parties need to order a transcript. Therefore, Ward shall file his petition for writ of certiorari and appendix within thirty days of the date of this order concerning the order denying his application for post-conviction DNA testing. Further, Ward shall file his initial brief and designation of matter within thirty days of the date of this order concerning the order denying his motion for new trial.



J.

FOR THE COURT

Columbia, South Carolina

cc:

Melody Jane Brown, Esquire

Wanda H. Carter, Esquire

Jessica M. Saxon, Esquire

Jody L. Ward, 00300644

FILED
Apr 07 2026