

The Supreme Court of South Carolina

Darius T. Cathcart, Respondent,

v.

State of South Carolina, Petitioner.

Appellate Case No. 2025-000936

ORDER

Respondent has filed a motion to relieve appellate counsel, Appellate Defender Sarah E. Shipe, and proceed *pro se*.

Respondent may proceed *pro se* in this matter only after knowingly and intelligently waiving the right to counsel. *See Faretta v. California*, 422 U.S. 806 (1975); *State v. Brewer*, 328 S.C. 117, 492 S.E.2d 97 (1997). We take this opportunity to warn Petitioner that this Court requires *pro se* parties to fully comply with all applicable rules. Respondent is certain to be unlearned in other aspects of the law as well. Representation by an attorney trained in the law would be highly beneficial, and we strongly encourage Respondent to continue with representation by the Division of Appellate Defense.

After considering this information, Respondent shall, within twenty days of the date of this order, notify this Court whether he wishes to proceed *pro se* or to continue to be represented by Sarah Shipe of the Division of Appellate Defense. If Respondent notifies this Court that he wishes to proceed *pro se* despite the dangers and disadvantages of doing so, this Court will then determine if it will allow him to do so. *Cf. State v. Roberts*, 364 S.C. 583, 588, 614 S.E.2d 626, 629 (2005) (holding there is no right to proceed *pro se* on appeal). If Respondent fails to notify this Court within twenty days, the Division of Appellate Defense will continue to provide representation in this matter.

John R. Kettle C.J.
John Cannon J.
Shipe J.
D. Russell Barlow II J.
Debra H. Verduin J.

Columbia, South Carolina
May 21, 2026

cc:
D. Russell Barlow II
Sarah Elizabeth Shipe