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JUN 29 2026

S.C. SUPREME COURT

IN THE SUPREME COURT
SOUTH CAROLINA

In The Court of Common Pleas
Charleston County

Honorable Dale E Van Slambrook

CA, No. 2025-CP-10-00527

Keelon Butler Appellant

Vs

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA. Respondent

NOTICE OF APPEAL AND
RULE 243(C) EXPLANATION

Notice is hereby given that the Appellant appeals from the order of Dismissal issued by the order Dale E Van Slambrook of the Honorable Common Pleas Charleston County filed on May 21, 2026.

This appeal is taken pursuant to Rule 203 and 243, SCACR.

RULE 243(C) EXPLANATION

The PCR Court erred in dismissing the Applicant's application for post-conviction relief because the application raised substantial constitutional claims affecting the validity of guilty plea and resulting conviction.

The Applicant alleged that the guilty plea was not knowingly, intelligently and voluntarily entered because the plea court failed to adequately explain the essential elements of the offense before accepting the plea. Due process requires that a defendant understand the nature of the charge and the elements of the offense in order to make an informed decision to plead guilty.

The Applicant further alleged that trial counsel rendered ineffective assistance by failing to request or obtain a mental health evaluation despite concerns regarding the Applicant's mental health. The plea transcript reflects that the plea court questioned the Applicant concerning his mental health. This inquiry placed counsel on notice that further investigation into the Applicant's mental condition was warranted. Nevertheless, counsel failed to seek a mental health evaluation or otherwise investigate whether the Applicant possessed the capacity to understand the proceedings and knowingly enter a guilty plea.

As a result, substantial questions exist concerning the Applicant's competency, the effectiveness of counsel, and whether the guilty plea

was entered knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily as required by the United States Constitution and the South Carolina Constitution,

The PCR court's dismissal deprived the Applicant of meaningful review of these constitutional claims.

Therefore, appellate review is warranted, and the interests of justice require reversals of the order further proceedings

WHEREFORE, Applicant respectfully requests that this court reverse the order of Dismissal entered by the Honorable Dale E. Anslambrook and remand this matter for an evidentiary hearing and such other relief as may be just and proper.

Respectfully submitted
s/ Keon Bell

Date 6/22/26 2026

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CHARLESTON

Keeon Butler, #243002,

Applicant,

v.

State of South Carolina,

Respondent.

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS JUN 29 2026
IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

CASE NO. 2025-CP-10-00527

S.C. SUPREME COURT

FINAL ORDER
OF DISMISSAL

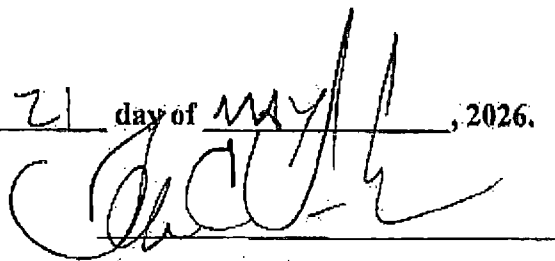
This matter is before the Court by way of an application for post-conviction relief (PCR) filed by Keeon Butler (Applicant) on January 29, 2025. Respondent filed a return and motion to dismiss the application as successive and untimely. After reviewing the records and pleadings, this Court agreed this application should be summarily dismissed and provisionally dismissed the action by way of a Conditional Order of Dismissal filed March 16, 2026, giving Applicant twenty days from the date of service of said Order to show why the dismissal should not become final. Attached to this Final Order and incorporated herein by reference is a Certificate of Service indicating Applicant was served the Conditional Order of Dismissal on March 24, 2026.

On March 25, 2026, Applicant filed a response to the conditional order of dismissal. Applicant has not set forth a valid basis to set aside the statute of limitations, nor has he set forth any cognizable claim that could not have been raised in his prior PCR application. Viewed in the light most favorable to Applicant, Applicant has not set forth a sufficient reason why the statute of limitations or prohibition against successive applications should not apply. Thus, there is no basis for an evidentiary hearing.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that for the reasons set forth in the Court's Conditional Order of Dismissal and in this Final Order of Dismissal, this PCR application is hereby **DENIED AND DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE**. Should Applicant wish to procure appellate review, he must file and serve a notice of appeal within thirty days of this Order. See Rule 203, SCACR. Applicant's attention is directed to Rule 243, SCACR, for the procedures following the filing and service of the notice of appeal.



AND IT IS SO ORDERED this 21 day of May, 2026.



DALE E. VAN SLAMBROOK
Chief Administrative Judge – Common Pleas
Ninth Judicial Circuit

Moultrie Co., South Carolina

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