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S.C. SUPREME COURT

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE SUPREME COURT**

Certiorari to Anderson County
The Honorable Daniel D. Hall, Circuit Court Judge

Appellate Case No. 2025-002426

RAEFORD DERRANE WIDEMAN,

Petitioner,

vs.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

Respondent.

**MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE
RETURN TO PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI**

The undersigned counsel would respectfully request a 30-day extension in which to file the Return to Petition for Writ of Certiorari in the above-referenced case. Opposing counsel has consented to all extension requests through September 1, 2026. In support of this motion, counsel would respectfully show the Court the following:

The Return to Petition for Writ of Certiorari is due today, August 5, 2026, upon this Court's grant of Respondent's third request for an extension filed July 7, 2026.

The undersigned attorney for the Respondent has had a number matters to attend since July 7, 2026, Specifically,

1. Counsel prepared and served a Proposed Order of Dismissal in *Shemar Payne v. State*, a Lexington County PCR matter for Judge David Caraker on July 7, 2026, which was filed July 13, 2026.
2. In the federal habeas action in U.S. District Court, filed opposition to Rule 59 motion in *Joshua Jeter v. SCDC* on July 10, 2026.
3. On July 13, 2026, filed a Return to Petition for Writ of Certiorari in *Jo Pradubsri v. State*, in the South Carolina Supreme Court,
4. In *State v. Eric Pinckney*, a Richland Court DNA application matter, prepared consent orders related to Consent to Order for Forensic DNA testing and numerous Orders for Preservation and Inventory of Evidence (4 orders) on July 19, 2026, which Judge Heath Taylor signed and filed July 24, 2026.
5. On July 27, 2026, counsel filed in the *Patrick Booker v Warden* federal habeas corpus action three separate responses in opposition to Booker's *pro se* motions; Motion to Recuse, Motion for Limited Discovery, and Motion for Summary Judgment.
6. Counsel prepared and served a Proposed Order of Dismissal in the Lexington PCR case *Robert Rome Green v. The State of South Carolina* on August 29, 2026 to Judge David Caraker, that was filed August 3, 2026.
7. On July 31, 2026, counsel prepared and served a Proposed Order of Dismissal in the Lexington County case of *Jason Donn Lee v. State* for Judge Caraker.
8. On August 3, 2026, Counsel prepared and filed on August 3, 2026, Responses to Motion for Stay and Motion to Order State Supreme Court Clerk to Certify Record in *Patrick Booker v. Warden of Kirkland Correctional Institution*, a federal habeas corpus matter challenging a contempt conviction .

9. Throughout this period, counsel has been preparing a proposed order of dismissal for Judge Maddox on *Willian Chad Marino v. State*, a Lexington PCR matter.
10. Counsel has also been preparing the Return to the Petition for Writ of Certiorari in Raeford *Wideman v. State*.

However, due to counsel's involvement in these and other matters pending in state and federal court and considering counsel's responsibilities as Deputy Attorney General of the Criminal Division, counsel is unable to timely complete the Return in this proceeding. Thus, counsel is requesting an extension of time in which to file the Return in this matter. This request is made in good faith, and not for the purposes of delay.

WHEREFORE, premises considered, for extraordinary circumstances and good cause shown, counsel hereby respectfully requests a 30-day extension of time to serve and file the Return to Petition for Writ of Certiorari.

Respectfully submitted,

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s/Donald J. Zelenka
By: _____
DONALD J. ZELENKA
ATTORNEYS FOR RESPONDENT

I concur that extraordinary circumstances have been shown.
s/ W. Jeffrey Young
W. Jeffrey Young
Chief Deputy Attorney General.