

RECEIVED

Aug 17 2026

S.C. SUPREME COURT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In the Supreme Court

On Petition for Writ of Certiorari to the Court of Appeals
Appeal from Florence County
The Honorable H. Steven DeBerry IV, Circuit Court Judge

THE STATE,

Respondent,

v.

WILLIE JAMES SMITH,

Petitioner.

Appellate Case No. 2026-001428

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that pursuant to Rule 262(c)(3), SCACR and the Supreme Court order of April 24, 2024, the Return to Petition for Writ of Certiorari, along with Certificate of Service has been forwarded to Petitioner's counsel, Kathrine H. Hudgins, Esquire via email today, August 17, 2026 to KHudgins@sccid.sc.gov and to her assistant at Cstock@sccid.sc.gov.

I further certify that all parties required by Rule to be served have been served.

This 17th day of August 2026.

s/ Angela Brown

Angela Brown
Legal Assistant to Melody J. Brown
Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General

Angela Brown

From: Angela Brown
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 4:44 PM
To: Hudgins, Kathrine; Stock, Chris
Cc: Melody Brown
Subject: The State v. Willie Smith
Attachments: Smith.Return to Petition for Writ of Certiorari.pdf

Ms. Hudgins, please find attached the State's Return to Petition for Writ of Certiorari regarding the above referenced appeal. The Return will be electronically filed with the South Carolina Supreme Court on today's date.

Thank you,

Angela Bennett Brown, Administrative Coordinator II
Office of the South Carolina Attorney General
Criminal Division | Office [803-734-0368](tel:803-734-0368) | Abennett@scag.gov
P.O. Box 11549 | Columbia, SC 29211



This email, together with any attachments, may be legally privileged. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender immediately, and then delete it from your system. This email and any replies to this email may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.