

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Supreme Court

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S.C. SUPREME COURT

APPEAL FROM CHARLESTON COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

S. Bryan Doby, Circuit Court Judge

Case No. 2025-CP-10-2984

Corwin L. Manigault

Appellant,

v.

State of South Carolina,

Respondent.

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Corwin L. Manigault hereby appeals the denial and dismissal of his application for post conviction relief in this case. An evidentiary hearing in the matter was convened before the Honorable S. Bryan Doby. Following the hearing, Judge Doby issued a written order denying and dismissing the application with prejudice filed August 17, 2026. Undersigned counsel was emailed a written filed copy of said order on or about August 18, 2026.

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September 16, 2026

s/ Denise Grainger. Swope
Denise Grainger, Swope
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Other Counsel of Record:

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Attorney for Respondent

) IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
) FOR THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

CASE NO. 2025-CP-10-02984

ORDER OF DISMISSAL

ADD 11 2020

JULIE J. ARMSTRONG
CLERK, C.P. & G.S.

Following a thorough review of the record, along with the testimony and evidence presented at the hearing, this Court finds Applicant has failed to establish any constitutional violations or deprivations entitling him to relief and, accordingly, denies and dismisses this action with prejudice.

Applicant is presently confined in the South Carolina Department of Corrections serving an active seven-year sentence. In February 2024, the Charleston County Grand Jury indicted Applicant for murder (2024-GS-10-01256) and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime (2024-GS-10-01257). On March 27, 2024, Applicant appeared before the

Honorable Deadra L. Jefferson and pled guilty pursuant to a negotiated plea. Ninth Circuit Public Defenders Helen Rose Roper Dovell and Douglas Allen Henley represented Applicant. Assistant Solicitor Stephanie B. Linder represented the State. Judge Jefferson sentenced Applicant pursuant to the negotiated plea to twenty-three years' imprisonment for voluntary manslaughter, five years' for possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime and seven years' for trafficking cocaine 28 grams but less than 100 grams¹ all to run concurrently. Applicant appealed and the appeal was dismissed for failure to provide a sufficient explanation as required by Rule 203(d)(1)(B)(iv). The remittitur was sent July 9, 2024.

CURRENT APPLICATION

Applicant commenced this PCR action on May 22, 2025, asserting he is being held in custody unlawfully based on the following:

1. "Ineffective assistance of counsel guilty plea invalid, not knowing and intelligently"
 - a. "Was not advise[d] jailtime credit would not be counted towards sentence"
2. "Ineffective assistance of counsel erroneous legal advice leading to guilty plea"
 - a. "misinformed applicant of time he would receive if found guilty of lesser offers"
3. "Sentencing Court did not credit Applicant's time served"
 - a. "Time served credit not given"²

Applicant requests "set aside Applicant sentence for Vol[u]ntary Manslaughter".

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

This Court has had the opportunity to review the records before it, including the Charleston County Clerk of Court records of the underlying conviction, Applicant's records from the South

¹ Applicant waived indictment for this charge (2024-GS-10-02423).

² Respondent's partial motion to dismiss was granted and this allegation was dismissed at the onset of the hearing.

Carolina Department of Corrections, the plea transcript, and the records from this PCR action. This Court has further had the opportunity to observe the witnesses presented at the hearing, closely pass upon their credibility, and weigh their testimony accordingly. After a careful review based on the Strickland standard set forth below, this Court finds Applicant has failed to carry his burden of proof. Below are the Court's findings of fact and conclusions of law as required by section 17-27-80 of the South Carolina Code (2017).

Ineffective Assistance of Counsel/ Involuntary Plea

In a PCR action, an applicant bears the burden of proving the allegations in his application. Butler v. State, 286 S.C. 441, 334 S.E.2d 813 (1985). To prove ineffective assistance of counsel, the applicant must show counsel was deficient, and the deficiency prejudice applicant. Strickland v. Washington, 466 U.S. 668 (1984). When evaluating deficiency, courts measure an attorney's performance by its "reasonableness under prevailing professional norms." Cherry, 300 S.C. at 117, 386 S.E. 2d at 635 (quoting Strickland, 366 U.S. at 690). "Counsel is strongly presumed to have rendered adequate assistance and made all significant decisions in the exercise of reasonable professional judgment." Butler, 286 S.C. at 442, 334 S.E.2d at 814 (citing Strickland, 466 U.S. at 690). The applicant must overcome this presumption to receive relief. Cherry, 300 S.C. at 118, 386 S.E.2d at 625. To prove prejudice, an applicant must prove counsel's deficient performance prejudiced the applicant such that "there is a reasonable probability that, but for counsel's unprofessional errors, the result of the proceeding would have been different. Id. at 117-18, 386 S.E.2d at 625. When reviewing a guilty plea, the Strickland deficiency prong remains unchanged – Applicant must show that counsel's representation fell below an objective standard of reasonableness. Hill, 474 U.S. at 58-59. To show prejudice, Applicant must show a reasonable probability "that, but for counsel's [alleged] errors, he would not have pled guilty and would have

insisted on going to trial.” Id. at 59. To be knowing and voluntary, the defendant must be advised of the constitutional rights he is waiving, including the right to a jury trial, the right to confront one’s accusers, and the privilege against self-incrimination. Boykin, 395 U.S. at 243.

Involuntary Guilty Plea

Applicant alleged his guilty plea was involuntary because he was not advised his jailtime credit would not count towards his sentence and Counsel misadvised him of the time he would receive if he was found guilty of lesser offenses. This Court finds this allegation is without merit.

An applicant who enters a guilty plea on the advice of counsel may only attack the voluntary and intelligent character of the plea by showing that trial counsel’s representation fell below an objective standard of reasonableness and that there is a reasonable probability that, but for trial counsel’s errors, the defendant would not have pled guilty but would have insisted on going to trial instead. Roscoe v. State, 345 S.C 16, 20, 546 S.E.2d 417, 419 (2001); Richardson v. State, 310 S.C. 360, 363, 362 426 S.E.2d 795, 797 (1993).

Counsel testified that he reviewed the discovery with Applicant. Counsel testified that he does not believe Applicant wanted to go to trial. Counsel testified that he reviewed potential sentences and rights Applicant was giving up by pleading with him. Counsel testified that he asked for credit for house arrest. This Court finds Counsel’s testimony to be credible.

Applicant did not provide any evidence to support the allegation that counsel misadvised him on sentencing or credit. The record reflects Applicant told the plea court that he was satisfied with counsel’s services, counsel answered all of his questions and did everything he asked and expected. (Plea Tr. p. 61). Further the records reflects Applicant *was* awarded credit for time served and credit for monitored house arrest. (Plea Tr. p. 84). Applicant has not provided any evidence to prove counsel’s representation fell below an objective standard of reasonableness. Applicant has

failed to prove deficiency and prejudice. Applicant has presented no valid reason why he should be able to depart from the statements made during his guilty plea. See Crawford v. United States, 519 F.2d 347, 350 (4th Cir. 1975), overruled on other grounds by United States v. Whiteley, 759 F.2d 317 (4th Cir. 1985) (finding that the accuracy and truth of an accused's statements at a guilty plea proceeding are "conclusively" established unless he makes some reasonable allegation why this should not be so). Thus, based on the evidence presented at the plea proceeding and the evidentiary hearing, this Court finds Applicant freely, knowingly, and voluntarily pled guilty.

Based on the foregoing, this Court finds the Applicant has failed to present sufficient evidence to prove the first prong of the Strickland test—that Plea Counsel failed to render reasonably effective assistance under prevailing professional norms. Furthermore, Applicant has failed to present specific and compelling evidence that Plea Counsel committed either errors or omissions to prove the second prong of Strickland as laid out in Hill—that but for Plea Counsel's deficient performance, Applicant would have gone to trial and not pled guilty. Accordingly, this Court finds Applicant has failed to establish any deficiency by Plea Counsel or any prejudice flowing therefrom. Thus, this allegation is denied.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, this Court finds and concludes Applicant has not established any constitutional violations or deprivations that would require this Court to grant her application. Therefore, this application for post-conviction relief is **DENIED and DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE**.

Should Applicant wish to secure appellate review, she must file and serve a notice of appeal within thirty days of receipt by counsel of written notice of entry of judgment. See Rule 203, SCACR. Pursuant to Austin v. State, 305 S.C. 453, 409 S.E.2d 395 (1991), an Applicant has a

right to an appellate counsel's assistance in seeking review of the denial of PCR. Rule 71.1(g), SCRCRCP, provides that PCR counsel must serve and file a Notice of Appeal on the Applicant's behalf if the Applicant wishes to seek appellate review. Attention is directed to South Carolina Appellate Court Rule 243 for appropriate procedures for appeal.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The Application for Post-Conviction Relief is denied and dismissed with prejudice; and
2. Applicant shall be remanded to and remain in the custody of the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED this 3 day of August 2026.



THE HONORABLE S. BRYAN DOBY
Presiding Judge
Ninth Judicial Circuit

Bishopville, South Carolina



ALAN WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

August 12, 2026

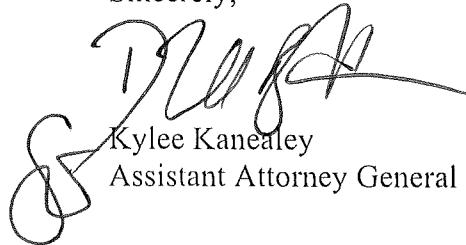
The Honorable Julie J. Armstrong
Charleston County Clerk of Court
100 Broad Street, Suite 106
Charleston, South Carolina 29401

Re: **Corwin Lenard Manigault, #371059 v. State of South Carolina**
Case No. 2025-CP-10-02984

Dear Ms. Armstrong:

Enclosed for filing, please find the original Order of Dismissal, signed by the Honorable S. Bryan Doby, for the above-captioned case. Please forward a time-stamped copy back to our office for our file.

Sincerely,



Kylee Kanealey
Assistant Attorney General

KK/vh
Enclosure

cc: Denise G. Swope, Esquire