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S.C. SUPREME COURT

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE SUPREME COURT
APPEAL FROM CHARLESTON COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas
The Honorable S. Bryan Doby, PCR Action Judge
2022-CP-10-01412

LOUIS REVILLE, #351235,

Petitioner,

v.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

Respondent.

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Louis Reville appeals the denial of his post-conviction relief application. The post-conviction relief action was heard and denied by the Honorable S. Bryan Doby, circuit court judge, on June 16, 2026, and was denied by written order issued filed on August 17, 2026. Applicant received notice of the judgement on August 18, 2026.

/s Chelsey F. Marto
Chelsey F. Marto, Esquire
Attorney for the Applicant
The Law Office of Chelsey F. Marto, LLC
P.O. Box 8795
Columbia, SC, 29201
(864)-404-5583

Other Counsel of Record:
Kylee Kanealey, Esquire
Office of the Attorney General, State of SC
P.O. Box 11549
Columbia, SC, 29211-1549

) IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
) NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

) CASE NO. 2022-CP-10-01412

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) ORDER OF DISMISSAL

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

Applicant is presently confined in the South Carolina Department of Corrections serving an active fifty-year sentence. In March 2012, the Charleston County Grand Jury indicted

Applicant for five counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct (CSC) with a minor,¹ twelve counts of lewd act on a child,² and five counts of disseminating obscene material to a minor.³ That same month, the Berkeley County Grand Jury indicted Applicant for five counts of second-degree CSC with a minor,⁴ five counts of lewd act upon a child,⁵ and one count of disseminating obscene material to a minor.⁶ In April 2012, the Dorchester County Grand Jury indicted Applicant for one count of first-degree CSC with a minor,⁷ one count of second-degree CSC with a minor,⁸ four counts of lewd act upon a child,⁹ seven counts of criminal solicitation of a minor,¹⁰ and two counts of disseminating obscene material to a minor.¹¹

On June 13, 2012, Applicant pled guilty in Charleston County before the Honorable R. Markley Dennis, Jr. V. Craig Jones, Jr., Esquire, represented Applicant. Solicitor Scarlett Wilson and Assistant Solicitor Debi Herring-Lash of the Ninth Circuit, and Assistant Solicitor Meghan Hall of the First Circuit represented the State. Applicant waived venue in Berkeley and Dorchester counties and pled guilty to one count of first-degree CSC with a minor (2012-GS-18-436); three counts of second-degree CSC with a minor (2012-GS-08-353, 2012-GS-08-356, 2012-GS-18-423); four counts of lewd act upon a minor (2012-GS-10-1978, 2012-GS-18-425, 2012-GS-18-430, 2012-GS-18-436); three counts of criminal solicitation of a minor (2012-GS-18-0426, 2012-GS-18-0427, 2012-GS-18-0438); and two counts of disseminating obscene material to a minor (2012-GS-8-361, 2012-GS-18-0437). Judge Dennis sentenced Applicant to concurrent terms of

¹ 2012-GS-10-1833; -1834; -1835; -1846; -1847.

² 2012-GS-10-1832; -1836; -1837; -1838; -1842; -1845; -1848; -1921; -1923; -1925; -1978; -2045.

³ 2012-GS-10-1926; -1927; -1974; -1977; -1979.

⁴ 2012-GS-08-0352; -0353; -0356; -0357; -0360.

⁵ 2012-GS-08-0351; -0354; -0355; -0358; -0359.

⁶ 2012-GS-08-0361.

⁷ 2012-GS-18-0436.

⁸ 2012-GS-18-0433.

⁹ 2012-GS-18-0425; -0430; -0432; -0435.

¹⁰ 2012-GS-18-0424; -0426; -0427; -0429; -0431; -0434; -0438.

¹¹ 2012-GS-18-0428; -0437.

fifty years for first-degree CSC; twenty years for each second-degree CSC charge; ten years for each dissemination charge; ten years for each solicitation charge; and fifteen years for three of the lewd act charges. Judge Dennis sentenced Applicant to a consecutive term of fifteen years for the remaining lewd act charge, suspended upon the service of five years' probation.

Applicant timely filed a motion to reconsider the sentence. On May 29, 2019, a hearing convened before Judge Dennis. Tommy A. Thomas, Esquire, represented Applicant. Assistant Solicitor Debbie Herring-Lash represented the State. In addition to arguing his sentence should be reduced so he could enter the Sexually Violent Predator program for rehabilitation, Applicant introduced into evidence (without objection) a psychological evaluation prepared by E. Selman Watson, Ph.D. on December 22, 2017. On July 5, 2019, Judge Dennis issued an order denying relief.

Applicant filed a timely notice of appeal, which was perfected by Mr. Thomas. On appeal, Applicant argued the circuit court abused its discretion in improperly sentencing Applicant and denying his motion for reconsideration, thus denying him an effective opportunity to enter the Sexually Violent Predator Program. In an unpublished opinion (2021-UP-393), the State of South Carolina Court of Appeals affirmed. The remittitur was sent November 22, 2021.

CURRENT APPLICATION

On March 25, 2022, Applicant timely commenced this PCR action:

1. Ineffective Assistance of Counsel
2. Involuntary Guilty Plea

As relief, Applicant requests a new trial.

On January 22, 2024, Applicant filed an amended application through counsel, Tommy Thomas alleging:

1. Plea counsel was ineffective in preparing for and presenting

mitigation at Applicant's plea. A significant amount of time was spent preparing this case for mitigation; however, none of this material was presented to the Court.

2. Applicant was informed by counsel that they each had certain individual roles.
 - a. Applicant's role was to do the right thing by his victims through cooperation, honesty, and help in their healing process. Plea counsel's job was to do the right thing by his client by clearly presenting any and all mitigating circumstances and to engage Applicant into a treatment program as quickly as possible.
 - b. Counsel failed in this strategy which left Applicant without effective representation.
3. Counsel's unpreparedness allowed a completely broken-down plea process. Had Applicant known that none of the planned presentation was going to be used, he would not have pled guilty, and would have gone to trial.
4. Applicant's expert, Dr. Bill Burke, had developed, through the assistance of Applicant, a very extensive power point presentation regarding mitigation issues. This power point presentation was not used in the plea.
5. Applicant was charged with criminal sexual conduct 1st degree. Applicant had been advised by counsel that he would not be pleading to this charge. However, on the day of the plea, he was informed that he would have to pled to this charge. Had Applicant known that counsel would abandon his comprehensive presentation and forsake the mitigation plan that had been developed, he would not have pled guilty to these charges.
6. Plea counsel never investigated Applicant's mental health history.
7. Plea counsel was ineffective for not interviewing any of Applicant's family members or developing a strategy to use other character witnesses.
8. Plea counsel never reviewed the discovery with Applicant or addressed discrepancies in Dr. Burke's reports.
9. Any and all other issues as they may arise from the PCR hearing.

At that time Respondent filed an amended return and motion to require Applicant to waive claims or to alternately a motion to disqualify counsel. On March 12, 2024, a hearing on the State's motion to disqualify counsel was held in Charleston County before the Honorable Walton J. McLeod, IV where counsel was disqualified. Chelsey F. Marto was subsequently retained and filed the letter of representation on May 28, 2024.

On June 16, 2026, Applicant, through counsel, filed an amended application alleging:

1. Ineffective assistance of plea counsel;
 - a. Not requesting the judge recuse himself when he indicated he had a strongly formed opinion in chambers based on media reports;
 - b. Failure to request a closed courtroom for the plea;
 - c. Failure to thoroughly communicate mitigation approach;
 - d. For going forward with a global plea versus separating out the pleas by county;
 - e. Failure to present a compelling mitigation defense
 - i. Failure to thoroughly flesh out sex offender treatment, issues and recidivism rates with Dr. Burke;
 - ii. Failure to present mitigation witnesses and letters;
 - iii. For erroneously advising Applicant to severely limit his apology to the Court and victims in lieu of a secondary mitigation approach;
 - iv. Failure to enter Dr. Burke's PowerPoint into evidence on Applicant's behalf;
 - v. Failure to thoroughly stress to the sentencing court the extent of Applicant's cooperation with the police;
 - vi. Failure to stress the sheer number of letters and clarification from Applicant to the victims in the case;
 - f. For erroneously advising Applicant that if he pled, he would receive no more than twenty-five years' imprisonment;
 - g. Failure to convey to Applicant the number, nature, and extent of victim's impact statements at the plea hearing;
 - h. Failure to stress the important of the Sexually Violent Predator program to the plea court;
 - i. Failure to procure a negotiated plea;
2. Ineffective assistance of appellate/sentencing reconsideration counsel for;
 - a. Failure to obtain a copy of the PowerPoint and utilize it on appeal or at the motion to reconsider the sentence hearing;
 - b. Failure to ensure Applicant was present for his motion to reconsider the sentence hearing so he could assist in his defense;
 - c. Failure to utilize letters of clarification in the motion to reconsider the sentence hearing.

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 Carolina Department of Corrections, the plea transcript, Applicants records from his motion to reconsider, Applicant's appellate records, 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

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 received 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.

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).

Failure to Request Recusal

Applicant alleged Plea Counsel was ineffective for failing to request the judge recuse himself when he indicated he had a strongly formed opinion in chambers based on media reports. This Court finds this allegation is without merit. Plea Counsel credibly testified that there was no indication the judge had heard anything and counsel never heard anything from the judge that would have caused him to question his ability to hear the case. Further, Applicant has presented no evidence to this court to support that there was impartiality from the judge in this case.

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.

Failure to Request a Closed Courtroom

Applicant alleged counsel was ineffective for failing to request a closed courtroom. This Court finds this allegation is without merit. Plea Counsel credibly testified that he did not think to ask to keep media out of the courtroom because they would be outside of the courthouse, and he did not think this would have any real effect on sentencing. Applicant presented no evidence to prove counsel was deficient for not requesting a closed courtroom. Further, Applicant

presented no evidence to prove that had it not been for counsel's failure to request a closed courtroom, he would have insisted on going to trial and not 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.

Failure to Communicate Mitigation Approach and Present Mitigation

Applicant alleged counsel was ineffective for failing to thoroughly communicate mitigation approach, and for failing to present a compelling mitigation defense. Specifically, Applicant alleges counsel failed to thoroughly flesh out sex offender treatment, issues and recidivism rates with Dr. Burke; failed to present mitigation witnesses and letters; erroneously advised Applicant to severely limit his apology to the Court and victims in lieu of a secondary mitigation approach, failed to enter Dr. Burke's PowerPoint into evidence on Applicant's behalf; failed to thoroughly stress to the sentencing court the extent of Applicant's cooperation with the police; and failed to stress the sheer number of letters and clarification from Applicant to the victims in the case. This Court finds these allegations are without merit.

As an initial matter, this Court finds plea counsel provided ample mitigation and was well above reasonable prevailing professional norms. Plea counsel provided to the sentencing court the

testimony of Dr. Burke, presented the judge with a letter from Applicant's wife and a PowerPoint from Dr. Burke, as well as stressed the extent of Applicant's cooperation with law enforcement.

Failure to Thoroughly Flesh Out Sex Offender Treatment, Issues and Recidivism Rates

Applicant alleged specifically plea counsel was ineffective for failing to thoroughly flesh out sex offender treatment, issues, and recidivism rates with Dr. Burke. This Court finds this allegation is without merit. Applicant did not present Dr. Burke as a witness before this court to further testify to what more Applicant believes should have been fleshed out resulting in mere speculation. The record reflects Dr. Burke did speak on Applicant's behalf at length at sentencing. Applicant has failed to prove plea counsel was deficient for not fleshing out more with Dr. Burke and has failed to prove any resulting prejudice.

Failure to Present Mitigation Witnesses and Letters

Applicant alleged plea counsel was ineffective for failing to present mitigation witnesses and letters. The record reflects plea counsel gave the sentencing judge a letter from Carrie Reville (Plea Tr. p. 96). At the post-conviction relief hearing, Applicant presented to this court a singular additional character letter and zero of the mitigation witnesses that counsel allegedly failed to present at sentencing. Applicant has failed to prove plea counsel was deficient for not presenting further mitigation witnesses and letters and has failed to prove any resulting prejudice.

For Advising Applicant to Limit his Apology

Applicant alleged plea counsel was ineffective for advising Applicant to severely limit his apology to the Court and victims in lieu of a secondary mitigation approach. This Court finds this allegation is without merit. The record reflects Applicant spoke and apologized. (Plea Tr. p. 107). Applicant has not provided to this court with a further apology that would have had a reasonable probability of changing the outcome of his sentence. Applicant had an opportunity to address the

sentencing court and took advantage of his opportunity to do so. Plea counsel provided ample mitigation on Applicant's behalf in addition to Applicant addressing the court and apologizing. Applicant has failed to prove plea counsel was deficient and has failed to prove any resulting prejudice.

Failure to Enter Dr. Burke's PowerPoint into Evidence on Applicant's Behalf

Applicant alleged plea counsel was ineffective for failing to enter Dr. Burke's PowerPoint into evidence on Applicant's behalf. This Court finds this allegation is without merit. The record reflects the court asked plea counsel "... you have presented me with a PowerPoint presentation from Dr. Burke. This would be consistent with what he is going to state here today?" to which counsel replied, "It is, Your Honor." (Plea Tr. p. 96). The record reflects the sentencing judge had been given this PowerPoint. The record reflects Dr. Burke then additionally went on to discuss the information that was contained in the PowerPoint. Plea counsel testified if he introduced the PowerPoint at the plea it could have been detrimental and that he wanted Dr. Burke to speak about the information that way if Judge Dennis had any questions he could answer them. This Court finds plea counsel articulated a valid mitigation strategy reasonable under prevailing professional norms. Applicant has failed to prove plea counsel was deficient and has failed to prove any resulting prejudice.

Failure to Stress Applicant's Cooperation with Law Enforcement

Applicant alleged plea counsel was ineffective for failing to stress to the sentencing court the extent of Applicant's cooperation with the police. This Court finds this allegation is without merit. The record reflects that plea counsel told the court "at that point – we've done over sixty pages of statements, and in my time I've never done that, 'I want to be available to law enforcement whenever they come, to whatever they need.' I think it is on there that in his first statement, as the

solicitor stated, he began to name names.” (Plea Tr. p. 103). Plea counsel further told the court “he wanted to insure – and I believe that in a number of the cases, he laid out the facts and basically law enforcement was able to go to the victims and say ‘are these correct’ without having to further delve into depths” (Plea Tr. p. 104). Plea counsel thoroughly stressed to the sentencing court the extent of Applicant’s cooperation. Applicant has failed to provide what more should have been said to further convey his cooperation. Applicant has failed to prove plea counsel was deficient and has failed to prove any resulting prejudice.

Failure to Stress Number of Letters of Clarification

Applicant alleged plea counsel was ineffective for failing to stress the sheer number of letters of clarification from Applicant to the victims in the case. This Court finds this allegation is without merit. “There are clarification letters for every single victim, with Dr. Burke, and we have notified the solicitor’s office as victims, if they get to a point to where they wish a therapist, we will provide those.” (Plea Tr. p. 106). This allegation is directly refuted by the record. Applicant has failed to prove plea counsel was deficient and has failed to prove any resulting prejudice.

Global Plea

Applicant alleged counsel was ineffective for going forward with a global plea versus separating out the pleas by county. This Court finds this allegation is without merit. Counsel credibly testified that he discussed with Applicant separating the pleas by counties, but Applicant wanted to plea during the short one-week window that the victims were out of school. Counsel credibly testified that he had a concern that one county may give a harsher sentence, and he thought there was higher likelihood of receiving a concurrent sentence if Applicant went forward with a global plea and pled to all of the charges at once. This Court finds Counsel discussed the options

of going forward with a global plea and separating the pleas out with Applicant, and Counsel articulated a valid strategy in proceeding with a global plea. Applicant has failed to prove plea counsel's performance fell below prevailing professional norms. Further, Applicant has failed to prove that but for the pleas not being separated out by county, he would have insisted on going to trial, and not 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.

Misadvising on Sentence

Applicant alleged plea counsel was ineffective for erroneously advising Applicant that if he pled, he would receive no more than twenty-five year' imprisonment. This Court finds this allegation is without merit. Counsel credibly testified that he reviewed the sentencing ranges with Applicant. Counsel credibly testified that he discussed the potential for a life sentence and the goal was to get less than life. Counsel credibly testified he never told Applicant that he should expect a sentence of no more than twenty-five years. Applicant testified that he believed he would get a sentence around twenty-five years but never testified that plea counsel specifically advised him that he would get no more than twenty-five years. This Court finds Applicant has failed to prove counsel misadvised him on his sentence.

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.

Victim Impact Statements

Applicant alleged plea counsel was ineffective for failing to convey to Applicant the number, nature, and extent of victim’s impact statements at the plea hearing. This Court finds this allegation is without merit. Counsel testified that they discussed the number of victims letters and victims speaking at the plea. Applicant testified that he knew about the victim’s impact statements, was prepared for them, and read them all the night before. This directly contradicts Applicant’s allegation.

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.

Failure to Stress the Importance of SVP

Applicant alleged plea counsel was ineffective for failing to stress the importance of the Sexually Violent Predator program to the plea court. This Court finds this allegation is without merit. The Sexually Violent Predator Act is not an alternative to incarceration to be considered at sentencing and is an entirely separate civil proceeding. See State v. Miller, 404 S.C. 29, 38, 744 S.E.2d 532, 537 (2013) (finding this Court and many others, to include the United States Supreme Court, have concluded that an SVP program is a civil, non-punitive treatment program). Therefore, counsel was not deficient for not stressing the importance of an unrelated proceeding that is not to be taken into consideration at sentencing, to the sentencing court. Accordingly, this Court finds Applicant has failed to establish any deficiency by Plea Counsel or any prejudice flowing therefrom. Thus, this allegation is denied.

Failure to Procure a Negotiated Plea

Applicant alleged plea counsel was ineffective for failing to procure a negotiated plea. This Court finds this allegation is without merit. Plea counsel credibly testified that there were no negotiated sentence offers. Plea counsel testified that it probably would have been an offer for 100 years. Applicant did not present any evidence in what plea counsel should have done differently to procure a negotiated plea. Accordingly, this Court finds Applicant has failed to establish any deficiency by Plea Counsel or any prejudice flowing therefrom. Thus, this allegation is denied.

Ineffective Assistance of Sentencing Reconsideration/Appellate Counsel PowerPoint

Applicant alleged appellate counsel was ineffective for failing to obtain a copy of the PowerPoint and utilize it on appeal or at the motion to reconsider the sentence hearing. This Court finds this allegation is without merit. As an initial matter, the record reflects the sentencing court asked plea counsel "... you have presented me with a PowerPoint presentation from Dr. Burke.

This would be consistent with what he is going to state here today?” to which counsel replied, “It is, Your Honor.” (Plea Tr. p. 96). As discussed *supra*, plea counsel gave the PowerPoint to Judge Dennis, who was also the Judge who heard the motion to reconsider the sentence. Further, this Court has reviewed the PowerPoint (Applicant’s Exhibit #2), and finds appellate counsel was not ineffective for failing to somehow utilize it at the motion to reconsider where the Judge already had it, nor for failing to utilize it on appeal. Applicant has failed to prove there is a reasonable probability there would be a different outcome at the motion to reconsider, nor the appeal had this PowerPoint been utilized. Accordingly, this Court finds Applicant has failed to establish any deficiency by appellate counsel or any prejudice flowing therefrom. Thus, this allegation is denied.

Failure to Ensure Applicant was Present

Applicant alleged counsel was ineffective for failing to ensure Applicant was present for his motion to reconsider the sentence hearing so he could assist in his defense. This Court finds this allegation is without merit. The record reflects that Applicant did not want to be present and waived his presence. (Motion to Reconsider Tx. P. 12). Applicant has not provided what more he could have offered at the motion to reconsider had he been present, or how his presence would have had a reasonable probability of changing the outcome of his motion to reconsider hearing. Accordingly, this Court finds Applicant has failed to establish any deficiency by appellate counsel or any prejudice flowing therefrom. Thus, this allegation is denied.

Failure to Utilize Letters of Clarification

Applicant alleged counsel was ineffective for failing to utilize letters of clarification in the motion to reconsider the sentence hearing. This Court finds this allegation is without merit. This Court finds this allegation is without merit. Applicant testified at the evidentiary hearing that he did not want counsel to use these letters for this purpose, and that it was never the purpose of those

letters contradicting this allegation. Appellate counsel testified that he did not see these letters as important for his argument for reduction at the motion hearing. Further, this Court has reviewed the letters of clarification (Applicant's Exhibit #1), and finds Applicant has failed to meet his burden in proving there is a reasonable probability there would have been a different outcome at motion to reconsider sentence had these been used. Accordingly, this Court finds Applicant has failed to establish any deficiency by appellate counsel or any prejudice flowing therefrom. Thus, this allegation is denied.

CONCLUSION

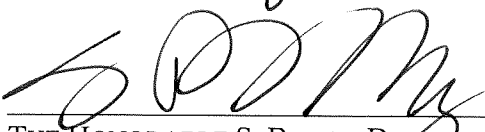
Based on all the foregoing, this Court finds and concludes that Applicant has not established any constitutional violations or deprivations that would require this Court to grant his application. Therefore, this application for post-conviction relief is **DENIED and DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE**.

Should Applicant wish to secure appellate review, he 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), SCRCP, 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 4 day of August, 2026.


THE HONORABLE S. BRYAN DOBY
Presiding Judge
Ninth Judicial Circuit

2784

Bishopville, South Carolina



ALAN WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

August 12, 2026

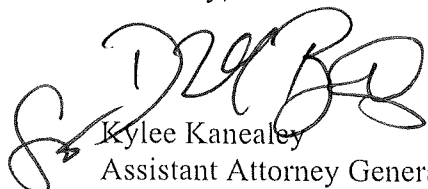
The Honorable Julie J. Armstrong
Charleston County Clerk of Court
100 Broad Street, Suite 106
Charleston, South Carolina 29401

Re: **Louis Reville, #351235 v. State of South Carolina**
Case No. 2022-CP-10-01412

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: Chelsey F. Marto, Esquire