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OCT 05 2026

SC Court of Appeals

CASE No. 2025-001678

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Honorable Grace Gilchrist Knie,

I am a drug addict, I also ~~do~~ suffer with major depression, PTSD, ADHD, learning disabilities and probably other things that I have not yet been diagnosed ~~with~~ ^{as} having. I have had those issues for a very long time. I was sexually abused from the age of 6 to 13 by step mom and whoever she felt like selling me to. ~~I started drinking around that~~ ~~same time~~ I was furnished alcohol and drugs by my abusers during the years I was being abused. I ran away from home and was living on the streets at the young age of 13. I learned that by doing these substances that I could block some of the pain and hurt I experienced. I attempted suicide on several occasions but for some reason God did not want me either. Over the years I've had one tragedy after another effect my life where I consumed more and more alcohol and drugs to keep myself numb. The death of my niece and nephew, and mom and dad very close together. You can say I'm not very equipped mentally to handle death and situations of that sort.

I am close to 60 yrs old and through this time being locked up, going on 2 years, it is the longest time I have been clean and sober since I was 6 yrs old and the abuse started. Although I feel my sentence is extreme, I can honestly admit that you have saved my life and I want to say thank you. I promise this 2 years for and the thought of spending 10 or more years in prison has shown me why I should not do drugs, but more than that is that I do not want to do drugs any more.

I am asking you to please give me a second chance to be a productive member of society. You and the South Carolina court system will not be disappointed mainly because through some counseling, I am learning that I don't want to disappoint myself or my family.

I am not a drug trafficker, I was a drug user. The amount I was charged with included the weight of the container not just the drugs I was using. I am an addict, not a drug dealer.

Unfortunately, I now understand that I should have listened to you and not signed that plea agreement, especially since my

attorney never explained it to me before court and I was pretty much coerced to sign it right then in court because my attorney said that it was the only way.

As you know I was only out for 4 days on home detention which I was forced to live at a spartanburg address, not knowing that the person I would be living with was a drug addict as well. They just let me go and stay there. I now wish they would have done a home inspection before allowing me to live there. But that is by no means an ~~and~~ excuse for me failing a drug test and again I have accepted responsibility for my actions. Again I wish I would have paid more attention to you in the court room about the 15 year sentence but as I've stated repeatedly my drug addiction has affected my thought process for a very long time. I am a drug addict and needed help, I don't need to die or spend the rest of my life in Prison.

Since I've been incarcerated, I have taken classes and earned several certificates,

AA/NA, Anger management, life skills, Navigating through incarceration, Introduction

to Social contract, Emotions 911, Character development, GED, Celebrate Recovery, Men's Fraternity, Mental health Peer to Peer Support, Men's Bible study, Catholic Mass, Protestant worship Services, etc.

I am starting to understand who I am as a person and with the help of God, Counseling, Friends and my family that I never have to do drugs again to mask the pain I have felt my ^{entire} whole life. I now know that there is a better way of life and if given another chance, I will live it to the fullest I can as a clean and sober member of Society.

If you find it in your heart to give me a second chance, I have a great place to live and a support system in place to help me continue on my road to recovery. My Sister and brother-in-law live in Greenville County and have agreed that I should live with them, My Sister is a nurse and ~~my~~ my brother-in-law just retired from the Greenville County Sheriff's Dept after 25 years of service. They will not allow ~~any~~ drugs or alcohol in their home and they will help me to get the mental health treatment I will need

to continue my Sobriety.

I've just recently moved from Allendale CI, A level II prison which had some drug issues, to Manning CI a level I prison which may be the most drug infested yard in South Carolina.

And I continue to be clean and Sober. But this isn't a place for an addict to be.

So I would like to ask you one more time to please consider giving me a Second chance at life. All of my fines have been paid. I don't think the time fits the crime I committed. And I have accepted full responsibility for my actions.

I hope you understand how sorry I am and how sincere I am when I say that I never want to use another drug for the rest of my short life that I have left.

So Please give me another chance.

Thank you for your time and Consideration.

Sincerely

Jones Wright

Mr. James Wright, #397580
Manning Correctional Institution
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Columbia, SC 29203

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