



ALAN WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

RECEIVED

JUN 16 2016

SC SUPREME COURT

June 16, 2016

The Honorable Daniel E. Shearouse
Clerk, South Carolina Supreme Court
Post Office Box 11330
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

RE: Randolph Ashford v. State of South Carolina
Appellate Case No. 2015-002509
Response to *pro se* motion for replacement of counsel

Dear Mr. Shearouse:

I submitted a letter to the Court last week regarding the above-captioned case and the motion for replacement of counsel. It referred to some issues that are not before the Court in this matter, as I was confusing this case with Mr. Ashford's contemporaneous post-conviction relief appeal regarding a DNA case. Please accept the following as my response to the motion.

The State wishes to leave the matter to the sound discretion of this Court. The State notes Mr. Ashford is currently represented by Appellate Defender Wanda H. Carter, who is highly skilled and experienced, and the State knows of no reason to relieve Ms. Carter. Ms. Carter, in her letter to the Court dated June 10, 2016, responds to the particular issues raised by Petitioner in his motion, and the State agrees with her assessment.

If this Court desires a more formal return, the State will promptly provide one upon request. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (803) 734-3737.

Sincerely,

Jessica E. Kinard
Assistant Attorney General

cc: Wanda H. Carter, Esquire
Randolph Ashford, SCDC#: 256638
Victim Services