

DATE 12/13/2016

*Beulah B. Roberts*

CLERK OF COURT  
CLARENDON COUNTY, SC

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
COUNTY OF CLARENDON )	THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
)	CASE NO. 2008-CP-14-183
)	
IN THE MATTER OF THE CARE )	
AND TREATMENT OF )	ORDER FOR RELEASE
MICHAEL LAWYER, )	
PETITIONER. )	
)	

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CLERK OF COURT  
CLARENDON COUNTY, SC

This matter comes before me upon the petition of Michael Lawyer for his release from confinement pursuant to the Sexually Violent Predator Act, S. C. Code Ann. Sections 44-48-10 *et seq.* A hearing was held on December 13, 2016, in the Sumter County Court of Common Pleas. Respondent was personally present and represented by Charles T. Brooks, III, Esquire, who has filed a Petition for Release on behalf of Petitioner. The State was represented by Christopher Morrow, Assistant Attorney General.

The Court heard testimony from Dr. Rozanna Tross, Psy. D. of the Department of Mental Health. The Court also received into evidence the following Exhibits: (1) letter to the Attorney General's Office dated November 7, 2015 from the State Director of the Department of Mental Health; (2) Memorandum from the Director of the Sexually Violent Predator Program at the Department of Mental Health, dated October 20, 2015, to the State Director of the Department of Mental Health authorizing Mr. Lawyer's release; (3) Sexually Violent Predator Treatment Program Annual Review Report by Dr. Tross dated July 26, 2016; and (4) Petitioner's Discharge Plan as developed by the Department of Mental Health, dated October 2016.

I have heard and considered the above information, and hereby find and conclude as follows:

1. Petitioner was found on or about April 6, 2009, to be a sexually violent predator and was committed to the Department of Mental Health for long-term control, care, and treatment, pursuant to S. C. Code Ann. Sections 44-48-10, *et seq.* This Order shall constitute a declaration that Petitioner is a sexually violent predator.
2. The Director of the Department of Mental Health states that Petitioner has successfully completed his treatment at the Sexually Violent Predator Treatment Program, and it is believed that his mental abnormality or personality disorder has so changed that he is safe to be at large and, if released, is not likely to commit acts of sexual violence.
3. The Department of Mental Health states that no sexual offender treatment program can guarantee what any individual will do. Nevertheless, based on the treatment received at the Sexually Violent Predator Treatment Program, Petitioner should

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SC Court of Appeals

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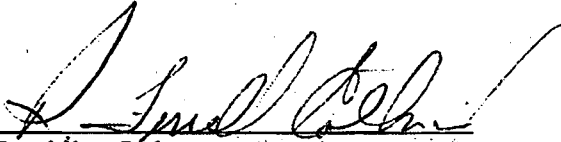
have learned how to control his urges, and should be able to apply what he has learned and function in society with nominal risk.

4. The Department of Mental Health has authorized Petitioner to petition for release pursuant to S. C. Code Ann. Section 44-48-120.
5. Having met the statutory requirements pursuant to Section 44-48-120, the Court hereby finds and concludes that Petitioner should be released from confinement in the secure facility of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health.
6. Upon his release Petitioner, must comply with the requirements of South Carolina law regarding registration as a sex offender. He must comply with Sections 44-48-160, 23-3-450 and 23-3-460, including, but not limited to, registration as a Sexually Violent Predator, verification of registration and photographing every ninety days at the sheriff's department in the county in which he resides, sending written notice of any change of address to such sheriff within ten days of establishing a new residence. Further, as set forth in the Discharge Plan received into evidence, he must not only register as a Sexually Violent Predator, but shall comply with such other requirements as are required by this jurisdiction. This Order shall constitute actual notice of these requirements, and failure to comply will subject Respondent to the appropriate statutory penalties.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Michael Lawyer, Petitioner herein, be released from confinement in the secure facility of the Department of Mental Health pursuant to Section 44-48-120, and that he comply with the statutory requirements of registration as a Sexually Violent Predator.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dec 13, 2016  
Sumter, South Carolina

  
Presiding Judge  
Third Judicial Circuit  
Court of Common Pleas