

# The Supreme Court of South Carolina

Taurus Watts, Petitioner,

v.

State of South Carolina, Respondent.

Appellate Case No. 2016-000500

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## ORDER

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Counsel for petitioner moves to supplement the appendix in this matter. The motion is granted and the supplemental appendix is accepted as filed.

Petitioner has filed a motion to relieve counsel and proceed *pro se* in this matter. He also seeks to withdraw the petition for a writ of certiorari filed by counsel and file a substitute petition *pro se*. Petitioner may proceed *pro se* as long as he knowingly and intelligently waives his right to counsel. *See Faretta v. California*, 422 U.S. 806 (1975); *State v. Brewer*, 328 S.C. 117, 492 S.E.2d 97 (1997). However, it is not apparent from petitioner's motion that he is fully aware of the dangers and disadvantages of proceeding *pro se*. We therefore take this opportunity to warn petitioner that if he chooses to proceed *pro se*, this Court will require full compliance with all applicable rules and procedures, and failure to comply with such rules and procedures could result in the dismissal of the matter and forfeiture of the right to discretionary review. Petitioner is certain to be unlearned in other aspects of the law as well. Representation by an attorney trained in the law would be highly beneficial, and we strongly encourage petitioner to continue with representation by Ms. Hudgins.

After considering this information, petitioner shall, within twenty (20) days of the date of this order, notify this Court whether he wishes to proceed *pro se* or continue to be represented by Ms. Hudgins. If petitioner fails to notify this Court of his intentions within twenty (20) days, Ms. Hudgins will continue to be listed as

counsel of record in this matter.

  
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FOR THE COURT C.J.

Columbia, South Carolina

February 15, 2017

cc:

James Clayton Mitchell, III, Esquire

Kathrine Haggard Hudgins, Esquire