

The Supreme Court of South Carolina

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February 27, 2018

Mr. Ralph B. Hayes, 320369
Lieber Correctional Institution
P. O. Box 205
Ridgeville SC 29472

Re: Ralph B. Hayes v. State
Appellate Case No. 2017-001593

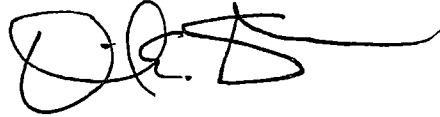
Dear Petitioner:

Your counsel has submitted a petition for writ of certiorari indicating that this appeal is without merit and moves to be relieved as your counsel. *Johnson v. State*, 294 S.C. 310, 364 S.E.2d 201 (1988). The records of this Court reflect that counsel served you with a copy of the Petition and Appendix.

You may, within forty-five (45) days of the date of this letter, file with this Court a *pro se* response to the petition filed by your counsel. In this response, you may raise and argue any issues you believe the Court should consider in this appeal. Upon receipt of your *pro se* response or the expiration of forty-five (45) days, the matter will be submitted to the Court for its consideration.

If you do decide to file a *pro se* response, the response must be either typewritten or legibly hand printed, and must have at least a one inch margin on all sides. Further, you will need to only submit one copy of your response, and this copy **should not be stapled or bound in any manner.**

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D.L.S." followed by a long horizontal flourish.

CLERK

cc:

DeShawn Herman Mitchell, Esquire

Kathrine Haggard Hudgins, Esquire