



The Supreme Court of South Carolina

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June 25, 2020

Tommy Arthur Thomas, Esquire
PO Box 88
Irmo, SC 29063

Re: Weldon Stewart v. State
Appellate Case No. 2020-000900

Dear Counsel:

This Court has received a pro se notice of appeal in the above post-conviction relief action, a copy of which is attached. The records of the lower court indicate that you are counsel of record in this matter. I remind you that you remain counsel of record pursuant to Rule 71.1(g) of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure until you are relieved.

Based on the date the orders were entered in the lower court, please indicate the date on which you received written notice of entry of the order denying relief. *See* Rule 203(e)(1)(C) of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules.

Additionally, since the order of the circuit court determined that this action is barred as being successive and/or as being untimely under the statute of limitations, Rule 243(c) of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules requires you to provide a written explanation as to why this determination was improper. This explanation must contain sufficient facts, argument and citation to legal authority to show that there is an arguable basis for asserting that the determination by the

lower court was improper. The failure to make a sufficient showing may result in the dismissal of this matter.

In the event you determine that you do not have a good faith explanation to provide pursuant to Rule 243(c), you must provide this Court with a letter stating that as an officer of the Court you are unable to set forth any arguable basis for asserting the determination by the PCR judge was improper. The letter should also advise petitioner that he has twenty (20) days from the date of the letter to file a pro se explanation as to why the petitioner believes that this determination by the circuit court was improper. *Dennison v. State*, 371 S.C. 221, 639 S.E.2d 35 (2006). The letter filed with this Court should include proof of service showing that a copy of the letter has been sent to the petitioner.

Please provide the explanation required by Rule 243(c) and a statement indicating when you received written notice of entry of the final order denying relief within fifteen (15) days of the date of this letter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. B. W.', written in a cursive style.

DEPUTY CLERK

cc:

Chelsey Faith Marto, Esquire

Mr. Weldon W. Stewart, Jr., #295095