

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
 COUNTY OF YORK )  
 )  
 William T. Coleman, )  
 )  
 Petitioner, )  
 )  
 vs. )  
 )  
 State of South Carolina, )  
 )  
 Respondent. )

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
 SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Case No.: 2017-CP-46-03261

**ORDER RELIEVING COUNSEL**

FILED-RECEIVED  
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 DAVID HAMILTON  
 C.C.P. & GS  
 YORK COUNTY, SC

**THIS CAUSE** coming to be heard on the Motion To Be Relieved of Counsel (“Motion”) submitted by the Petitioner, William T. Coleman (“Petitioner”), in which Petitioner requested that this Court relieve him of his Counsel, Matthew J. Burgess (“Counsel”), and allow Petitioner to proceed pro se in the above-captioned matter.

1. On May 24, 2021, Petitioner submitted via email his handwritten Motion To Be Relieved of Counsel-- as well as a handwritten Motion for Summary Judgment, both dated May 22, 2021-- and later filed the originals with the York County Clerk of Court.

2. Upon his receipt of Petitioner’s Motion-- and in order to protect Petitioner’s interests-- Counsel then sought guidance from the Court in regard to how to proceed on Petitioner’s Motion; specifically, so Counsel could make any necessary amendments to his client’s PCR application prior to the June 21 deadline and prepare for his June 29 Evidentiary Hearing in the event the Court were inclined to deny Petitioner’s Motion rather than allowing him to proceed pro se.

3. In response thereto, Counsel for the Respondent (“Respondent”) requested that a Motion Hearing be conducted on June 29, 2021-- instead of the Evidentiary Hearing-- so the Court could advise Petitioner of the risk of proceeding pro se, and inform Petitioner of the ramifications of that decision, prior to the Court deciding whether to relieve Counsel.

4. Accordingly, the Court advised that Petitioner’s Motion To Be Relieved of Counsel could be heard on June 29, 2021 instead of the previously-scheduled Evidentiary Hearing.

5. Thereafter, Parties appeared before this Court on June 29, 2021, at which point Petitioner proceeded with his Motion after being advised by the Court of the risks of proceeding pro se; further, upon Petitioner's Motion being granted by this Court, Petitioner was also given the option of having the Evidentiary Hearing continued for a later date so as to give him additional time to prepare for the same.

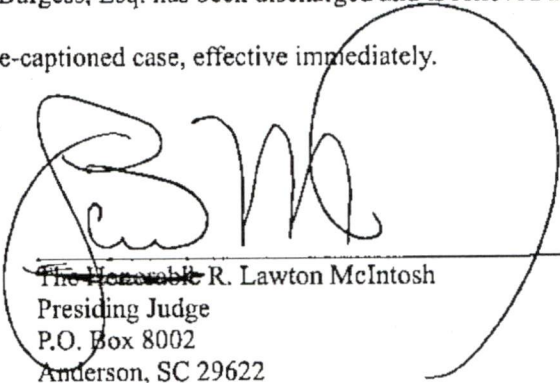
6. Petitioner instead insisted on proceeding with the Evidentiary Hearing on the same date, at which point Counsel provided Petitioner with the contents of Petitioner's file to Petitioner's satisfaction, including copies of any and all relevant court documents and exhibits that were in Counsel's possession.

Now, therefore, on Motion of the Petitioner, William T. Coleman, the Court- having reviewed the same and there being no objection from the Respondent- grants said Motion, and it is hereby

**ORDERED** that Matthew J. Burgess, Esq. has been discharged and is relieved as Counsel for the Petitioner in the above-captioned case, effective immediately.

**AND IT IS SO ORDERED.**

June 30, 2021  
at York, SC



~~The Honorable~~ R. Lawton McIntosh  
Presiding Judge  
P.O. Box 8002  
Anderson, SC 29622  
VIA EMAIL: lmcintoshj@sccourts.org