



## State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY  
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET  
COLUMBIA 29201

March 17, 2015

Mr. John Raye Smith  
1825 Glenridge Drive  
Kennersville, North Carolina 27284

Dear Mr. Smith,

Thank you for contacting the Governor's Office regarding your request for a pardon or expungement. Be advised that our office cannot offer you legal advice, but we can provide you with information, which we hope you find helpful.

With regard to a pardon: In the State of South Carolina, all pardons, except for a sentence of death, are granted by a seven-member board, not the Governor. Pursuant to the State Constitution, the Governor may only grant a reprieve and commute a sentence of death to a sentence of life imprisonment. All other pardons are granted by the Board of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (PPP). To seek assistance and obtain an application for a pardon, please call Beth Anderson at the South Carolina PPP at 803.734.3538 or visit the website at [www.dppps.sc.gov](http://www.dppps.sc.gov).

With regard to an expungement: In the State of South Carolina, the Governor has no authority to expunge a criminal record. Pursuant to the South Carolina Code of Laws, a criminal record may only be expunged through an application to the court, which must be signed by a judge. An individual should contact the solicitor's office in the area where the charge originated to seek assistance and obtain an application, which does require a fee. Also, please be advised that an individual does not have to have a lawyer to request an expungement but can represent himself or herself pro se. Helpful resources with additional information can be found online at [www.sccourts.org/selfhelp/](http://www.sccourts.org/selfhelp/).

Again, thank you for contacting the Governor's Office. If there is anything else we can do, please let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca Schimsa".

Rebecca Schimsa  
Deputy Legal Counsel