

RV-OUTGOING



## State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY  
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET  
COLUMBIA 29201

December 7, 2015

Ms. Elizabeth Benton  
2884 Greenall Road  
Summerton, South Carolina 29148-8755

Dear Ms. Benton,

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. To seek assistance and obtain an application for a pardon, please call Beth Anderson at the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services 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 for you, please let me know.

My very best,

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

Rebecca Schimsa  
Deputy Legal Counsel