

Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal State of Louisiana

No. 26-KH-111

STATE OF LOUISIANA

versus

ROGER CORTES

IN RE ROGER CORTES

APPLYING FOR SUPERVISORY WRIT FROM THE TWENTY-FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT,
PARISH OF JEFFERSON, STATE OF LOUISIANA, DIRECTED TO THE HONORABLE
DONALD A. ROWAN, JR., DIVISION "L", No. 22-5169

TRUE COPY

March 26, 2026



LINDA TRAN
DEPUTY CLERK

Panel composed of Judges John J. Molaison, Jr.,
Scott U. Schlegel, and Timothy S. Marcel

WRIT DENIED

The relator, Roger Cortes, filed the instant writ application, which seeks review of the trial court's denial of his motion to "Request for Relief to Release File." On the showing made, we find that the relator has not provided a sufficient basis upon which this Court can grant relief.

According to the writ application, the relator pled guilty to one count of sexual battery and one count of indecent behavior with a juvenile on April 16, 2024. He asserts that he now wishes to file an application for post-conviction relief. He contends, without evidence in the application, that he requested a complete copy of his trial counsel's case file but that counsel denied his request. The relator also claims, without evidence, that his trial counsel refused to provide him with a copy of his defense file on the basis that the record in the matter was sealed. The relator's motion references trial counsel's reluctance to provide him with the case file "as it relates to a sealed record and

minor-aged victim.” Without any showing that the relator made a request for his file and was denied, we are unable to address the underlying merits of his claim.

Next, turning to the trial court’s ruling, we again note that no evidence was presented in connection with the motion. A hearing transcript, or reasons for judgment, are also not included in the application that we could use to discern the trial court’s reasoning for denying the relator’s motion.

The exact ages of the relator’s victims are not apparent from the application. However, La. R.S. 46:1844(W) addresses the confidentiality of crime victims who are minors and victims of sex offenses. Courts may impose protective orders that limit how defendants can use or disseminate materials containing minor victim identifying information. *State v. Moody*, 50,001 (La. App. 2 Cir. 9/30/15), 178 So.3d 1031; *State v. Thompson*, 00-1808 (La. 2/2/01), 781 So.2d 1221. In *Thompson* at 1222-23, the Louisiana Supreme Court observed:

[T]o keep the balance true to the purpose of the statute and the state's compelling interests in protecting the well-being of minors, the district court shall direct disclosure of the minor victim’s identity under a protective order which strictly limits the defense's use and dissemination of the information only as necessary to the preparation of its case for trial.

Also, Louisiana Revised Statute 46:1844(W)(1)(b) prohibits attorneys “from publicly disclosing, except during trial, the name, address, contact information, or identity of crime victims who at the time of the commission of the offense are under eighteen years of age or are victims of sex offenses[.]”

On the showing made, we find no abuse of discretion in the trial court’s denial of the relator’s motion. Accordingly, the relator’s writ application is denied.

Gretna, Louisiana, this 26th day of March, 2026.

JJM
SUS
TSM

SUSAN M. CHEHARDY
CHIEF JUDGE

FREDERICKA H. WICKER
JUDE G. GRAVOIS
MARC E. JOHNSON
STEPHEN J. WINDHORST
JOHN J. MOLAISSON, JR.
SCOTT U. SCHLEGEL
TIMOTHY S. MARCEL

JUDGES



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CURTIS B. PURSELL
CLERK OF COURT

SUSAN S. BUCHHOLZ
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

LINDA M. TRAN
FIRST DEPUTY CLERK

MELISSA C. LEDET
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NOTICE OF DISPOSITION CERTIFICATE OF DELIVERY

I CERTIFY THAT A COPY OF THE DISPOSITION IN THE FOREGOING MATTER HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH **UNIFORM RULES - COURT OF APPEAL, RULE 4-6** THIS DAY **03/26/2026** TO THE TRIAL JUDGE, THE TRIAL COURT CLERK OF COURT, AND AT LEAST ONE OF THE COUNSEL OF RECORD FOR EACH PARTY, AND TO EACH PARTY NOT REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL, AS LISTED BELOW:

CURTIS B. PURSELL
CLERK OF COURT

26-KH-111

E-NOTIFIED

24th Judicial District Court (Clerk)

Honorable Donald A. Rowan, Jr. (DISTRICT JUDGE)

Kathryn J. Burke (Relator)

Thomas J. Butler (Respondent)

Jennifer C. Cameron (Relator)

MAILED

Jacob G. Longman (Relator)

Allison C. Adger (Relator)

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