

**Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal  
State of Louisiana**

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No. 26-K-128

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**CELIUS GRAY**

*versus*

**STATE OF LOUISIANA**

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**IN RE CELIUS GRAY**

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. 20-5560

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**TRUE COPY**

April 17, 2026



LINDA TRAN  
DEPUTY CLERK

Panel composed of Judges Marc E. Johnson,  
John J. Molaison, Jr., and Timothy S. Marcel

**WRIT DENIED**

Relator, Celius Gray, who was indicted by a Jefferson Parish grand jury for first degree rape in violation of La. R.S. 14:42, filed a writ of mandamus asserting the trial court failed to respond to his *pro se* Motion for Production of Mental Report and Mental Examination of Documents filed on February 18, 2026.<sup>1</sup>

On November 13, 2024, the trial court found Relator incompetent to proceed and remanded him to the Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System. After Relator filed the instant writ of mandamus, the trial court set a competency hearing for April 8, 2026. According to the April 8 minute entry, neither Relator nor his attorney was present, and the next proceeding was scheduled for May 6, 2026.

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<sup>1</sup> The record shows that Relator filed his Motion for Production of Mental Report and Mental Examination of Documents with the trial court on February 18, 2026, and subsequently filed a Motion for Response regarding his documents request on March 16, 2026. The record also indicates that, in addition to the subject motion, Relator has several *pro se* motions pending in the trial court, including Motion for Objection of October 27, 2025 Waiving of Presence to Competency Hearing, Motion For Objection to 24th Judicial District Court Unanswered Competency Restoration Appeal, Motion to Withdraw Plea Defense, and Motion for Ruling on the Objections.

When the question of the defendant's mental incapacity to proceed is raised, there shall be no further steps in the criminal prosecution, except the institution of prosecution, until the defendant is found to have the mental capacity to proceed. La. C.Cr.P. art. 642. Pursuant to La. C.Cr.P. art. 648(A), all proceedings shall be suspended if the trial court finds that relator is incompetent to proceed.

Because the trial court found Relator incompetent to proceed on November 13, 2024, all proceedings are suspended under La. C.Cr.P. art. 648(A), leaving the trial court without authority to rule on Relator's *pro se* motion at this time. In accordance with La. C.Cr.P. art. 648(A) and consistent with this Court's prior disposition in *Gray v. Fifth Cir.*, 24-572, 2025 WL 39999 (La. App. 5 Cir. Jan. 7, 2025), which denied similar mandamus relief based on the same incompetency finding, mandamus relief is unwarranted.

Accordingly, the writ application is denied.

Gretna, Louisiana, this 17th day of April, 2026.

**TSM**  
**MEJ**  
**JJM**

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



FIFTH CIRCUIT  
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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  
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL STAFF

(504) 376-1400  
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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 **04/17/2026** 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-K-128**

**E-NOTIFIED**

24th Judicial District Court (Clerk)  
Honorable Donald A. Rowan, Jr. (DISTRICT JUDGE)  
Thomas J. Butler (Respondent)

**MAILED**

Celius Gray #100677028 (Relator)  
Jefferson Parish Correctional Center  
P. O. Box 388  
Gretna, LA 70054