

IN THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS OF TENNESSEE
AT KNOXVILLE

FILED

07/28/2026

Clerk of the
Appellate Courts

STATE OF TENNESSEE v. NATHANIEL R. WHITE-YOUNG

**Criminal Court for Sullivan County
Nos. S72434 and S72811**

No. E2026-01009-CCA-R3-PC

ORDER

On July 2, 2026, the pro se Petitioner filed a Petition for Post-Conviction Relief in this court, which the appellate court clerk entered as a notice of appeal. *See* Tenn. R. App. P. 3(b) (providing an appeal as of right from a trial court's final judgment adjudicating a petition for post-conviction relief). The fifteen-page pleading alleges various instances of ineffective assistance of counsel alleged to have rendered his guilty pleas involuntary. On July 20, 2026, the Petitioner filed a Uniform Affidavit of Indigency seeking permission to proceed as an indigent person on appeal. Tenn. R. App. P. 18(d).

On July 23, 2026, the trial court clerk provided to the court copies of the Petitioner's underlying judgments of conviction and a copy of a petition for post-conviction relief. These pleadings inform the court that on July 10, 2025, the Petitioner pleaded guilty to second degree murder, two counts of aggravated arson, and four counts of tampering with or fabricating evidence in case number S72434. Pursuant to the plea agreement, case number S72811 was dismissed. On July 24, 2025, the trial court entered judgments sentencing the Petitioner to a total effective sentence of thirty-seven years' incarceration. The Petitioner was represented by appointed counsel at the guilty plea and sentencing proceedings. The petition for post-conviction relief, filed in the trial court on July 2, 2026, is identical to the pleading filed in this court on the same date. The trial court clerk has informed the court that the petition for post-conviction relief remains pending in the trial court. Further, the Petitioner's correspondence to this court indicates that the Petitioner deliberately filed the petition for post-conviction relief in both the trial court and the appellate court.

This court's jurisdiction is appellate only and extends to the review of final judgments from trial courts arising from criminal cases and collateral matters related thereto. Tenn. Code Ann. § 16-5-108. Our jurisdiction does not extend to the

adjudication of a post-conviction petition filed directly to this court, as occurred in this case.

Accordingly, this matter is DISMISSED for lack of jurisdiction. Because the Petitioner was determined to be indigent in the original proceedings, the costs of this matter are taxed to the State of Tennessee.

JUDGE TOM GREENHOLTZ
JUDGE STEVEN W. SWORD
JUDGE STACY L. STREET