IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

FILED DEBBIE CAUSSEAUX
SEP 27 1999
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WILLIE SANDERS,

Petitioner,

CASE NO. 96,398

v.

STATE OF FLORIDA,

Respondent.

ON DISCRETIONARY REVIEW FROM THE FIFTH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL

JURISDICTIONAL BRIEF OF RESPONDENT

ROBERT A. BUTTERWORTH ATTORNEY GENERAL

KELLIE A. NIELAN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FLOBIDA BAR #618550

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COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENT

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## CERTIFICATE OF FONT AND TYPE SIZE

The undersigned counsel certifies that this brief was typed using 12 point Courier New, a font that is not proportionately spaced.

## STATEMENT OF FACTS

Sanders' conviction and sentence were affirmed without opinion by the Fifth District Court of Appeal. <u>Sanders v. State</u>, 737 So. 2d 589 (Fla. 5th DCA 1999). In so holding, the district court found this case to be controlled by its prior opinion in <u>Speed v</u> <u>State</u>, 732 So. 2d 17 (Fla. 5th DCA), <u>rev. granted</u>, case # 95,706 (Fla. Sept. 16, 1999).

## SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

This Court does have the discretion to accept jurisdiction of this case. As a practical matter, however, it may be more prudent to hold this petition for review in abeyance until this same issue is resolved in other pending cases.

#### ARGUMENT

### THIS COURT DOES HAVE THE DISCRETION TO ACCEPT JURISDICTION OF THIS CASE.

This Court has jurisdiction under article V, section (3)(b)(3) of the Florida Constitution where a decision of a district court "expressly and directly conflicts" with a decision of this Court or another district court. Where the district court's decision is a per curiam opinion which cites as controlling law a decision that is either pending review in or has been reversed by this Court, this Court has the discretion to accept jurisdiction. Jollie v. State, 405 So. 2d 418, 420 (Fla. 1981).

The State acknowledges that this Court has the authority to accept jurisdiction of this case in light of the district court's citation to <u>Speed v State</u>, 732 So. 2d 17 (Fla. 5th DCA), <u>rev.</u> <u>granted</u>, case # 95,706 (Fla. Sept. 16, 1999).

However, the State notes that this same issue -- the constitutionality of the Prison Releasee Reoffender Act -- is presently pending review in numerous other cases in this Court. See, e.g., State v. Cotton, case # 94,996. Accordingly, the State submits that the interests of judicial economy, as well as fairness to this defendant, can best be served by holding this petition for review in abeyance pending resolution of this issue in the other cases. Numerous cases involving this issue will be ripe for review by this Court in the near future, and little purpose would be served by full briefing in all of them.

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#### CONCLUSION

Based on the arguments and authorities presented herein, respondent respectfully acknowledges that this Court does have the discretion to accept jurisdiction of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the above Jurisdictional Brief has been furnished by hand delivery to Susan A. Fagan, Assistant Public Defender, 112 Orange Avenue, Suite A, Daytona Beach, Florida 32114, this  $\underline{74^{th}}$  day of September, 1999.

Kristen L. Davenport Assistant Attorney (

General

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#### RESPONDENT'S APPENDIX

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF ARPEALOR THE

WILLIE SANDERS,

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Appellant,

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L.CT. 97-3833 CFA

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JANUARY TERM 1999

Case No. 98-1523

STATE OF FLORIDA,

Appellee.

Opinion Filed June 25, 1999

Appeal from the Circuit Court for Seminole County, Newman D. Brock, Judge.

James B. Gibson, Public Defender, and Susan A. Fagan, Assistant Public Defender, Daytona Beach, for Appellant.

Robert A. Butterworth, Attorney General, Tallahassee, and Kristen L. Davenport, Assistant Attorney General, Daytona Beach, for Appellee.

PER CURIAM.

AFFIRMED. See McKnight v. State, 727 So. 2d 314 (Fla. 3d DCA 1999); see also

Speed v. State, 24 Fla. L. Weekly D1017 (Fla. 5th DCA April 23, 1999); Woods v. State,

24 Fla. L. Weekly D831 (Fla. 1st DCA March 26, 1999).

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COBB, GOSHORN and ANTOON, JJ., concur.