



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: November 21, 2017

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## **Bobby Wayne Stone Execution Stayed**

Columbia, S.C. – The December 1, 2017 execution date set in Bobby Wayne Stone’s capital case was stayed indefinitely this afternoon by the federal district court. The execution date was set by the South Carolina Supreme Court upon the request of the South Carolina Attorney General, despite the fact that everyone involved knew any execution date set would be stayed by the federal court. Mr. Stone’s conviction and death sentence have not yet been reviewed by the federal courts and he is entitled as a matter of law to have them do so. The federal court recognized that by staying Mr. Stone’s execution.

The Director of the South Carolina Department of Corrections, Bryan Stirling, knew a stay would be issued by the court. He nevertheless chose to make public statements implying otherwise in an attempt to force the General Assembly to pass a “secrecy” bill that would allow the State to purchase unsafe drugs for execution and shield their source from the public. The General Assembly has twice rejected such a bill. Justice 360 is disappointed the Director is attempting to mislead the press and the public, especially if he led the victim’s family to believe that an execution was imminent.

Justice 360 is a non-profit legal organization located in Columbia that tracks and maintains information about the administration of the death penalty in South Carolina and advocates for fairness, reliability, and transparency in the criminal justice system.

**The mission of Justice 360 is to promote fairness, reliability, and transparency in the criminal justice system for people facing the death penalty in South Carolina.**

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