

No.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

JAMES HODGE, PETITIONER

v.

STATE OF FLORIDA, RESPONDENT.

*ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO
THE FOURTH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF FLORIDA*

PETITIONER'S MOTION TO PROCEED IN FORMA PAUPERIS

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COMES NOW the Petitioner, James Hodge, and moves this Court, pursuant to Rule 39.1, Rules of the Supreme Court, to declare him indigent and allow him to proceed in forma pauperis in this cause, in particular to waive any filing fees. As grounds therefore, Petitioner says:

1. Petitioner applies for a writ of certiorari to review the decision of the Fourth District Court of Appeal of Florida affirming his convictions and 56.81 years prison sentence.

2. Petitioner was declared an indigent party pursuant to section 27.52, Florida Statutes, and the public defender was appointed to represent him on appeal on March 29, 2022. Petitioner has been incarcerated since 2017; he is indigent and without funds to pay any fees or costs in this action.

3. Federal law requires all courts of the United States to allow commencement and prosecution of any suit without prepayment of fees or costs upon the showing made above. 28 U.S.C. §1915(a).

4. Refusal to allow Petitioner to proceed in forma pauperis would deny him equal protection of the law, meaningful access to

the courts, and due process of law since he cannot otherwise get the review to which a more affluent defendant would be entitled. *See Burns v. Ohio*, 360 U.S. 252 (1959).

WHEREFORE, Petitioner moves that this Court declare him indigent and allow filing and prosecution of his petition without payment of any fees or costs.

Respectfully submitted,

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