

THIS ORDER HAS BEEN ELECTRONICALLY APPROVED BY THE COURT

IN THE SUPREME COURT

OF THE

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

* * * *

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA,	)	ORDER DIRECTING ISSUANCE OF
Plaintiff and Appellee,	)	JUDGMENT OF AFFIRMANCE
vs.	)	
	)	#31435
JUSTIN G. PAULSON,	)	
Defendant and Appellant.	)	

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The Court considered all of the briefs filed in the above-entitled matter, together with the appeal record, and concluded pursuant to SDCL 15-26A-87.1(A), that it is manifest on the face of the briefs and the record that the appeal is without merit on the following grounds: 1. that the issues on appeal are clearly controlled by settled South Dakota law or federal law binding upon the states, and 2. that the issues on appeal are ones of judicial discretion and there clearly was not an abuse of discretion (SDCL 15-26A-87.1(A) (1) and (3)), now, therefore, it is

ORDERED that a judgment affirming the Judgment of the lower court be entered forthwith.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Court declines to consider the merits of Appellant's ineffective assistance of counsel claim(s) because the record on direct appeal does not afford an adequate basis to review the performance of trial counsel. [(See *State v. Vortherms*, 2020 S.D 67, ¶30, 952 N.W.2d 113, 120).]

#31435, Order of Affirmance

DATED at Pierre, South Dakota, this 22nd day of October,
2026.

BY THE COURT:

ATTEST:

Steven R. Jensen, Chief Justice

Clerk of the Supreme Court
(SEAL)

**PARTICIPATING: Chief Justice Steven R. Jensen and Justices Mark E. Salter,
Patricia J. DeVaney, Scott P. Myren and Robert Gusinsky.**