

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

WALTER B. RUARK,	§
	§
Defendant Below-	§ No. 337, 2007
Appellant,	§
	§
v.	§ Court Below—Superior Court
	§ of the State of Delaware,
STATE OF DELAWARE,	§ in and for Sussex County
	§ Cr. ID 0601018737B
Plaintiff Below-	§
Appellee.	§

Submitted: December 17, 2007
Decided: February 20, 2008

Before **STEELE**, Chief Justice, **HOLLAND**, and **RIDGELY**, Justices.

ORDER

This 20th day of February 2008, upon consideration of the appellant's Supreme Court Rule 26(c) brief, his attorney's motion to withdraw, and the State's response thereto, it appears to the Court that:

(1) A Superior Court jury convicted the defendant-appellant, Walter Ruark (Ruark), of thirty-seven charged sexual offenses, including six counts of first degree rape. The Superior Court sentenced Ruark to more than one hundred years in prison. This is Ruark's direct appeal.

(2) Ruark's counsel on appeal has filed a brief and a motion to withdraw pursuant to Rule 26(c). Ruark's counsel asserts that, based upon a complete and careful examination of the record, there are no arguably

appealable issues. By letter, Ruark's attorney informed him of the provisions of Rule 26(c) and provided Ruark with a copy of the motion to withdraw and the accompanying brief. Ruark also was informed of his right to supplement his attorney's presentation. Ruark has not raised any issues for this Court's consideration. The State has responded to the position taken by Ruark's counsel and has moved to affirm the Superior Court's judgment.

(3) The standard and scope of review applicable to the consideration of a motion to withdraw and an accompanying brief under Rule 26(c) is twofold: (a) this Court must be satisfied that defense counsel has made a conscientious examination of the record and the law for arguable claims; and (b) this Court must conduct its own review of the record and determine whether the appeal is so totally devoid of at least arguably appealable issues that it can be decided without an adversary presentation.*

(4) This Court has reviewed the record carefully and has concluded that Ruark's appeal is wholly without merit and devoid of any arguably appealable issue. We also are satisfied that Ruark's counsel has made a conscientious effort to examine the record and the law and has properly determined that Ruark could not raise a meritorious claim in this appeal.

* *Penson v. Ohio*, 488 U.S. 75, 83 (1988); *McCoy v. Court of Appeals of Wisconsin*, 486 U.S. 429, 442 (1988); *Anders v. California*, 386 U.S. 738, 744 (1967).

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the State's motion to affirm is GRANTED. The judgment of the Superior Court is AFFIRMED. The motion to withdraw is moot.

BY THE COURT:

/s/ Myron T. Steele
Chief Justice