



IN THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS OF TEXAS

NO. AP-76,803

EX PARTE WILLIAM THOMAS WATTS, Applicant

**ON APPLICATION FOR A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS
CAUSE NO. DIS-08-01654 IN THE 119TH DISTRICT COURT
FROM CONCHO COUNTY**

Per curiam.

OPINION

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 11.07 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, the clerk of the trial court transmitted to this Court this application for a writ of habeas corpus. *Ex parte Young*, 418 S.W.2d 824, 826 (Tex. Crim. App. 1967). Applicant was convicted of aggravated sexual assault and sentenced to fifty years' imprisonment. The Third Court of Appeals dismissed his appeal. *Watts v. State*, No. 03-08-00725-CR (Tex. App.—Austin 2009, no pet.).

Applicant contends that he was denied his right to appeal. The trial court found that Applicant was deprived of his right to appeal through no fault of his own. *Ex parte Riley*, 193 S.W.3d 900, 902 (Tex. Crim. App. 2006). We find that Applicant is entitled to the opportunity to file an out-of-time appeal of the judgment of conviction in cause number DIS-08-01654 from the

119th District Court of Concho County. Applicant is ordered returned to that time at which he may give a written notice of appeal so that he may then, with the aid of counsel, obtain a meaningful appeal. Within ten days of the issuance of this opinion, the trial court shall determine whether Applicant is indigent. If Applicant is indigent and wishes to be represented by counsel, the trial court shall immediately appoint an attorney to represent Applicant on direct appeal. All time limits shall be calculated as if the sentence had been imposed on the date on which the mandate of this Court issues. We hold that, should Applicant desire to prosecute an appeal, he must take affirmative steps to file a written notice of appeal in the trial court within 30 days after the mandate of this Court issues.

Copies of this opinion shall be sent to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Correctional Institutions Division and Pardons and Paroles Division.

Delivered: May 23, 2012
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