

**Summary of SC95043, *State ex rel. Richard Strong v. Cindy Griffith, Warden, Potosi Correctional Center***

Original proceeding in habeas corpus

Submitted on the pleadings June 7, 2015; opinion issued June 7, 2015

**Attorneys:** Strong was represented by Jennifer Herndon, an attorney in Florissant, (314) 280-4734, and Michael J. Gorla, an attorney in St. Louis, (314) 621-1617. The state was represented by Michael Spillane, Terrence Messonnier, Gregory Goodwin, Caroline M. Coulter, Stephen Hawke and Jessica McKee of the attorney general's office in Jefferson City, (573) 751-3321.

*This summary is not part of the opinion of the Court. It has been prepared by the communications counsel for the convenience of the reader. It neither has been reviewed nor approved by the Supreme Court and should not be quoted or cited.*

**Overview:** A man scheduled to be executed June 9 for two murders asked this Court on June 4 for relief from his death sentence through a petition for a writ of habeas corpus. In an expedited 6-1 decision written by Judge Patricia Breckenridge, the Supreme Court of Missouri denied the writ. The man fails to allege facts that would prove he is entitled to such a writ and does not claim his current mental condition makes him incompetent to be executed.

Judge Richard B. Teitelman dissents. He would grant habeas relief and appoint a master to address the man's claims more fully.

**Facts:** A jury convicted Richard Strong in 2003 for the October 2000 murders of his girlfriend and her two-year-old daughter, and he was sentenced to death. This Court affirmed his convictions and death sentences on direct appeal in 2004 and, in 2008, affirmed the circuit court's denial of post-conviction relief for Strong. After the federal courts denied him relief, this Court in April 2015 scheduled Strong to be executed June 9, 2015. On June 4, Strong sought relief from his sentence by filing a petition for a writ of habeas corpus in this Court, claiming mental illness at the time of his crimes makes him unfit to be executed.

**WRIT DENIED.**