

FIFTH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF FLORIDA

Darwin J. Fifield, Sr. v. State of Florida

Fifield v. State · No. 5D2025-2285 · Decided February 13, 2026

SUMMARY

The Fifth District Court of Appeal of Florida barred Darwin J. Fifield, Sr. from making further pro se filings concerning his Marion County convictions and sentences. The court found that his repetitive and frivolous filings constituted an abuse of the judicial process and directed the clerk to reject future filings in the case unless submitted by a member in good standing of The Florida Bar.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Fifth District Court of Appeal of Florida
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Jay, C.J.; Makar, J.; Maciver, J.
JURISDICTION	Fifth District Court of Appeal of Florida
DECIDED	February 13, 2026
DOCKET	5D2025-2285
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Appeal under Florida Rule of Criminal Procedure 3.800 from the circuit court, with the appellate court considering whether to sanction the appellant and prohibit further pro se filings.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion
PARTIES	Darwin J. Fifield, Sr. v. State of Florida

TOPICS

- appellate procedure
- post-conviction relief
- criminal procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- criminal procedure
- appellate procedure
- post-conviction relief

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether the appellant's repetitive and frivolous pro se filings constituted an abuse of the judicial process warranting a restriction on further pro se filings in the case.

HOLDINGS

1. A court may prohibit a litigant who abuses the judicial process through repetitive and frivolous filings from making further pro se filings concerning the same criminal case, requiring any future filing to be submitted by a member in good standing of The Florida Bar.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Darwin J. Fifield, Sr. made repetitive and frivolous pro se filings challenging the convictions and sentences entered in his Marion County criminal case. After being ordered to show cause why he should not be barred from future pro se filings, he submitted a response that the appellate court found insufficient.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The appellant repeatedly filed pro se appeals, petitions, pleadings, or motions attacking the judgments and sentences entered in Marion County Court Case Number 2013-CF-002406-A. The appellate court issued a November 4, 2025, order directing him to show cause why he should not be prohibited from future pro se filings. After considering his response, the court found that he was abusing the judicial process and imposed the filing restriction.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Isley v. State, 652 So. 2d 409, 411 (Fla. 5th DCA 1995)

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