

**Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal  
State of Louisiana**

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No. 26-K-221

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MICHAEL YOUNG

*versus*

MICHAEL MENTZ, JUDGE

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IN RE MICHAEL YOUNG  
APPLYING FOR SUPERVISORY WRIT FROM THE TWENTY-FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
COURT, PARISH OF JEFFERSON, STATE OF LOUISIANA, DIRECTED TO THE HONORABLE  
MICHAEL P. MENTZ, DIVISION "F", No. 23-5911

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TRUE COPY

June 11, 2026



LINDA TRAN  
DEPUTY CLERK

Panel composed of Judges Fredericka Homberg Wicker,  
John J. Molaison, Jr., and Scott U. Schlegel

**WRIT DENIED**

Relator/defendant, Michael Young, filed a writ of mandamus on May 19, 2026, in which he appears to seek review of the trial court's April 22, 2026 ruling denying his *pro se* motion to represent himself.

The Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I, § 13 of the Louisiana Constitution give a defendant the right to counsel as well as the right to defend himself. A defendant may represent himself only if he makes an unequivocal request to represent himself and knowingly and intelligently waives his right to counsel. *Faretta v. California*, 422 U.S. 806, 95 S.Ct. 2525, 45 L.Ed.2d 562 (1975); *State v. Perry*, 17-567 (La. App. 5 Cir. 6/27/18), 250 So.3d 1180, 1191, *writ denied*, 18-1325 (La. 11/14/18), 256 So.3d 285.

In accepting a waiver of counsel, the trial court should advise the defendant of the nature of the charges, the penalty range for the charges, and the dangers and disadvantages of self-representation, such as the failure to recognize objections to inadmissible evidence and the inability to adhere to technical rules governing trials. *State v. Franklin*, 21-531 (La. App. 5 Cir. 5/11/22), 341 So. 3d 1237, 1241, writ denied, 22-857 (La. 10/18/22), 348 So.3d 733. In addition, the court should inquire into the defendant's age, education, and mental condition and should determine according to the totality of circumstances whether the accused understands the significance of the waiver. *Id.* Whether a defendant has knowingly, intelligently, and unequivocally asserted the right to self-representation must be determined on a case-by-case basis, considering the facts and circumstances of each case. *Id.*

Without a transcript from the *Faretta* hearing containing the trial court's ruling, and a transcript of the testimony and copies of any other evidence the court reviewed during the hearing, we are unable to consider whether the requirements of *Faretta* have been met.

Accordingly, on the showing made, we deny relator's writ application.

Gretna, Louisiana, this 11th day of June, 2026.

**SUS**  
**FHW**  
**JJM**

SUSAN M. CHEHARDY  
CHIEF JUDGE

FREDERICKA H. WICKER  
JUDE G. GRAVOIS  
MARC E. JOHNSON  
STEPHEN J. WINDHORST  
JOHN J. MOLAISSON, JR.  
SCOTT U. SCHLEGEL  
TIMOTHY S. MARCEL

JUDGES



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CURTIS B. PURSELL  
CLERK OF COURT

SUSAN S. BUCHHOLZ  
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

LINDA M. TRAN  
FIRST DEPUTY CLERK

MELISSA C. LEDET  
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL STAFF

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**NOTICE OF DISPOSITION CERTIFICATE OF DELIVERY**

I CERTIFY THAT A COPY OF THE DISPOSITION IN THE FOREGOING MATTER HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH **UNIFORM RULES - COURT OF APPEAL, RULE 4-6** THIS DAY **06/11/2026** TO THE TRIAL JUDGE, THE TRIAL COURT CLERK OF COURT, AND AT LEAST ONE OF THE COUNSEL OF RECORD FOR EACH PARTY, AND TO EACH PARTY NOT REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL, AS LISTED BELOW:

**CURTIS B. PURSELL**  
CLERK OF COURT

**26-K-221**

**E-NOTIFIED**

24th Judicial District Court (Clerk)  
Honorable Michael P. Mentz (DISTRICT JUDGE)  
Thomas J. Butler (Respondent)

**MAILED**

MICHAEL YOUNG #225459 (Relator)  
Jefferson Parish Correctional Center  
P. O. Box 388  
Gretna, LA 70054