

Court of Appeals of the State of Georgia

ATLANTA, October 13, 2026

The Court of Appeals hereby passes the following order:

A27A0539. DEXTER LEE WILLIAMS v. G. E. ADAMS.

Prison inmate Dexter Williams filed a petition for a writ of mandamus against a superior court judge. The trial court dismissed the petition, and Williams filed this direct appeal. We lack jurisdiction.

While judgments and orders granting or refusing to grant mandamus relief generally are directly appealable, see OCGA § 5-6-34(a)(7), under the Prison Litigation Reform Act of 1996, an appeal in a civil action filed by a prisoner must be initiated by filing an application for discretionary review. See OCGA § 42-12-8, cross-referencing OCGA § 5-6-35; *Jones v. Townsend*, 267 Ga. 489, 490 (480 SE2d 24) (1997). Mandamus is a civil remedy. See *Daker v. Humphrey*, 294 Ga. 504, 505–06 (755 SE2d 201) (2014). “Compliance with the discretionary appeals procedure is jurisdictional.” *Smoak v. Dep’t of Human Res.*, 221 Ga. App. 257, 257 (471 SE2d 60) (1996). Because Williams was incarcerated when he filed this civil action, his failure to comply with the discretionary review procedure deprives us of jurisdiction over this

direct appeal, which is hereby DISMISSED. See *Jones*, 267 Ga. at 490–91; *Smoak*, 221 Ga. App. at 257–58.



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Clerk's Office, Atlanta, 10/13/2026

I certify that the above is a true extract from the minutes of the Court of Appeals of Georgia.

Witness my signature and the seal of said court hereto affixed the day and year last above written.

Christina Bailey Smith

, Clerk.