

JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION

JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
P. O. BOX 142  
COLUMBIA, SC 29202

RECEIVED

DATE 11/3/25 10:50 a.m.  
WITNESS AFFIDAVIT FORM LSP

In the Matter of:

The Honorable Tarita A. Dunbar

Candidate for:

Family Court, 13th Judicial Circuit, Seat 5

I will appear to testify concerning the qualifications of the above-named candidate and will produce all documents in my possession, if any, which will further develop or corroborate my testimony. I understand that this written statement and all supporting documentation, if any, must be completed and the hard copies of all such documents shall be returned to the Judicial Merit Selection Commission by the deadline for complaints in order for the Commission to hear my testimony, and that the deadline for complaints is 12:00 Noon, Monday, November 3, 2025. I understand I must be available to testify at the Public Hearing, and failure to appear will result in a dismissal of my complaint. In regard to my intended testimony, I will state the following information:

(1) My full name, age, address, email address, and both home and work telephone numbers:

Justin Ruzicka, Age 47, Address, 4 Black Powder Ct. Piedmont, SC 29673  
[houseguy@kw.com](mailto:houseguy@kw.com), Home and work phone number: 864-775-0119

(2) The names, addresses, and email addresses and telephone numbers (if known) of other persons who have knowledge of the facts concerning my testimony:

Vanessa H. Kormylo, Attorney for Plaintiff, 1314 East Washington St. Greenville, SC 29607,  
Email: [vkormylo@kormylolaw.com](mailto:vkormylo@kormylolaw.com), Phone: 864-242-1644

Jessica Ruzicka, Plaintiff,

(3) The nature of my testimony regarding the qualifications of the above-named judicial candidate, including:

(a) specific facts relating to the candidate's character, competency, or ethics, including any and all allegations of wrongdoing or misconduct on the part of the candidate:

I. In the August 1, 2025 Rule to Show Cause Order:

A. Violation of SCRPC Rule 5(b)(1), 5(d), 4(d)(3), 13(a), 12(a),

B. "On June 9, 2025, I personally served my Response and Counterclaim on Plaintiff's attorney, Vanessa H. Kormylo, via in-hand delivery to her paralegal at

- 1314 E. Washington St., Greenville, SC (see Affidavit of Service, filed June 12, 2025). Despite irrefutable proof of service, Judge Dunbar denied my counterclaim at the June 17, 2025 hearing on the false ground of 'improper service.'
- C. Judge Dunbar's willfully ignored the sworn affidavit proving service, and her willful blindness to evidence violates **South Carolina Constitution (Article I, Section 3)**
  - D. Delivery to paralegal equals service to attorney of record, the Objection is frivolous; court enable gamesmanship.
  - E. S.C. Code Ann. § 15-35-30, no future contempt.
  - F. Judge Dunbar's willful disregard to the Laws of South Carolina, provide Reversible Error: Ex parte Morris, 367 S.C. 12, 623 S.E.2d 462 (Ct. App. 2005) — courts must apply service rules even-handedly, not as a weapon against pro se litigants.
  - G. The August 1, 2025 Order admits my 'responsive pleadings on June 9, 2025' and notes my 'strenuous objections.' **yet proceeds only on Plaintiff's claims and includes a void prospective contempt clause (§5)** I objected to on July 18, 2025 — which was ignored.
  - H. This is part of a pattern: Judge Dunbar signs **Attorney-drafted orders without revision**, devalues pro se evidence (see 2023 Final Order dismissing my LPC testimony), and denies reciprocal enforcement of the same Final Order. This violates **SCRCP Rules 5(b), 13(a), 40(i), S.C. Const. Art. I, § 3, and Canons 2(A), 3(B)(5), 3(B)(8).**
  - I. S.C. Code Ann. § 63-3-530(A)(4) (Family Court Jurisdiction Over Counterclaims): Broad equity power includes "hear and determine... all counterclaims" in domestic relations. Denying on service grounds, despite compliance, disregards this, effectively barring pro se access (SC Supreme Court emphasis in Miles v. Miles, 355 S.C. 511, 586 S.E.2d 385 (2003), mandating liberal construction for self-represented parties).
  - J. Her conduct is **detrimental to South Carolina families**, especially self-represented fathers, by enabling one-sided litigation and chilling access to justice."

II. In the August 1, 2025 Rule to Show Cause Order

- A. **Violation of South Carolina Code of Judicial Conduct: Impartiality and Integrity.** By signing an order substantially mirroring the Plaintiff's draft—despite the Defendant's timely, specific objections (e.g., to Paragraph 5 and incomplete issue coverage in Paragraph 3)—the Judge appeared to favor the represented Plaintiff over the pro se Defendant. The handwritten addition to Paragraph 5, while altering dates, preserved the objected-to automatic contempt mechanism, suggesting improper influence from the drafting attorney.
- B. Judge Dunbar, disregarded Canon 2A: A judge "shall respect and comply with the law and shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary." Adopting a biased draft without neutral

revisions creates an "appearance of impropriety," eroding trust—especially in family court, where pro se litigants are common.

- C. Judge Dunbar, disregarded Canon 3B(7): A judge must "accord to every person who has a legal interest in a proceeding... the right to be heard according to law." Dismissing the Defendant's input on the proposed order denies this, particularly as SCRFC Rule 26(b) requires judges to independently review and modify attorney-drafted orders for fairness.
- D. Judge Dunbar, disregarded Canon 2B: Judges shall not allow relationships (e.g., with Plaintiff's counsel) to influence judgment or lend judicial prestige to private interests. Close alignment with one attorney's draft, post-objection, implies partiality.
- E. Judge Dunbar's disregard for the Canon's set forth, have a negative Impact on Defendant and Broader SC Citizens: This pattern, if recurrent, contravenes the judiciary's role in equity cases (S.C. Code Ann. § 63-3-530), where judges must weigh both sides equally. Pro se defendants like myself, are disproportionately harmed by Judge Dunbar, as they lack resources to attorney represented litigants.
- F. Judge Dunbar, disregarded Canon 3(B)(8) (Pro Se Litigants): "A judge shall accord to every person who is legally interested... the right to be heard according to law." Pro se parties receive reasonable accommodations (e.g., Hyman v. Ford Motor Co., 408 S.C. 464, 769 S.E.2d 57 (Ct. App. 2015)); abrupt denial without cure opportunity (e.g., amended service) disregards this, disproportionately harming unrepresented defendants in high-stakes contempt (incarceration risk).

III. In the August 1, 2025 Rule to Show Cause Order:

- A. **Violation of Procedural Due Process Under the U.S. Constitution (14th Amendment) and South Carolina Constitution (Article I, Section 3)**
- B. Paragraph 5 predetermines guilt and punishment for future actions (e.g., missing payment deadlines) without requiring notice, an opportunity to be heard, or evidence of willfulness. This "automatic" sanction deprives the Defendant of liberty (incarceration) and property (warrant issuance) without process, treating potential future non-compliance as proven contempt.
- C. Judge Dunbar's complete disregard of the 14th Amendment Due Process Clause: No state shall "deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." In civil contempt proceedings, due process requires (1) notice of charges, (2) a hearing to contest ability to comply, and (3) proof by clear and convincing evidence of willful violation. Automatic future penalties violate this by presuming guilt without a hearing, as affirmed in \*Turner v. Rogers\*, 564 U.S. 431 (2011), where the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a civil contempt order for child support non-payment due to inadequate procedural safeguards (e.g., no opportunity to show inability to pay).
- D. Judge Dunbar's complete disregard of the South Carolina Constitution, Article I, Section 3: Mirrors federal due process, prohibiting deprivation "except by the judgment of his peers or the law of the land." S.C. courts must provide a hearing before incarceration for contempt, per S.C. Code Ann. § 14-1-150, which

mandates that no citizen be jailed for contempt "until he be brought before the court and there be heard by himself or counsel."

- E. Judge Dunbar's Evidence of Bias: Minimal changes to the Plaintiff's draft despite objections suggest the Judge favored one side, eroding public confidence in judicial neutrality.
- F. The SC Citizens are put in a precarious position coming before a bias judge, the negative impact of a bias Judge are the most concerning for a society, where judicial neutrality is a must. Any, pro se status (self-represented) heightens the need for safeguards, as \*Turner\* emphasizes protections for unrepresented parties in civil contempt. Ignoring the Defendant's July 18 objection to this language denied him meaningful protections under the law of the land.

IV. In the August 1, 2025 Rule to Show Cause Order:

- A. Judge Dunbar's Non-Compliance with South Carolina Rules of Family Court (SCRFC) Rule 14: Rules to Show Cause Procedure**
- B. The order fails to adhere to the structured process for contempt hearings, including post-hearing enforcement. Paragraph 5 effectively issues a "self-executing" warrant for future violations without a new rule to show cause or hearing, bypassing the rule's safeguards.
- C. The Order shows Judge Dunbar's disregard of SCRFC Rule 14(a)–(f): Contempt via rule to show cause requires (1) a verified petition/affidavit detailing violations, (2) personal service with 10 days' notice, (3) a hearing date/time/place specified in the rule, and (4) a "return" (response) served before the hearing. Sanctions follow only after the hearing proves willfulness; future compliance cannot be prejudged. The rule explicitly aims to "satisfy due process" by avoiding "surprise" and ensuring a hearing—directly contravened here.
- D. The Order shows Judge Dunbar's disregard of SCRFC Rule 14(e) (Service): Rules must be personally served (not via mail or process server alone) to ensure notice. While initial service occurred (per the order), Paragraph 5's future sanctions lack this for subsequent violations.
- E. The Order shows Judge Dunbar's disregard, Related: SCRCP Rule 40(i) (Contempt Proceedings): As cited by the Defendant, this governs general civil contempt and requires a hearing before sentencing. Automatic warrants violate the "opportunity to be heard" mandate.
- F. The negative impact on Pro Se Representation, and the SC Citizens as a whole must be considered by the JMSC. The Defendant's objection to Paragraph 5's original language (proposing removal for due process reasons) was ignored, and the Judge's handwritten version retained the core flaw—escalating to arrest without process. This turns a remedial civil sanction (purgeable by payment) into a punitive trap. **Furthermore it seems to show bias against those Pro Se, Self Represented Litigants.**

V. In the August 1, 2025 Rule to Show Cause Order:



- A. On August 1, 2025, Judge Tarita A. Dunbar issued a Rule to Show Cause Order (2020-DR-23-1102) finding me in willful contempt for failing to pay \$10,000 in 2023 attorney fees. In Paragraph 3.b, she ruled that 'he could have listed and sold his Florida property... but chose not to.' **Violating SC Court's Jurisdiction Limits, and shifting the burden of proof on to Defendant.**
- B. SCRFC Rule 17(a) allows Family Court may order sale of marital property only if it has jurisdiction over the residence. Florida property was never marital property subject to equitable apportionment in the original 2023 decree.
- C. S.C. Code Ann 63-3-530(A)(2), Family Court jurisdiction is limited to SC realty for partition/sale. The Judge invented a remedy not authorized by statute.
- D. Lewis v. Lewis, 392 S.C. 381, 709 S.E.2d 650 (2011); Contempt sanctions must be remedial, not punitive, and within the court's power. Judge Dunbar forcing the liquidation of a non-marital, out of state asset is punitive and unenforceable.
- E. In civil contempt, the movant (Petitioner) must prove ability to comply by clear and convincing evidence - Poston v. Poston, 331 S.C. 106 (1998). Judge Dunbar shifted the burden to Defendant to disprove ability to pay.
- F. No hearing on feasibility. Judge Dunbar's pre-judging the liquidity of a Florida asset without evidence or cross examination, the judge denied due process and manifested bias towards the plaintiff's narrative.
- G. This pattern of coercive, unenforceable orders harms the citizens of South Carolina by punishing them for assets beyond the court's reach.

VI. In the August 1, 2025 Rule to Show Cause Order (§5), Judge Dunbar signed a preemptive contempt provision for future actions, violating SCRCP Rule 40(i) and due process under S.C. Const. Art. I, § 3; **this appears biased as the order was drafted by Plaintiff's counsel without incorporating Defendant's pro se objections per July 18, 2025 email.**

- A. Had a friend from church, not have purged me from Jail, I would not have been able to earn money, and the order reads, no savings, no credit union balance. The inability to earn money to pay a \$██████ Debt, plus \$██████ in new attorney fees i was ordered to pay, would have triggered the bench warrant.
- B. Civil Contempt must be remedial and purgeable - Poston v. Poston, 331 S.C. 106 (1998). Not working makes this impossible.
- C. Contemnor must have present ability to comply Ex parte Jackson, 381 S.C. 253, 672 S.E.2d 585 (ct. App. 2009). \$██████ due Aug 15, 2025, which would have been less than 60 days of my sentence. Bench warrant triggered because of inability to comply. This is punitive, not remedial. Punitive sanctions require criminal protections that are none existent in this order. - State v. Brandt, 393 S.C. 526, 713 S.E. 2d 591 (2011).
- D. The order jails me for 90 days, knowing it destroys my ability to pay the purge, then it automatically re-arrest me. **This is punitive contempt without a jury - Canon 3B(2)**

(b) specific dates, places, and times at which or during which such allegations took place:

I. Hearing June 17, 2025 at 3pm; Order signed August 1, 2025, Greenville Family Court.

(c) names of any persons present during such alleged actions or possessing evidence of such alleged actions:

- Elizabeth G [REDACTED] (Court Reporter)
- Ryan W [REDACTED] of Wallhall, SC (friend of defendant)
- Annette R [REDACTED] of Seneca, SC (friend of defendant)
- Stephen W [REDACTED] of Westminster, SC (friend of defendant)
- Jessica Ruzicka of [REDACTED], SC (Plaintiff)

(d) how this information relates to the qualifications of the judicial candidate:

- I. Demonstrates disregard for judicial canons Canon 2(A) on avoiding impropriety and laws of impartiality under Canon 2(B), Canon 3(B)(2), 3(B)(5), 3(B)(8), harming SC citizens in family court proceedings.
- II. Violation of Procedural Due Process Under the U.S. Constitution (14th Amendment) and South Carolina Constitution (Article I, Section 3), causing damage to SC citizens in family court proceedings.
- III. Non-Compliance with South Carolina Rules of Family Court (SCRFC) Rule 14: Rules to Show Cause Procedure, SCRFC Rule 14(a)–(f), SCRFC Rule 14(e), harming SC citizens in family court proceedings.
- IV. Violating SCRCP Rule 40(i), 5(b), 13(a) causing harm to SC citizens in family court proceedings.
- V. Violating S.C. Code Ann 63-3-530(A)(2); NO SC statute authorizes Family Court to compel sale of out-of-state realty.

**(4) The list of and a copy of any and all documents to be produced at the hearing which relate to my testimony regarding the qualifications of the judicial candidate.**

- a. Complaint
- b. Response To Complaint,
- c. Respondent Counter Claim,
- d. Proof of service,
- e. Rule to Show Cause Order (August 1, 2025),
- f. Proposed Order,
- g. July 18, 2025 Email Chain between Pro Se and Plaintiff's Attorney
- h. Transcript from June 17, 2025 Rule to Show Cause Hearing.

**(5) Here are any other facts I feel are pertinent to the screening of this judicial candidate.**

- Pattern of devaluing compliant therapy evidence in Final Order, delegating authority improperly under S.C. Code Ann. § 63-7-1990.
- Plaintiff's counsel lied in the Verification. Judge Dunbar hand-wrote the rejected language anyway. This is **ex parte collusion** to trap a pro se defendant.
- This is not legal — it is judicial sabotage.

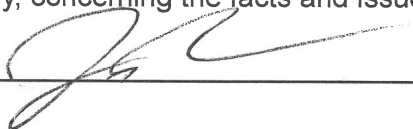
- The impossible purge + automatic warrant is void on its face.

**(6) Whether I have direct personal knowledge of the concerns or complaints alleged.**

- I do have direct personal knowledge of the concerns and/or complaints alleged. I understand that the information I have provided herein is confidential and is not to be disclosed to anyone except the Judicial Merit Selection Commission, the candidate, and counsel.
- I therefore beg the Judicial Merit Selection Commission to complete a thorough investigation into The Honorable Tarita A. Dunbar and orders she has drafted while on the bench.

**WAIVER**

I further understand that my testimony before the Judicial Merit Selection Commission may require the disclosure of information that would otherwise be protected by the attorney-client privilege. Therefore, in order that my complaint may be fully investigated by the Commission, I hereby waive any right that I may have to raise the attorney-client privilege as that privilege may relate to the subject of my complaint. I further understand that by waiving the attorney-client privilege for this matter, I am authorizing the Commission to question other parties, including my attorney, concerning the facts and issues of my case.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

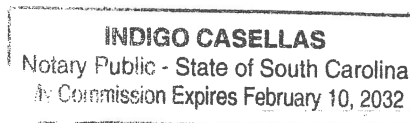
Sworn to me this 3 day of November, 2025

\*\* Indigo Casellas \*\*

L.S.

Notary Public of South Carolina

My commission expires: 02/10/2032



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 COUNTY OF GREENVILLE )  
 JESSICA RUZICKA, )  
 PETITIONER, )  
 vs. )  
 JUSTIN RUZICKA, )  
 RESPONDENT. )

FILED CLERK OF COURT  
 GREENVILLE, S.C.  
 2025 APR 30 A 10:41  
 C.A. No.: 2020-DR-23-1102

IN THE FAMILY COURT FOR THE  
 THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
 FAMILY COURT  
 COMPLAINT  
 (contempt)

THE PETITIONER would respectfully show unto the Court as follows:

1. That this Court entered a Final Order signed by the Honorable Tarita A. Dunbar and filed with the Clerk of Court on September 5, 2023, which order is attached hereto.
2. Pursuant to the Final Order on page 25 - 26, paragraph 2, it states: *"Father's visitation shall be, and is hereby, limited and restricted to sight and sound supervised visitation at Father's expense by New Choice Visitations for a period of not less than four (4) hours on alternate weekends. Father shall convey to Mother via written communication the hours he has coordinated no less than 72 hours prior to the visit(s) occurring. There shall be no other contact between Father and the children until further order of the Court (this includes texts, calls and any other contact outside of supervised visits). Father is responsible for the costs of these services."*
3. Despite this Order, Respondent has willfully and intentionally failed and refused and continues to fail and refuse to comply with this Order. Specifically, Respondent has attended the children's games on September 6, 2023, March 7, 2025, April

8, 2025, April 15, 2025 and April 28, 2025 after not attempting any visitation with the children since June 2023 and in direct violation of this Court's order. Further, Respondent sent one of the minor children a Snapchat message on November 26, 2024 in direct violation of this Court's order. Petitioner is informed and believes that Respondent should be held in willful contempt of the Court's order and sanctioned accordingly.

4. Pursuant to the Final Order on page 28, paragraph d., it states, *"The parties shall exclusively use Our Family Wizard for all communications. Each party shall pay for his or her own costs associated with this program."*

5. Despite this Order, Respondent has willfully and intentionally failed and refused and continues to fail and refuse to comply with this Order. Specifically, Respondent has not opened the Our Family Wizard application since September 6, 2023. Petitioner is informed and believes that Respondent should be held in willful contempt of the Court's order and sanctioned accordingly.

6. Pursuant to the Final Order on page 28, paragraph 8., it states, *"In addition to Judge Robertson's restraints, neither party shall discuss any issues regarding this or prior litigation (terms and provisions of any of the hearings, this trial, court orders, etc.,) including being restrained from making comments or offering commentary about the hearings, this trial or court order with or in the presence of the children; neither party shall make disparaging remarks about the other parent, teachers or any of the providers in this case or moving forward as new providers are introduced to the children, especially the children's therapist, with or in the presence of the children... The parties shall use all good faith efforts to protect and shield the children from their conflict and this litigation in private, in public and on social media...."*

7. Despite this Order, Respondent has willfully and intentionally failed and refused to comply with this Order. Specifically, Respondent sent the minor child a Snapchat message on November 26, 2024, in which he openly disparaged Petitioner and discussed the litigation. Petitioner is informed and believes that Respondent should be held in willful contempt of the Court's order and sanctioned accordingly.

8. Pursuant to the Final Order on page 30, paragraph 11, it states, "*Mother shall pay the first \$2[REDACTED] per child, per year, for uncovered medical expenses for the children which include medical, dental, counseling, orthodontic, vision and other such expenses. Thereafter, the parties shall divide all remaining uncovered medical expenses 50/50. The Mother shall inform Father within ten days of the services rendered by providing a receipt for payment of the same and Father shall reimburse the Mother or the service provider (depending on whether the parent paid the whole amount of just half to the provider) within ten days of receiving notice of payment.*"

9. Despite this Order, Respondent has willfully and intentionally failed and refused to comply with this Order. Specifically, Respondent has failed to pay his portion of the minor children's orthodontic costs of \$[REDACTED] although provided copies of the statements and payment ledgers for the costs associated with the same. Petitioner is informed and believes that Respondent should be ordered to immediately pay Petitioner \$929.56, be held in willful contempt of the Court's order and sanctioned accordingly.

10. Pursuant to the Final Order on page 30, paragraph 13, it states, "*Mother seeks an award of attorney's fees and litigation costs from Father. Mother has \$[REDACTED] total attorney's fees and costs in connection with this matter. The Court finds that Mother is entitled to an award of attorney's fees and litigation costs in the amount of \$[REDACTED] ..*" Further, pursuant to the Final



Order on page 32, paragraph 1, it states "...Mother has substantially prevailed in regard to the relief she has sought and Father's actions have led to a large majority, if not all, of the conflict and need for the trial. As such, Father shall pay Mother \$ [REDACTED] toward her attorney's fees. This amount shall be paid as follows: \$ [REDACTED] within ten days of the filing date of this order; \$ [REDACTED] within 90 days of the filing of this order and the balance on or before the expiration of 200 days from the filing date of this order."

11. Despite this Order, Respondent has willfully and intentionally failed and refused to comply with this Order. Specifically, Respondent paid the first payment of \$ [REDACTED] on November 15, 2023 which was 61 days late; he made his second payment of \$ [REDACTED] as ordered; made a partial payment of \$ [REDACTED] on February 24, 2024; made another partial payment of \$ [REDACTED] on July 16, 2024; made another partial payment of \$2 [REDACTED] on September 9, 2024; made another partial payment of \$ [REDACTED] on October 24, 2024; and a final partial payment of \$ [REDACTED] on December 25, 2024 leaving a balance owed of \$ [REDACTED] owed to Petitioner on or before March 23, 2024. Petitioner is informed and believes that Respondent should be ordered to immediately pay Petitioner the past due balance owed of \$ [REDACTED] and should be held in willful contempt of the Court's order and sanctioned accordingly.

12. Petitioner instituted this action because of and due to the actions of the Respondent. Petitioner is, therefore, informed and believes she is entitled to an Order of this Court requiring Respondent to pay all of her attorney's fees, costs and other expenses associated with this action.

13. Petitioner is further informed and believes that she is entitled to an Order of

this Court citing the Respondent for willful Contempt of Court and ordering appropriate sanctions which may include imprisonment, fine, and/or community service.

WHEREFORE the Petitioner prays that the Court:

- A. Require Respondent to abide by this Court's Final Order;
- C. Require Respondent to immediately reimburse Petitioner the sum of \$ [REDACTED] for his share of the minor children's uncovered medical expenses and the final payment of \$ [REDACTED] of the Court ordered attorney's fees owed to Petitioner;
- D. Require Respondent to pay attorney's fees and costs incurred in bringing this action;
- E. Cite the Respondent for Contempt of the Final Order and order appropriate sanctions; and
- F. Grant such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Vanessa H. Kormylo  
Vanessa H. Kormylo  
Attorney for Petitioner  
1314 East Washington Street  
Greenville, South Carolina 29607  
(864) 242-1644

4/29, 2025  
Greenville, South Carolina

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 COUNTY OF Greenville )  
 JESSICA RUZICKA, )  
 Petitioner, )  
 v. )  
 JUSTIN RUZICKA, )  
 Respondent. )

FILED CLERK OF COURT  
 GREENVILLE, S.C.  
 2025 JUN 19 A 9:23  
 FAMILY COURT

IN THE FAMILY COURT  
 THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

RESPONDENT RESPONSE  
 TO CAMPLAINT

Docket No.: 2020-DR-23-1102

TO: THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF THE GREENVILLE FAMILY COURT :

COMES NOW the Defendant/Respondent, Justin Ruzicka, pro se, being duly sworn, do hereby states and respectfully submits the following Response to the Plaintiff's Petition for Rule to Show Cause and Contempt, and states as follows:

#### **I. GENERAL OBJECTION TO ALLEGATIONS – LACK OF EVIDENCE AND INSUFFICIENT DOCUMENTATION**

1. Defendant denies all allegations made in Petitioner's complaint to the extent they are unsubstantiated and not supported by **admissible, authenticated evidence** as required by the **South Carolina Rules of Evidence (SCRE), Rule 901 and 403.**
2. Petitioner has failed to produce sufficient and authenticated documentation to prove willful violations, including:
  - o Screenshots from unverified sources;
  - o Lack of metadata or sworn affidavits authenticating authorship of alleged Snapchat messages;
  - o No proof of timely notice under the Final Order for uncovered medical expenses;
  - o No demonstrable efforts to communicate via Our Family Wizard (OFW) as required.
3. The Defendant asserts that each contempt claim rests on **inadmissible or uncorroborated hearsay, unauthenticated digital messages, or unverified expenses**, all of which fail the clear and convincing evidentiary standard required for contempt findings.

**Cited Case Law:**

- *Poston v. Poston*, 331 S.C. 106, 502 S.E.2d 86 (1998)
  - *State v. McCall*, 405 S.C. 512, 748 S.E.2d 771 (2013)
  - *Cheap-O's Truck Stop v. Cloyd*, 350 S.C. 596, 567 S.E.2d 514 (2002)
- 

**II. RESPONSE TO EACH ALLEGATION**

4. Plaintiff's complaint is misleading in an attempt to be manipulative and coercive to the Court. Respondent attended School Soccer games on March 7, 2025, April 8 2025, April 15 2025, April 28 2025. Respondent; Deny's attending 'Soccer game' on September 6, 2023, and demands strict proof there of; where Father's attendance caused "communication" or "visitation" with child/children.
  - Attendance in a public place does not constitute "visitation" or "communication"
  - Pursuant to Judge Robertson's Parenting Duties, Rights, and Restrictions, Paragraph D, grants access to Records and Activities in their children's school activities.
5. The Defendant/Respondent Deny's allegations of "Snapchat message on November 26, 2024." Respondent demands authentication and full context of message. In addition Respondent requests Court to exclude or strike under **SRE 403 (prejudicial and unverified)**.
6. Defendant/Respondent admits he has had technical difficulties using Our Family Wizard. Furthermore Petitioner has failed to communicate through Our Family Wizard the; medical, dental, counseling, orthodontic, vision and other such services into Our Family Wizard dating back to September 6, 2023. Petitioner has failed to inform Respondent of School the Child/Children attend since September 6, 2023.
7. The Defendant/Respondent Deny's allegations of "Snapchat message on November 26, 2024." Respondent demands authentication and full context of message. In addition Respondent requests Court to exclude or strike under **SRE 403 (prejudicial and unverified)**.

- Respondent asserts non-wilfulness in any message as the Respondent was expressing an emotional response, protected under free speech and the first Amendment of the United States.
8. Respondent Deny's allegations of failure to pay for Child's orthodontic costs Petitioner alleges to be [REDACTED]
- Petitioner never informed Respondent of Child's Orthodontic visits, via a summary on OFW.
  - Petitioner never provided proof of receipt and services rendered within 10 days as required by the Order \_\_\_\_\_
  - Noncompliance was due to Plaintiff's/Petitioner's own failure to notify in a timely manner, per terms of Final Order
9. Respondent Deny's allegations of failure to pay attorney fees.
- Respondent has shown good faith efforts to pay attorney fees over time.
  - Respondent was further threatened by Plaintiff on June 7, 2024 via OFW to pay outstanding attorney fees balance.
  - Respondent was threatened by Plaintiff's attorney via email on July 22, 2024 to pay my outstanding balance of an estimated [REDACTED] To which I replied and Attorney's Plaintiff was Thankful for clear, concise communication.
  - Respondent mailed \$[REDACTED] on July 16, 2024 to Petitioner for the outstanding balance of [REDACTED]
  - Respondent has continually made good faith payments to included, [REDACTED] in 2023, \$[REDACTED] in 2024, YET only earning a \$[REDACTED] from normal course of business as a Realtor as can be seen from my 1099 from Keller Williams Western Upstate.
  - Petitioners math is Inaccurate: \$[REDACTED] -  
[REDACTED]

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### III. COUNTERCLAIM FOR SANCTIONS AGAINST PLAINTIFF AND HER COUNSEL

10. Plaintiff has filed this Rule to Show Cause without producing foundational documentation, using the court as a tool to harass, intimidate, and control a pro se Defendant/Respondent —conduct which constitutes **an abuse of process and bad faith litigation tactics.**

11. Defendant/Respondent respectfully moves this Court for **sanctions against Petitioner/Plaintiff's attorney under SCRPC Rule 11, and South Carolina Appellate Court Rule 407, Rule 3.1**, due to:
- Filing unsupported claims;
  - Failure to authenticate digital evidence;
  - Burdening the court with a frivolous, retaliatory filing;
  - Using litigation to interfere with Defendant's parental rights.
12. Defendant respectfully seeks an award of \$ [REDACTED] in monetary sanctions to compensate for:
- Time and expense defending against baseless allegations;
  - Damage to reputation and family relationships;
  - Stress and financial hardship resulting from misuse of the court;
13. File under **Rule 11, SCRPC or SC Appellate Court Rule 407 (Professional Misconduct)** if claim is shown to be frivolous, unsupported by evidence, or filed solely to harass.
14. Supporting Case Law:
- Runyon v. Wright*, 322 S.C. 15, 471 S.E.2d 160 (1996) Filing of a frivolous lawsuit may warrant sanctions.
  - Hanahan v. Simpson*, 326 S.C. 140, 485 S.E.2d 903 (1997) Sanctions appropriate where litigation is used abusively.

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#### IV. CLAIM FOR MONETARY DAMAGES AGAINST PLAINTIFF FOR BAD FAITH LITIGATION

15. Pursuant to the Court Order issued September 5, 2023, Defendant's monthly income was found to be approximately \$ [REDACTED]. This Rule to Show Cause has forced Defendant to divert personal funds and time to defend against a **frivolous, unsubstantiated petition**.
16. In light of the Plaintiff's failure to comply with the Order herself (e.g., failure to notify Defendant of children's medical visits or submit timely receipts, provide educational access), **Defendant seeks an award of compensatory damages of no less than** [REDACTED] representing lost income and emotional distress stemming from this litigation.



---

## V. ADDITIONAL RELIEF REQUESTED

17. In the interest of protecting parental access and to ensure lawful monitoring of location during parenting time, the Respondent respectfully moves the Court to:

**Order Plaintiff to ensure that all minor children's Snapchat Map location services remain turned ON** and visible to Father at all times. This request is made in light of the Plaintiff's repeated refusals to provide clear, honest updates regarding the children's whereabouts, and in consideration of maintaining accountability of the Petitioner's contentious actions.

18. In the interest of parental rights, duties and accountability to ensure Petitioner respects her rights and duties pursuant to the Order and Judge Robertson Parenting Duties, Rights, and Restrictions, the Respondent respectfully moves the Court to:

**Order Respondent release of any and all expenses related to Medical, Dental, Counseling, Orthodontic, Vision and other such services to date as a result of Petitioner's failure to inform Respondent in a timely manner, Specifically within 10 days of services rendered as stated in Order.** This request is made in light of the Plaintiff's repeated refusals to provide any summary, receipts, or whom the children are seeing for; medical, dental, counseling, orthodontic, vision and other such services and in consideration of maintaining accountability of the Petitioner's contentious actions.

---

## VI. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, having fully responded, the Defendant respectfully requests that this Honorable Court:

1. **Deny** Plaintiff's Petition for Contempt and Rule to Show Cause in its entirety;
2. **Impose Sanctions** against Plaintiff's attorney in the amount of \$ [REDACTED];
3. **Forgive the Remaining Balance of \$ [REDACTED]** for Attorney's fees to Plaintiff;
4. **Award Defendant \$ [REDACTED]** in compensatory damages for this bad faith filing;
5. **Order Plaintiff** to activate Snapchat Map tracking for the children;
6. **Order Child Support** Based on current incomes; to be \$ [REDACTED] effective July 1, 2025;
7. **Order Plaintiff to Inform** State Disbursement Office of change in Child Support, effective July 1, 2025;

8. **Order the Children to be with Respondent** unsupervised for three days starting at 6pm July 3, 2025 to 6pm on July 6, 2025;
9. **Order Plaintiff/Petitioner to inform** Father/Respondent when Child/Children leave the State for more than 24 hours;
10. **Award Respondent costs** and any further relief the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

This the 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2025.

  
Justin Ruzicka, Pro Se Respondent/Defendant

4 Black Powder Ct  
Piedmont, SC 29673  
864-775-0119  
[houseguy@kw.com](mailto:houseguy@kw.com)

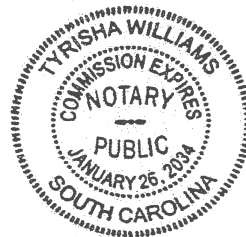
Notary Of Greenville (county)

South Carolina

Seal Below

  
Signature of Notary

Date of Expiration of Notary 1/26/34



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF Greenville )  
JESSICA RUZICKA, )  
Petitioner, )  
v. )  
JUSTIN RUZICKA, )  
Respondent. )

FILED CLERK OF COURT  
GREENVILLE, S.C.  
2025 JUN -9 A 9:24  
FAMILY COURT

IN THE FAMILY COURT  
THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

RESPONDENT COUNTER CLAIM  
AND RULE TO SHOW CAUSE

Docket No.: 2020-DR-23-1102

TO: THE HONORABLE JUDGE DUNBAR OF THE GREENVILLE FAMILY COURT :

COMES NOW the Defendant/Respondent, Justin Ruzicka, pro se, being duly sworn, do hereby state and respectfully submits the following Counter Claim to the Plaintiff's Petition for Rule to Show Cause and Contempt, and states as follows:

## II. COUNTER CLAIM OF DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT

1. Pursuant to the Final Order on Page 26, paragraph 3., it states: "The children shall continue in therapy with a licensed therapist, however, Mother will choose a new therapist to provide therapy services for them and notify Father of the same." In addition, Pursuant to the Final Order on Page 34, Final Paragraph on page, it states: "The Mother Shall arrange for a new therapist for the children and shall notify Father of the same."
2. Despite this Order, Mother/Petitioner has willfully and intentionally failed and refused and continues to fail and refuse to comply with this Order. Specifically Petitioner has not input the; name, location, email, phone number, of the new therapist into Our Family Wizard dating back to September 6, 2023. Respondent is informed and believes that the Petitioner should be held in willful contempt of the Court's order and sanctioned accordingly.
3. Pursuant to the Final Order on Page 35, paragraph (c), it states: "Father shall not attend the children's medical, dental, and other such appointments, however, Mother shall notify him of these appointments and send a summary of the appointment." Pursuant to the Final Order on Page 26, paragraph 3., it states: "The children shall continue in therapy with a licensed therapist, however, Mother will choose a new therapist to provide therapy services for them and notify Father of the same."
4. Despite this Order, Mother/Petitioner has willfully and intentionally failed and refused and continues to fail and refuse to comply with this Order. Specifically Petitioner has not input

ANY, Medical, Dental, or other such appointments into Our Family Wizard. Petitioner has failed to provide, name, location, times and summary for ANY and ALL; Medical, Dental, and Other such appointments into Our Family Wizard dating back to September 6, 2023. Respondent is informed and believes that the Petitioner should be held in willful contempt of the Court's order and sanctioned accordingly.

5. Pursuant to the Final Order on Page 37, First Full Paragraph, it states: "Mother shall pay the first \$[REDACTED] per child, per year, toward uncovered medical expenses and provide proof of these payments to the father. Thereafter, the parties shall divide all remaining uncovered medical expenses 50/50. These expenses include medical, dental, counseling, orthodontic, vision and other such services. The Mother shall inform Father within ten days of the services rendered by providing a receipt for payment of the same and Father shall reimburse the mother or the service provider (depending on whether the parent paid the whole amount of just half to the provider) within ten days of receiving notice of payment.
6. Despite this Order, Mother/Petitioner has willfully and intentionally failed and refused and continues to fail and refuse to comply with this Order. Specifically Petitioner has not provided any receipts, copies of insurance provided payments for, ANY and ALL medical, dental, counseling, orthodontic, vision and other such services into Our Family Wizard dating back to September 6, 2023. Respondent is informed and believes that the Petitioner should be held in willful contempt of the Court's order and sanctioned accordingly.
7. Pursuant to the Final Order on Page 39, Paragraph D, it states: "Each parent, whether the custodial or noncustodial parent, has equal access and the same right to obtain all educational and medical records of their minor children and the right to participate in their children's school activities."
8. Despite this Order, Mother/Petitioner has willfully and intentionally failed and refused and continues to fail and refuse to comply with this Order. Specifically Petitioner has failed to inform the Educational Department within each Child's school access of Father/Respondent. Petitioner changed the Schools to which the Children attend since September 6, 2023 and has failed to input this information into Our Family Wizard since September 6, 2023. Respondent is informed and believes that the Petitioner should be held in willful contempt of the Court's order and sanctioned accordingly.
9. Pursuant to the Final Order on Page 39, Paragraph D, it states: "Each parent, whether the custodial or noncustodial parent, has equal access and the same right to obtain all educational and medical records of their minor children and the right to participate in their children's school activities."

10. Despite this Order, Mother/Petitioner has willfully and intentionally failed and refused and continues to fail and refuse to comply with this Order. Petitioner changed the School System from the Private School, Southside Christian School that was where Children have attended for Educational Purposes from the Original Date of Moving to South Carolina through the End of Litigation Ending on June 26, 2023, without informing Respondent, without inputting such information into Our Family Wizard since September 6, 2023. Respondent has NO CLUE where the Children have attended School Since September 6, 2023. Respondent is informed and believes that the Petitioner should be held in willful contempt of the Court's order and sanctioned accordingly.
11. Pursuant to the Final Order on Page 39, Paragraph D, it states: "Each parent, whether the custodial or noncustodial parent, has equal access and the same right to obtain all educational and medical records of their minor children and the right to participate in their children's school activities.
12. Despite this Order, Mother/Petitioner has willfully and intentionally failed and refused and continues to fail and refuse to comply with this Order. Mother/Petitioner's failure to provide father's contact information to the school has made it impossible for Father/Respondent to attend many school functions, attend or be invited to parent teacher conferences, ect Since September 6, 2023. Respondent is informed and believes that the Petitioner should be held in willful contempt of the Court's order and sanctioned accordingly.
13. Pursuant to the Final Order on Page 39, Paragraph E, it states: "While exercising physical child custody or placement, the parents shall be mutually restrained from willfully or negligently (a) engaging in any illegal conduct or activity; (b) subjecting or exposing the child/children to any acts of abuse or neglect; (c) engaging in conduct that endangers the physical or emotional wellbeing of the child/children; and (d) violating any additional restraining order that may be specified in the court order to which this plan is attached.
14. Despite this Order, Mother/Petitioner has willfully and intentionally failed and refused and continues to fail and refuse to comply with this Order. Specifically Petitioner has engaged in conduct that endangers the physical and emotional wellbeing of the children through alienating children from Father at all School Functions. Additionally Petitioner has engaged in conduct that endangers the physical and emotional wellbeing of the children through frivolous unsubstantiated claims and petitions to the Courts, draining the father's finances and causing continued emotional distress stemming from this litigation. Respondent is informed and believes that the Petitioner should be held in willful contempt of the Court's order and sanctioned accordingly.

15. Pursuant to the Final Order on Page 36, First Full Paragraph, it states: "that neither party shall discuss any issues regarding this or prior litigation (terms and provisions of any of the hearings, this trial court orders, ect.,) including being restrained from making comments or offering commentary about the hearings, this trial or court order with or in the presence of the children; neither party shall make disparaging remarks about the other parent, teachers, or any of the providers in this case moving forward as new providers are introduced to the children...."
16. Despite this Order, Mother/Petitioner has willfully and intentionally failed and refused and continues to fail and refuse to comply with this Order. Specifically Petitioner has allowed the children to read the part of the Court Order, as Respondent has been informed directly through the oldest Child, who pulled Respondent/Father to the side of at School Soccer Practice before a soccer game at the Fountain Inn Highschool to which the Child attends. Father was only able to confirm Child's attendance at Fountain Inn High School through Child's friends, and the mapping function within the Snap Chat Application. Petitioner allowed the Child/Children to read the part of the Order stating what the Respondent/Defendant's 'actions' must be to enable Respondent/Defendant to have unsupervised access to the Children. Petitioner's engagement in this conduct has further endangered the emotional wellbeing of the Child/Children. Petitioner's willful and continual actions are manipulative and coercive in an effort to further exacerbate the child/children against a healthy relationship with their Father/Respondent. Respondent is informed and believes that the Petitioner should be held in willful contempt of the Court's order and sanctioned accordingly.

### III. COUNTERCLAIM FOR SANCTIONS AGAINST PLAINTIFF AND HER COUNSEL

6. Plaintiff has filed this Rule to Show Cause without producing foundational documentation, using the court as a tool to harass, intimidate, and control a pro se Defendant/Respondent —conduct which constitutes **an abuse of process and bad faith litigation tactics.**
7. Defendant/Respondent respectfully moves this Court for **sanctions against Petitioner/Plaintiff's attorney under SCRCP Rule 11, and South Carolina Appellate Court Rule 407, Rule 3.1, due to:**



- a. Filing unsupported claims;
  - b. Failure to authenticate digital evidence;
  - c. Burdening the court with a frivolous, retaliatory filing;
  - d. Using litigation to interfere with Defendant's parental rights.
8. Defendant respectfully seeks an award of \$ [REDACTED] in monetary sanctions to compensate for:
- o Time and expense defending against baseless allegations;
  - o Damage to reputation and family relationships;
  - o Stress and financial hardship resulting from misuse of the court;
9. File under **Rule 11, SCRPC** or **SC Appellate Court Rule 407 (Professional Misconduct)** if claim is shown to be frivolous, unsupported by evidence, or filed solely to harass.
10. Supporting Case Law:
- o *Runyon v. Wright*, 322 S.C. 15, 471 S.E.2d 160 (1996) Filing of a frivolous lawsuit may warrant sanctions.
  - o *Hanahan v. Simpson*, 326 S.C. 140, 485 S.E.2d 903 (1997) Sanctions appropriate where litigation is used abusively.

---

#### IV. CLAIM FOR MONETARY DAMAGES AGAINST PLAINTIFF FOR BAD FAITH LITIGATION

9. Pursuant to the Court Order issued September 5, 2023, Defendant's monthly income was found to be approximately \$ [REDACTED]. This Rule to Show Cause has forced Defendant to divert personal funds and time to defend against a **frivolous, unsubstantiated petition**.
10. In light of the Plaintiff's failure to comply with the Order herself (e.g., failure to notify Defendant of children's medical visits or submit timely receipts, provide educational access), **Defendant seeks an award of compensatory damages of no less than \$ [REDACTED]**, representing lost income and emotional distress stemming from this litigation.

## V. ADDITIONAL RELIEF REQUESTED

11. In the interest of protecting parental access and to ensure lawful monitoring of location during parenting time, the Respondent respectfully moves the Court to:

**Order Plaintiff to ensure that all minor children's Snapchat Map location services remain turned ON** and visible to Father at all times. This request is made in light of the Plaintiff's repeated refusals to provide clear, honest updates regarding the children's whereabouts, and in consideration of maintaining accountability of the Petitioner's contentious actions.

12. In the interest of parental rights, duties and accountability to ensure Petitioner respects her rights and duties pursuant to the Order and Judge Robertson Parenting Duties, Rights, and Restrictions, the Respondent respectfully moves the Court to:

**Order Respondent release of any and all expenses related to Medical, Dental, Counseling, Orthodontic, Vision and other such services to date as a result of Petitioner's failure to inform Respondent in a timely manner, Specifically within 10 days of services rendered as stated in Order.** This request is made in light of the Plaintiff's repeated refusals to provide any summary, receipts, or whom the children are seeing for; medical, dental, counseling, orthodontic, vision and other such services and in consideration of maintaining accountability of the Petitioner's contentious actions.

---

## VI. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, having fully responded, the Defendant respectfully requests that this Honorable Court:

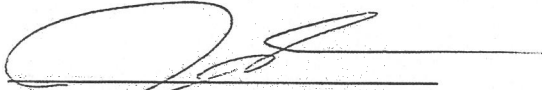
1. **Deny Plaintiff's Petition for Contempt and Rule to Show Cause in its entirety;**
2. **Impose Sanctions** against Plaintiff's attorney in the amount of \$ [REDACTED];
3. **Forgive the Remaining Balance of \$ [REDACTED]** for Attorney's fees to Plaintiff;
4. **Award Defendant \$ [REDACTED]** in compensatory damages for this bad faith filing;
5. **Order Plaintiff** to activate Snapchat Map tracking for the children;
6. **Order Child Support** Based on current incomes; to be \$ [REDACTED] effective July 1, 2025;
7. **Order Plaintiff to Inform** State Disbursement Office of change in Child Support, effective July 1, 2025;
8. **Order the Children to be with Respondent** unsupervised for three days starting at 6pm July 3, 2025 to 6pm on July 6, 2025;

9. **Order Plaintiff/Petitioner to inform** Father/Respondent when Child/Children leave the State for more than 24 hours;

10. **Award Respondent costs** and any further relief the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

This the 9 day of June, 2025.



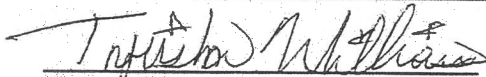
Justin Ruzicka, Pro Se Respondent/Defendant

4 Black Powder Ct  
Piedmont, SC 29673  
864-775-0119  
[houseguy@kw.com](mailto:houseguy@kw.com)

Notary Of Greenville (county)

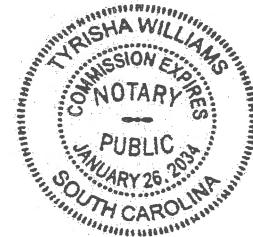
South Carolina

Seal Below



Signature of Notary

Date of Expiration of Notary 1/26/34



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF GREENVILLE

Jessica Ruzicka,

vs.

Justin Ruzicka,

Defendant(s).

IN THE FAMILY COURT  
THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

C.A. NO. 2020-DR-23-1102

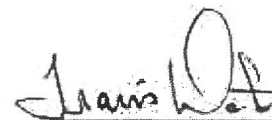
FILED IN THE COURT  
Plaintiff - J. S.C.

2025 JUN 12 P 3:51

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

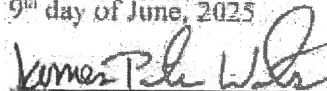
FAMILY COURT

PERSONALLY appeared before me the undersigned, who, being duly sworn, says that (s)he served a Respondent Response to Complaint, Respondent Affidavit and Respondent Counter Claim and Rule to Show Cause in the above-entitled matter on attorney Vanessa Kormylo by delivery to her paralegal, Jennifer Stevenson, and leaving with her one copy of the same at the following address: 1314 E. Washington Street, Greenville, South Carolina 29607 on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2025 at 10:15 a.m. The deponent is not a party to nor interested in this action.



Travis Watson

SWORN to before me this the  
9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2025

 (LS)  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
My commission expires: 1/24/2033

Description of Person Receiving Documents:

SEX: female; SKIN COLOR: white; AGE: 55-60; FACIAL HAIR: none; HEIGHT: 5'-5"; WEIGHT: 150

Greenville Process Service  
25 Woods Lake Road, Suite 216  
Greenville, S.C. 29607  
(864) 242-0712

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF GREENVILLE )  
IN THE FAMILY COURT FOR THE  
THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

2025 AUG -5 A.C. No.: 2020-DR-23-1102

JESSICA RUZICKA,

PETITIONER,

vs.

JUSTIN RUZICKA,

RESPONDENT.

RULE TO SHOW CAUSE ORDER

Plaintiff's Attorney:  
Vanessa H. Kormylo

Hearing Date:  
June 17, 2025

Defendant's Attorney:  
*Pro se*

Hearing Judge: Tarita A. Dunbar

Guardian *ad Litem*:  
NA

Court Reporter:  
Elizabeth Godfrey, DCRP

This matter is before the Court upon Petitioner's filing of a contempt complaint on April 30, 2025, and in conjunction therewith, an Order and Rule to Show Cause was issued on May 1, 2025. Respondent was properly served on May 17, 2025, as evidenced by Affidavit of Service filed this day and presented to this Court. Respondent filed responsive pleadings on June 9, 2025.

Petitioner was present and represented by Vanessa H. Kormylo of Vanessa Hartman Kormylo, P.A. Defendant was self-represented.

Petitioner presented testimony and evidence, met with strenuous objections and argument from Respondent. Petitioner ultimately proceeded with limited portions of her contempt pleadings addressing Respondent's failure to pay the previously ordered attorney

1/3 TAD

fees, failure of Respondent to use an application called Our Family Wizard and failure of Respondent to pay unpaid medical/dental bills. Further, Petitioner corrected the amount of fees owed by Respondent to the amount of \$ [REDACTED], and admitted the \$ [REDACTED] pled in her contempt complaint was an error.

Respondent presented his own testimony and exhibits in response to Petitioner's case.

Based upon the foregoing, together with my review of the record, the evidence and testimony presented as well as hearing argument from both sides, I make the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

1. This court has ongoing personal and subject matter jurisdiction and venue is proper in Greenville County.
2. Inasmuch as Petitioner withdrew certain portions of her contempt allegations, those were not considered by this Court.
3. Regarding the outstanding balance \$ [REDACTED] of fees owed to Petitioner by Respondent pursuant to this Court's 2023 order, I find the Respondent in willful contempt:
  - a. This Court reviewed the Respondent's financial declaration in this present action along with the one filed in the 2023 trial and notes that his rental incomes have increased and he no longer has a balance owed to Greenville Federal Credit Union, and more in savings.
  - b. Pursuant to Respondent's testimony, he could have listed and sold his Florida property after the 2023 trial to satisfy the fees he was ordered to pay but chose not to.



4. The Respondent is sentenced to 90 days for willful contempt, which shall be purged upon his payment of \$[REDACTED]; (this payment of \$[REDACTED] shall be credited toward the Respondent's outstanding balance of \$[REDACTED] from the 2023 trial); payment of \$[REDACTED] by August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025; (also credited toward the \$[REDACTED] owed from the 2023 trial, satisfying the same) and payment of \$[REDACTED] (for a portion of the attorney fees Petitioner incurred for this action) on or before October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

5. Should the future payments not be made to Petitioner's attorney by the dates set forth herein; *the full balance shall become due on any late* TAO  
*Payment. If the full balance of the attorney fees is not*  
*paid by October 17, 2025 the Petitioner's attorney may file an affidavit*  
AND IT IS SO ORDERED. *with the Court and a bench warrant shall be*  
*issued.*

August 1, 2025  
Greenville, South Carolina

Tarita A. Dunbar  
Tarita A. Dunbar, Presiding Judge  
Family Court Judge, 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

VERIFICATION OF CONSULTATION WITH OPPOSING COUNSEL  
TRANSMITTAL TO COUNSEL

Via Electronic Mail To: Justin Ruzicka      houseguy@kw.com

Date: July 17, 2025

Re: Jessica Ruzicka vs. Justin Ruzicka, CA # 2020-DR- 23-1102

Date Order presented to opposing counsel: July 17, 2025

Date Order to be sent to Judge: July 22, 2025

Please review the following proposed Order and notify my office of your suggested changes, if any, before the presentation of the date set forth above. In the event there are no changes to be requested, please advise, and I will submit the Order to the Judge prior to the presentation date. If I do not hear from you within five (5) days, the Order will be presented to the Judge.

Vanessa H. Kormylo  
Attorney for Plaintiff

PRESENTATION TO JUDGE FOR SIGNATURE

To: Honorable Tarita A. Dunbar

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The attached Order was presented to opposing counsel, GAL (and/or pro se party) on July 17, 2025. It is now being presented to you for your consideration and signature. Please note the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ Counsel responded and approved the Order.

\_\_\_\_\_ Changes were requested and have been incorporated into the Order, and this final draft has been approved by counsel.

\_\_\_\_\_ Counsel cannot agree to the final form, and this proposed Order is submitted for your consideration.

\_\_\_\_\_ Counsel has not responded, and this proposed Order is submitted for your consideration.

Vanessa H. Kormylo  
Attorney for Plaintiff

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )

COUNTY OF GREENVILLE )JESSICA RUZICKA )

Plaintiff, )

vs. )

JUSTIN RUZICKA )

Defendant. )

IN THE FAMILY COURT  
THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**JUDGMENT IN A  
FAMILY COURT CASE**Docket No. 2020-DR-23-1102**Submitted by:**

Vanessa H. Kormylo

Attorney for ☒ Plaintiff ☐ Defendant  
or  
☐ Self-Represented Litigant ☐ GAL**DECISION BY COURT** (check all that apply)

- ☒ This action came to trial, hearing or was resolved by consent and an order was rendered.
- ☐ This action has been dismissed pursuant to ☐ Rule 12(b), SCRPC ☐ Rule 41(a), SCRPC  
☐ Rule 43(k), SCRPC ☐ Family Court Benchmark  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED:** ☒ See attached order; ☐ Statement of Judgment by the Court:☐ Additional information for Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_**ORDER INFORMATION**

- This is a ☐ Temporary ☒ Final order. If Final, does this order end the case? ☒ Yes ☐ No
- Support ☐ is not ordered ☒ is ordered, and it is to be paid ☐ through the court. ☐ directly to the CP.
- Case number under which support is paid if different from this one: \_\_\_\_\_
- This order involves the immediate ☐ issuance ☐ dismissal of a bench warrant, or ☒ does not apply.
- ☐ The following motions are ended by this order (include motion filing date): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ This order adds or dismisses the following parties to this case:  
☐ dismiss ☐ add: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ dismiss ☐ add: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC INDEX/TRANSCRIPT OF JUDGMENT (§ 20-3-670(B)(1))</b> Complete this section below when the judgment affects title to real or personal property or if any amount should be enrolled. If there is no judgment information to enroll, indicate "N/A" in one of the boxes below.		
Judgment In Favor of (List name(s) below)	Judgment Against (List name(s) below)	Judgment Amount to be Enrolled (List amount(s) below)
Jessica Ruzicka	Justin Ruzicka	\$ [REDACTED]
		\$
		\$
If applicable, describe the property, including tax map information and address, referenced in the order:		

The judgment information above has been provided by the submitting party. Disputes concerning the amounts contained in this form may be addressed by way of motion pursuant to the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure. Amounts to be computed such as interest or additional taxable costs not available at the time the form and final order are submitted to the judge may be provided to the clerk. **Note: title abstractors and researchers should refer to the official court order for judgment details.**

Family Court Judge \_\_\_\_\_

Judge Code \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR CLERK OF COURT OFFICE USE ONLY**

This judgment was entered on the \_\_\_\_\_ and a copy mailed first class or placed in the appropriate attorney's box on \_\_\_\_\_ to attorneys of record or to parties (when appearing pro se) as follows:

Vanessa H. Kormylo  
1314 E Washington St  
Greenville, SC 29607  
**ATTORNEY(S) FOR THE PLAINTIFF(S)**

Pro se  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**ATTORNEYS FOR THE DEFENDANT(S)**

**Court Reporter:** DCRP - Elizabeth Godfrey

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CLERK OF COURT**

**Custodial Parent (if applicable):**

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF GREENVILLE

JESSICA RUZICKA

Plaintiff,

vs.

JUSTIN RUZICKA

Defendant.

IN THE FAMILY COURT  
THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

**MOTION AND ORDER INFORMATION  
FORM AND COVERSHEET**

Docket No. 2020-DR-23-1102

Plaintiff's Attorney:  
Vanessa Kormylo, Bar No. 12040  
Address:  
1314 E Washington St, Greenville, SC 29607  
Phone: 864-242-1644 Fax 864-640-8879  
E-mail: vkormylo@kormylolaw.com Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Defendant's Attorney:  
Pro se, Bar No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Address:  
Phone: Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ MOTION HEARING REQUESTED (attach written motion and complete SECTIONS I and III)  
☐ FORM MOTION, NO HEARING REQUESTED (complete SECTIONS II and III)  
☒ PROPOSED ORDER/CONSENT ORDER (complete SECTIONS II and III)

**SECTION I: Hearing Information**

Nature of Motion: Contempt

Estimated Time Needed: 1 hour

Court Reporter Needed: ☒ YES / ☐ NO

**SECTION II: Motion/Order Type**

☐ Written motion attached

☒ Form Motion/Order

I hereby move for relief or action by the court as set forth in the attached proposed order.

Signature of Attorney for ☒ Plaintiff / ☐ Defendant

July \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

Date submitted

**SECTION III: Motion Fee**

☐ PAID - AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☒ EXEMPT:

(check reason)

☐ Rule to Show Cause in Child or Spousal Support

☐ Domestic Abuse or Abuse and Neglect

☐ Indigent Status ☐ State Agency v. Indigent Party

☐ Sexually Violent Predator Act ☐ Post-Conviction Relief

☐ Motion for Stay in Bankruptcy

☐ Motion for Publication ☐ Motion for Execution (Rule 69, SCRPC)

☒ Proposed order submitted at request of the court; or,  
reduced to writing from motion made in open court per judge's instructions

Name of Court Reporter: DCRP

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**JUDGE'S SECTION**

☐ Motion Fee to be paid upon filing of the attached order.

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

JUDGE CODE \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CLERK'S VERIFICATION**

Collected by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Filed: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ MOTION FEE COLLECTED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ CONTESTED - AMOUNT DUE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF GREENVILLE

JESSICA RU [REDACTED],

PETITIONER,

vs.

JUSTIN RUZICKA,

RESPONDENT.

IN THE FAMILY COURT FOR THE  
THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

C.A. No.: 2020-DR-23-1102

RULE TO SHOW CAUSE ORDER

Plaintiff's Attorney:  
Vanessa H. Kormylo

Hearing Date:  
June 17, 2025

Defendant's Attorney:  
*Pro se*

Hearing Judge: Tarita A. Dunbar

Guardian *ad Litem*:  
NA

Court Reporter:  
Elizabeth Godfrey, DCRP

This matter is before the Court upon Petitioner's filing of a contempt complaint on April 30, 2025, and in conjunction therewith, an Order and Rule to Show Cause was issued on May 1, 2025. Respondent was properly served on May 17, 2025, as evidenced by Affidavit of Service filed this day and presented to this Court. Respondent filed responsive pleadings on June 9, 2025.

Petitioner was present and represented by Vanessa H. Kormylo of Vanessa Hartman Kormylo, P.A. Defendant was self-represented.

Petitioner presented testimony and evidence, met with strenuous objections and argument from Respondent. Petitioner ultimately proceeded with limited portions of her contempt pleadings addressing Respondent's failure to pay the previously ordered attorney

fees and failure of Respondent to use an application called Our Family Wizard. Further, Petitioner corrected the amount of fees owed by Respondent to the amount of \$[REDACTED], and admitted the \$[REDACTED] pled in her contempt complaint was an error.

Respondent presented his own testimony and exhibits in response to Petitioner's case.

Based upon the foregoing, together with my review of the record, the evidence and testimony presented as well as hearing argument from both sides, I make the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

1. This court has ongoing personal and subject matter jurisdiction and venue is proper in Greenville County.
2. Inasmuch as Petitioner withdrew portions of her contempt allegations, those were not considered by this Court.
3. Regarding the outstanding balance \$[REDACTED] of fees owed to Petitioner by Respondent pursuant to this Court's 2023 order, I find the Respondent in willful contempt:
  - a. This Court reviewed the Respondent's financial declaration in this present action along with the one filed in the 2023 trial and notes that his rental incomes have increased and he no longer has a balance owed to Greenville Federal Credit Union, and more in savings.
  - b. Pursuant to Respondent's testimony, he could have listed and sold his Florida property after the 2023 trial to satisfy the fees he was ordered to pay but chose not to.

4. The Respondent is sentenced to 90 days for willful contempt, which shall be purged upon his payment of \$[REDACTED].
5. Respondent is also ordered to pay \$[REDACTED] by August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 and \$1000.00 (for a portion of the attorney fees Petitioner incurred) on or before October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Should either of these payments not be made (\$[REDACTED] by August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 and \$1000.00 paid by October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025), Respondent shall be in willful contempt and sentenced to 90 days, and an arrest warrant shall be issued. Respondent may purge either or both of these sentences, lifting the arrest warrant(s), upon payment in full of the fees ordered.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

\_\_\_\_\_, 2025  
Greenville, South Carolina

---

Tarita A. Dunbar, Presiding Judge  
Family Court Judge, 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit



## Ruzicka vs Ruzicka

Justin Ruzicka <houseguy@kw.com>  
cc: Jennifer Stevenson <jstevenson@kormylolaw.com>  
cc: Vanessa Kormylo <vkormylo@kormylolaw.com>

Fri, Jul 18, 2025 at 11:

Hey Jennifer,

This looks good. A few small changes would be great.

Page 1, Paragraph 3: I believe there were three issues before the court. 1. Outstanding Attorney Fees. 2. Unpaid Medical/Dentist bills. 3. Use of our Family Wizard.

Please make changes to include all three issues before the court.

Page 3. Paragraph 4. Please include language that the \$ [REDACTED] Purge will be credited towards the outstanding balance of \$ [REDACTED] in attorney fees from 2023 Trial.

Paragraph 5: Judge can't order Will Full Contempt for a future action, this would violate Due Process, in addition contempt proceedings follow SCRCP Rule 40 (i) ..Please remove " Respondent shall be in willful contempt and sentenced to 90 days and an arrest warrant shall be issued. Respondent may purge either both or these sentences lifting the arrest warrant(s), upon payment in of fees ordered.

It would make sense to add a paragraph 6. Stating: Judge sentenced defendant to 90 days in County Jail, or he can purge the sentence with \$ [REDACTED] paid to the Respondent Attorney. This \$ [REDACTED] to be applied to the outstanding balance of \$ [REDACTED] in attorney fees owed from September 5, 2023 Order.

Thank you for making these updates. Please send me updated order.



On Thu, Jul 17, 2025 at 3:32 PM Jennifer Stevenson <jstevenson@kormylolaw.com> wrote:

Yes. Thank you.

Jennifer C. Stevenson

Paralegal to Vanessa H. Kormylo, Esq.

1314 East Washington Street

Greenville, South Carolina 29607

(P) 864-242-1644 (F) 864-640-8879

Office Hours --

Exhibit

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF GREENVILLE  
GREENVILLE COUNTY FAMILY COURT  
DOCKET NO. 2020-DR-23-01102

JESSICA RUZICKA

PLAINTIFF,

vs.

JUSTIN RUZICKA

DEFENDANT.

H E A R I N G

BEFORE THE HONORABLE TARITA A. DUNBAR

DATE: June 17, 2025  
TIME: 3:02 P.M.  
LOCATION: GREENVILLE COUNTY FAMILY COURT

LEGAL EAGLE  
Post Office Box 5682  
Greenville, South Carolina 29606  
864-467-1373  
depos@legaleagleinc.com

## APPEARANCES:

VANESSA KORMYLO, ESQUIRE  
Vanessa Hartman Kormylo, P.A.  
1314 East Washington Street,  
Greenville, South Carolina 29607

ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF,

JUSTIN RUZICKA, PRO SE

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(THIS TRANSCRIPT MAY CONTAIN QUOTED MATERIAL. SUCH  
MATERIAL IS REPRODUCED AS READ OR QUOTED BY THE SPEAKER.)

1           THE COURT: All right. Good afternoon,  
2 everyone. Next case on the docket is 2020-01102  
3 Jessica Ruzicka versus Justin Ruzicka. And this is a  
4 petition for contempt filed by a petitioner who's  
5 Jessica Ruzicka who's here before time is Vanessa  
6 Kormylo and the defendant responded, Mr. Justin  
7 Ruzicka is here self-represented. And the parties  
8 I'm sure have not been able to work out any of their  
9 differences, is that right?

10           MS. KORMYLO: No, Your Honor. In attempting to  
11 speak with Mr. Ruzicka about settlement, he just  
12 said, "Fuck you".

13           MR. RUZICKA: That's not true, Your Honor.

14           MS. KORMYLO: At the end of the conversation.

15           MR. RUZICKA: That's not true, Your Honor.  
16 That's -- that's disparaging and prejudicial.

17           THE COURT: No, it's not. It's ---

18           MR. RUZICKA: Your Honor, may -- may I ask a  
19 request that -- that some friends and family be able  
20 to sit and support me in this? In ---

21           THE COURT: Well, if they're go -- are they  
22 going to testify?

23           MR. RUZICKA: No, ma'am.

24           THE COURT: They're not. Okay. You can bring  
25 them on.

1 MR. RUZICKA: Thank you. Sit right here.

2 THE COURT: And just make sure that they ---

3 MR. RUZICKA: Know that their ---

4 THE COURT: --- they better behave.

5 MR. RUZICKA: --- cell phones are off.

6 THE COURT: All right.

7 MR. RUZICKA: Yes.

8 THE COURT: All right. This is only a one-hour  
9 hearing.

10 MR. RUZICKA: Thank you, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: All right. I just ask all the --  
12 that the parties, I mean, the -- the wi -- the  
13 friends or -- or family members of the respondent,  
14 please act civil and no communications to anyone  
15 during this hearing. All right. Whenever you're  
16 ready, Ms. Kormylo, you may call your first witness.

17 MR. KORMYLO: Thank you, Your Honor. I call  
18 Justin Ruzicka.

19 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Ruzicka, let me  
20 swear you in. Raise your right hand, please, sir.  
21 Thank you. Do you solemnly swear or affirm the  
22 testimony you're about to give will be the whole  
23 truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God.

24 THE WITNESS: I do, Your Honor.

25 Whereupon,

1 JUSTIN RUZICKA,  
2 first being duly sworn, was examined and testified as  
3 follows:

4 DIRECT EXAMINATION

5 BY MS. KORMYLO:

6 THE COURT: All right. Thank you so much and  
7 have a seat in the witness box, please. And again,  
8 please speak loudly and make verbal responses so the  
9 court reporter can take down everything you're  
10 saying, all right?

11 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir -- yes, ma'am.

12 THE COURT: Yes. All right. Very good.  
13 Whenever you're ready, Ms. Kormylo.

14 MS. KORMYLO: Thank you, Your Honor.

15 Q. Mr. Ruzicka, you're familiar with the final order in  
16 this matter, correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, I ask you to take  
19 judicial notice of that order. I don't know if you  
20 need a copy of it.

21 THE COURT: No. It was attached to the  
22 complaint ---

23 MS. KORMYLO: Yes. Yes.

24 THE COURT: --- and it's filed with the court  
25 on ---



1 MS. KORMYLO: Yes.

2 THE COURT: September 5th of 2023.

3 MS. KORMYLO: Thank you, Your Honor.

4 BY MS. KORMYLO:

5 Q. Mr. Ruzicka, do you recall sending a chat Snapchat to  
6 Logan (phonetic) on November 26th, 2024?

7 A. No, ma'am.

8 Q. Okay. Let me show you a picture of it to see if that  
9 refreshes your memory.

10 A. This is a photo of someone's cell phone that says  
11 "dad" on it. I'm not certain who that's from or --  
12 or what. But I would object to the -- the  
13 authentication and -- and value of this document.  
14 This is a picture ---

15 THE COURT: Okay. Well, let her finish question  
16 you, all right?

17 Q. Would you please read the message and tell me if you  
18 sent it or not?

19 A. I can't see it.

20 MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, I would like to  
21 publish this and send you the record regarding and  
22 I'll follow up with whether he sent this or not.

23 THE WITNESS: I object, Your Honor, wholly.

24 THE COURT: Okay. Yeah. Ms. Kormylo that  
25 you -- that he hasn't been authenticated yet.

1 MS. KORMYLO: Well, he -- I -- I want -- he says  
2 he can't read it so ---

3 THE COURT: Okay.

4 MS. KORMYLO: --- I'm going to read it to him.

5 THE COURT: Okay. Go ahead. You're going to do  
6 that.

7 BY MS. KORMYLO:

8 Q. "Son, your mom can allow you kids to see me anytime  
9 but she's keeping you from seeing me using the court  
10 as her excuse. Be strong. P.S. every time I talk to  
11 your mom on the app, it costs me tens of thousands of  
12 dollars because she brings me back to court. Your  
13 mom has a demon inside her. What demon wants you as  
14 a child of God to suffer? Hoping you will turn  
15 against God. Pray, read the Bible, stand up against  
16 this evil. Heart emoji, cross emoji, pound emoji."

17 A. Sounds like whoever wrote that is a loving father.

18 Q. Did you write that, sir?

19 A. I -- I can -- I -- I cannot tell you that I wrote  
20 that or not. That was over a year ago. November  
21 26th, 2024. I don't know. This is a screenshot so  
22 I -- I cannot tell you if I wrote that or not.

23 Q. So, you may have written it ---

24 A. No.

25 Q. --- or may not have written it?

1 A. May not.

2 Q. You're sure you did not write it?

3 A. I cannot answer the question you asked.

4 Q. Because you don't remember?

5 A. Because I -- because I can't tell you what -- that --  
6 if that's a picture, if that's a Snapchat. I --  
7 there's nothing for me to authenticate or validate  
8 what that is if it's not just something that Jessica  
9 typed up trying to sound like me. So, it's lots of  
10 reasons why I can't answer that question.

11 THE COURT: Well, did -- well, let me ask you  
12 this, sir. Did -- are you denying that you wrote  
13 that?

14 THE WITNESS: Yes.

15 THE COURT: Okay.

16 MS. KORMYLO: Thank you, Judge. That was a  
17 better way to ask it.

18 BY MS. KORMYLO:

19 Q. You understand in the order y'all were ordered to use  
20 Our Family Wizard?

21 A. Yes, ma'am.

22 Q. From September 6th, 2023 until May 21st, 2025 did you  
23 use it?

24 A. I -- I -- I've never replied to Jessica or -- or put  
25 expenses in there so I haven't used it, correct.

1 Q. Did you log on?

2 A. I'm not certain. I think ---

3 Q. It ---

4 A. --- it records when I logged on last, so if you have  
5 that record.

6 Q. That would be -- the record would speak for itself?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. When you logged on on or about -- on or about  
9 May 21st, 2025, did you see the Summers Orthodontics  
10 bills for Amelia's braces?

11 A. No.

12 Q. I'm going to ask you to identify that if you can't  
13 read it, I'm happy to. From Jessica to Justin,  
14 written on Septe -- on June 7th, 2024 viewed by you,  
15 Justin Ruzicka on May 21st, 2025.

16 A. Is this -- is this from OFW ---

17 Q. Yes.

18 A. --- or is this a text message?

19 Q. It's from OFW with the attached billing.

20 A. This -- this is not an OFW screen. This is ---

21 Q. Sir, my ---

22 THE COURT: No.

23 Q. --- question is ---

24 THE COURT: No. Just ---

25 Q. --- did you receive it?

1. A. No. I did not -- no. I did not receive this.

2 Q. All right.

3 A. Can I have a bit of water? Okay. Okay.

4 Q. I'm going to ask you to recognize this message. Sent  
5 by Jessica Ruzicka on June 7th, 2024 and reviewed by  
6 you on May 21st, 2025.

7 A. I -- I recognize this message in a different format  
8 on -- on the OFW website not -- not as it's printed  
9 here or screenshotted.

10 Q. So, you think you did receive this one?

11 A. I -- I have this in my e -- evidence and I'm happy  
12 to -- to assist you with.

13 Q. Do you deny that you owe Ms. Ruzicka a remaining  
14 balance of \$10,000 of what was owed from the trial?

15 A. No, ma'am.

16 Q. You admit that?

17 A. Yeah. Absolutely.

18 Q. Okay. When do you intend to pay that?

19 A. When I have the money to pay -- as I've been paying  
20 her since Sep -- since the 2023, I've paid her, you  
21 know, you -- you -- you ta -- tallied it six or seven  
22 payments totaling \$42,000. And I've paid her every  
23 couple of months every so often when I would have  
24 excess funds. And so, as I have excess funds that's  
25 when I was -- that's when I pay her as much as

1 possible. Sometimes \$5,000, sometimes \$10,000. I  
2 think one time \$2,000.

3 Q. And in the message you recognize she asked you when  
4 you were going to make payment back in June of 2024,  
5 so she didn't have to bring a contempt action;  
6 correct?

7 A. Well, I -- to your point, I didn't check it until May  
8 2025 so I only saw that message May 2025.

9 Q. But if OFW is accurate, she sent it to you last June  
10 asking you to ---

11 A. You -- yeah, ma'am. I -- I'm -- I'm not denying that  
12 she sent it June 7th.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. I'm -- I'm -- I'm telling you that I did not see it.  
15 So, ---

16 Q. So, in ---

17 A. --- that's you -- that's the question I thought you  
18 asked.

19 Q. Yeah. That's perfect. Thank you, sir. So, you  
20 didn't know though, even if you didn't get the  
21 message, you've known what you've owed her since the  
22 final order was issued; correct?

23 A. Yeah. You and I traded emails and -- and I've been  
24 paying, I think my last payment was December it  
25 was -- a great Christmas present 5,000 bucks.

1 December 25th. So, I -- I know that I owe her money.  
2 Yep, no doubt.

3 THE COURT: And this money is the attorney's  
4 fee?

5 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.

6 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

7 BY MS. KORMYLO:

8 Q. And they were due in full from the trial back in  
9 February 2023, the judge gave you about a year to pay  
10 those. They were due in full by March 24th, 2024;  
11 correct?

12 A. No, ma'am. The -- the order says I had 200 days.  
13 So, I definitely didn't ap -- you know, do that.

14 Q. Okay. So, less than that actually. So, you owe  
15 \$10,000, the last payment you made was December 25th,  
16 2024; correct?

17 A. Yes, ma'am.

18 Q. Okay. So, when did you calculate the total fees were  
19 due?

20 A. Ma'am, you can't get blood out of a rock. So, the  
21 fees were due according to the court order within 200  
22 days. You -- you -- you could have easily brought a  
23 contempt action on day 201, on day 205 but you waited  
24 800 plus days to bring a contempt action. So, over  
25 two years after the deadline.

1 Q. Right. So, you agree then that Ms. Ruzicka was  
2 actually giving you extra time that the order didn't  
3 give you?

4 A. No. I'd agree that Ms. Ruzicka in her -- in her  
5 conduct sh -- was o -- okay with me paying over time  
6 because she hadn't said otherwise and she never  
7 stopped depositing the checks. And so, I would -- as  
8 money would roll in excess funds, I -- I'm giving to  
9 her out -- out of everything.

10 Q. So, if she had stopped depositing your checks, you  
11 would have thought she wanted the balance?

12 A. It would seem like it's -- it would seem like her  
13 conduct would, yes, indicate that.

14 Q. So, she had not deposited the December 25th check the  
15 last payment you made?

16 A. She didn't?

17 Q. No. I'm saying if she had not deposited it, your  
18 interpretation would be you owed the full amount?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Okay. I'm sorry. I'm not understanding what you're  
21 saying.

22 A. Okay. Well, I'm not understanding your question.

23 Q. Okay. Well, your testimony was that if she had  
24 stopped depositing them, it would somehow mean she  
25 was going to ---



1       A.   My testimony was that, she was so kind and gracious.  
2       I appreciate that, Jessica.

3               THE COURT:   All right.  We're not -- well, just  
4       limit your te -- your comment, sir, to the -- or  
5       limit your testimony ---

6       Q.   Please stop ---

7               THE COURT:   --- to answering ---

8       Q.   --- staring at my client ---

9               THE COURT:   --- the question.

10      Q.   --- look to the judge.

11              THE COURT:   All right.

12      BY MS. KORMYLO:

13      A.   And so, I appreciate that -- that Jessica was  
14      gracious in not filing contempt action on day 201, on  
15      day 300, on day 500 and -- and any day in between now  
16      and then.  And so, I, in good faith, am paying as  
17      best as humanly possible.  And so, I -- I --  
18      there's -- there's really -- you know, the only  
19      reason to be here is to continually abuse me and  
20      continually di -- diminish me and continually  
21      humiliate me.  So, that's -- that's why we're here.  
22      We're not here to collect \$10,000.

23      Q.   So, you do admit though if you had been on Our Family  
24      Wizard, you would have been getting these messages  
25      from her?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. So, you're not trying to say today she  
3 abandoned her claim to these attorney's fees?

4 A. No. I -- I did in fact state that in my response  
5 that she did abandon her claim.

6 Q. But you understand under oath today, you're under a  
7 quarter to finish paying those fees?

8 A. Unless the judge is gracious and merciful, yes.

9 Q. And you understand you're well past the deadline that  
10 you were given?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Now, you said you did not receive the Summers  
13 Orthodontics bill for Amelia (phonetic) that I just  
14 showed you in Our -- Our Family Wizard ---

15 A. You didn't show me anything in Our Family Wizard.  
16 You showed me a bunch of bills. So, and -- and  
17 there's -- there's no evidence here in the court.  
18 So, I'm -- I'm confused with the question and you're  
19 leading, making false statements.

20 THE COURT: All right. Wait just a second,  
21 Mr. Ruzicka, she hasn't even finished asking the  
22 questions. Let her finish.

23 THE WITNESS: Well, she said -- she said she  
24 gave me information from Our Family Wizard.

25 THE COURT: I think she was talking about the --

1 the document that she showed you earlier in your  
2 testimony about the -- the June. I believe it  
3 was ---

4 THE WITNESS: And I didn't get that.

5 THE COURT: But you ---

6 THE WITNESS: I ---

7 THE COURT: --- admitted ear -- like ear -- just  
8 recently in your testimony that you admitted that you  
9 didn't look at this until May 21st of 2025?

10 THE WITNESS: Correct.

11 THE COURT: I've ready the same ---

12 THE WITNESS: And so, on May 21st up to today  
13 I -- it is not in Our Family Wizard. Those expenses,  
14 those invoices, I haven't seen them.

15 And -- and unless she can show us otherwise ---

16 THE COURT: Okay.

17 THE WITNESS: --- I'm not answering the  
18 question.

19 THE COURT: You're going to answer the question,  
20 okay?

21 THE WITNESS: Okay.

22 THE COURT: That's -- that's your job ---

23 THE WITNESS: Well, I ---

24 THE COURT: --- to answer.

25 THE WITNESS: Yes.

1 THE COURT: You'll be held in contempt, all  
2 right? Thank you. Go ahead. Let's not be  
3 argumentative, Mr. Ruzicka, all right? Please.

4 MS. KORMYLO: If I can have just a moment, Your  
5 Honor?

6 THE COURT: All right. Sure.

7 MS. KORMYLO: Thank you, Your Honor. I have no  
8 further question for this witness.

9 THE COURT: Thank you, sir. You may step down.

10 THE WITNESS: Like, can I cross myself? Or do I  
11 get to cross later?

12 THE COURT: That's -- that's all right. You --  
13 you're allowed to testify and you can bring that  
14 up ---

15 THE WITNESS: Okay.

16 THE COURT: --- whatever she brought out, okay?

17 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.

18 THE COURT: All right.

19 MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, I call Jessica  
20 Ruzicka.

21 THE COURT: All right. Ms. Ruzicka, raise your  
22 right hand. Thank you. Now, remain standing,  
23 please, ma'am. Thank you. Do you solemnly swear or  
24 affirm the testimony you're about to give will be the  
25 whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you

1 God?

2 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

3 Whereupon,

4 JESSICA RUZICKA,

5 first being duly sworn, was examined and testified as  
6 follows:

7 DIRECT EXAMINATION

8 BY MS. KORMYLO:

9 THE COURT: All right. Please have a seat. And  
10 just speak loudly and make verbal response so the  
11 court reporter can take down everything you're  
12 saying. All right. Ms. Kormylo, whenever you're  
13 ready.

14 Q. I'm going to show you a picture of a phone and I'm  
15 going to ask you who -- whose phone it is, who took  
16 the picture, what date, what time and ask you to  
17 identify that.

18 A. So, occasionally I go through the kids' phones and  
19 this is Logan's phone that I took a screenshot using  
20 my phone.

21 Q. And was that on November 26th ---

22 A. 26th, yes.

23 Q. --- 2024?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. Okay. At 11:15 a.m.?

1 A. (No verbal response)

2 Q. Yes?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And it's your testimony that you took this picture?

5 A. Correct, yes.

6 Q. And this is a true and accurate representation?

7 A. Yes.

8 MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, I'd like to have this  
9 mark and entered into evidence as petitioner's 1.

10 (Petitioner's Exhibit 1 admitted into Evidence)

11 THE COURT: All right.

12 MR. RUZICKA: Objection, Your Honor. This is  
13 unverified source. This is a screenshot apparently  
14 from a third party's phone. Be -- again Rule of  
15 evidence 901, 403 would say it lacks authentication  
16 and authorship.

17 MS. KORMYLO: I'll make some more foundation,  
18 Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: All right. Please do. 'Cause --  
20 sustained.

21 BY MS. KORMYLO:

22 Q. What? How do you know this was Caleb's (phonetic)  
23 phone?

24 A. Logan's phone? Because I ---

25 Q. I'm sorry, Logan's.

1 A. That's okay. I took it from him.

2 Q. Okay. And you ---

3 A. I paid for it.

4 Q. You paid for his phone. And you routinely take his  
5 phone and the other kids' phones and look at them?

6 A. Correct, yes.

7 Q. So, you can attest that this came exactly from  
8 Logan's phone?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. I have no further questions. I would like to  
11 wit ---

12 MR. RUZICKA: Objection. Unverified third  
13 source.

14 THE COURT: Ms. Kormylo, what's your position on  
15 Mr. Ruzicka's objection about of the validity of  
16 Ms. Ruzicka being able to authenticate the ---

17 MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, my -- our position is  
18 that we cannot call the child, he's a minor. And  
19 we're not calling to contempt that and I think that's  
20 established but my client has verified the chain of  
21 evidence. It's the phone she paid for -- paid for,  
22 she knows it's the child's phone and she took this  
23 picture. She testified that it's a true and accurate  
24 representation of the picture she took while the  
25 phone was in her possession. Now, the court can

1           determine that it's just a picture that says, "dad".  
2           I don't think I can prove that dad is Justin. So, I  
3           -- I think the court can take -- put weight on -- you  
4           know, let me ask a few more questions.

5           THE COURT: Sure. Please, thank you.

6           BY MS. KORMYLO:

7           Q.    Is -- the message says it's from dad. And is -- who  
8           is dad in Caleb's phone?

9           A.    In Logan's phone it would be ---

10          Q.    Logan's phone.

11          A.    --- Justin. Justin, that's his dad.

12          Q.    Have you personally verified Justin's number is dad  
13          in Logan's phone?

14          A.    Yes. Snapchat is different because it doesn't have a  
15          number associated, so you'd put the person's name.

16          Q.    Okay. So, how do you know this was Justin?

17          A.    Because Logan refers to him as dad. The only dad he  
18          has.

19          Q.    In Snapchat?

20          A.    In Snapchat.

21          Q.    Okay. Or in his phone?

22          A.    Yeah.

23          Q.    Is that right?

24          A.    In life, yes.

25          Q.    Okay.



1 THE COURT: I'm sorry. Is that -- is that all  
2 your questions?

3 MS. KORMYLO: Yes, ma'am. I'm going to move  
4 this into evidence as ---

5 THE COURT: All right.

6 MR. RUZICKA: Again objection this is  
7 uncorroborated hearsay. There -- it's a digital --  
8 it's a -- it's a picture. First, she said it's a  
9 screenshot, then she said it's a picture. This could  
10 be a picture of any person, any child in America, any  
11 one of her friends relatives who put dad as a contact  
12 and they type this into it. It -- it is completely  
13 hearsay ---

14 THE COURT: All right.

15 MR. RUZICKA: --- and uncorroborated.

16 THE COURT: Well, I don't know that I can take  
17 it for the truth of the matter. Ms. Ru --  
18 Ms. Kormylo, I -- I don't believe that I can.

19 MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, I'm going

20 THE COURT: It -- it is hearsay ---

21 MS. KORMYLO: --- to move on.

22 MR. RUZICKA: Thank you, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: But you can -- all right.

24 MS. KORMYLO: And I'm going to clarify that --  
25 because we would never call the children.

1 THE COURT: Yes.

2 MS. KORMYLO: And in -- in a contempt action.

3 THE COURT: Okay. Of course.

4 MS. KORMYLO: So, we'll move on.

5 THE COURT: Okay.

6 MS. KORMYLO: I would like to let the court know  
7 that we are moving forward on the father not using  
8 OFW, on not paying the medical bills and not paying  
9 the attorney's fees. So, that should shorten our ---

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 MS. KORMYLO: --- time here. Okay.

12 THE COURT: All right. Go ahead.

13 BY MS. KORMYLO:

14 Q. I believe that on June 7th 2024 you used Our Family  
15 Wizard to send Justin a couple messages. One had to  
16 do with Summers Orthodontics and one had to do with  
17 legal fees; is that correct?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. Now, are these messages you printed from Our Family  
20 Wizard?

21 A. So, on the app they were a screenshot I took it on my  
22 phone, screenshot and printed it that way.

23 Q. Okay. Is this a true and accurate representation of  
24 what you sent to Justin through Our Family Wizard?

25 A. Yes.

1 MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, I'd like to have this  
2 marked and enter it into evidence.

3 MR. RUZICKA: Can I see what we're talking  
4 about?

5 THE COURT: All right. And she'll let you see.  
6 Just a minute.

7 MS. KORMYLO: You did earlier. I'd be happy to  
8 show you again.

9 MR. RUZICKA: I object that Our Family Wizard  
10 has a complete reporting available. It is not  
11 screenshotted and -- and these ledgers do not  
12 stipulate they're from Our Family Wizard. These  
13 ledgers appear to be from a doctor's office.

14 THE COURT: Okay.

15 MR. RUZICKA: So, I -- I would object that this  
16 is a third-party. Thi -- this is not Our Family  
17 Wizard.

18 THE COURT: All right. Over all -- overrule.

19 MR. RUZICKA: This is Exhibit 1.

20 THE COURT: All right. Yes. Plaintiff's  
21 Exhibit 1 entered over the objection of Mr. Ruzicka,  
22 the respondent.

23 MR. KORMYLO: Sorry.

24 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

25 MR. KORMYLO: Going to keep it. All right.

1 BY MR. KORMYLO:

2 Q. All right. Have you received the amount owed for  
3 Amelia's braces?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Did he actually pay for the boy's braces?

6 A. Yes. He did contribute his 50 percent for the boys.

7 Q. But not Amelia?

8 A. Not Amelia.

9 Q. The amount we pled even though it's more today, we  
10 can only know what the amount we pled was \$929.56; is  
11 that correct?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Okay. I'm going to show you another message on June  
14 7th, 2024, the same day that you sent to Mr. Ruzicka  
15 about the truth.

16 MS. KORMYLO: Wait. Just a moment, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Sure.

18 Q. On that previous exhibit -- June 7th -- okay. On  
19 that previous exhibit about the orthodontics, exhibit  
20 1, you sent it June 7th, when does it say Mr. Ruzicka  
21 viewed it?

22 A. May 21st, 2025.

23 Q. Okay. And you sent it June 7th, 2024?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. On this particular one that I've just shown you,

1           you're reminding him that he owes you the fees; is  
2           that correct?

3       A.    Yes.

4       Q.    And you ask him at the end, "Please let me know so I  
5           do not need to file another contempt."   Correct?

6       A.    Correct, yes.

7       Q.    You want to be here today?

8       A.    No.

9       Q.    Okay.   Did you write this on June 7th, 2024?

10      A.    Yes.

11      Q.    About a year ago?

12      A.    Yes.

13      Q.    Okay.

14               MS. KORMYLO:   Your Honor, I'd like to have this  
15           marked.   Well, let me make sure I asked the right  
16           question.

17               THE COURT:    Sure.

18      BY MS. KORMYLO:

19      Q.    This is from Our Family Wizard?

20      A.    Yeah.

21      Q.    Instead of printing it directly from the app, you  
22           took a screenshot of the phone app?

23      A.    Yes.

24      Q.    But you're sure this is what you sent on Our Family  
25           Wizard?

1 A. Yes.

2 MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, I'd like to have this  
3 marked to enter into the evidence as petitioner's 2.

4 THE COURT: All right. Any objection?

5 MR. RUZICKA: No objection.

6 THE COURT: All right. Petitioner's 2 entered  
7 into evidence.

8 (Petitioner's Exhibit 2 admitted into Evidence)

9 BY MS. KORMYLO:

10 Q. At this time, you're asking him that he -- that he  
11 paid the balance immediately of what he owed over a  
12 year ago of \$10,000; correct?

13 A. Correct, yes.

14 Q. Have you incurred fees for the bringing of this  
15 action?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And again this was a last resort?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Is this a copy of the attorney's affidavit we  
20 prepared for today?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Are you asking that in addition to the 10,000  
23 Mr. Ruzicka paid \$3,387.50?

24 A. Yes.

25 MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, I'd like to have this

1 marked and entered as petitioner's 3.

2 THE COURT: All right. Any objections?

3 MR. RUZICKA: No objection, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: All right. Petitioner's 3 is  
5 entered into evidence.

6 (Petitioner's Exhibit 3 admitted into Evidence)

7 BY MS. KORMYLO:

8 Q. Based on your review of Our Family Wizard, was -- I  
9 think Mr. Ruzic -- Ruzicka has already stipulated to  
10 this, he was not on this application from September  
11 26th 2023 until May 21st, 2025; is that correct?

12 A. Correct, yes.

13 Q. And you did do a print out ---

14 MS. KORMYLO: Is that stipulated, Your Honor?

15 THE COURT: What?

16 MS. KORMYLO: That he was not on -- from his  
17 testimony I think he stipulated that, but I have a  
18 printout if I need it.

19 THE COURT: You can pri -- print. You can take  
20 and get the printout.

21 MS. KORMYLO: Okay.

22 BY MS. KORMYLO:

23 Q. Could you kind of print out when he was on it  
24 last ---

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. --- and when he resumed?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. So, were those the right dates ---

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. --- that he was not on it? Okay.

6 MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, I'd like to have this  
7 marked and entered into ---

8 MR. RUZICKA: Yes.

9 MS. KORMYLO: --- evidence as petitioner's 4.

10 THE COURT: All right. Any objections?

11 MR. RUZICKA: No, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: All right. Petitioner's 4 entered  
13 without objection.

14 (Petitioner's Exhibit 4 admitted into Evidence)

15 MR. RUZICKA: I didn't get a copy of what she's  
16 looking at.

17 THE COURT: Yes. We'll give you a copy. Give  
18 him a copy, Ms. Kormylo.

19 MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, would you like a  
20 financial declaration? Do you want it marked or just  
21 the print?

22 THE COURT: You can just print, that would be  
23 fine.

24 MS. KORMYLO: Okay.

25 BY MS. KORMYLO:



1 Q. So, for purposes of today. you're asking that he pay  
2 the \$10,000 of attorney's fees he's owed for -- since  
3 the final order -- 200 days within the final order;  
4 is that correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You're asking that he pay 929.56 in orthodontics  
7 bill?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And you're asking that he pay my attorney's fees for  
10 today?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. Then, I have no further questions.

13 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Ruzicka, you -- you  
14 want to cross-examine, Ms. Ruzicka?

15 MR. RUZICKA: I'm sorry?

16 THE COURT: Do you want to cross examine, Ms.

17 Ruzicka ---

18 THE COURT: --- Ruzicka?

19 MR. RUZICKA: Yeah. Ms. Ruzicka. Yes.

20 THE COURT: All right. Go ahead.

21 MR. RUZICKA: Yes. I do want to cross examine  
22 her.

23 THE COURT: All right. Go ahead.

24 MR. RUZICKA: Thank you so much, Your Honor.

25 CROSS EXAMINATION

1 BY MR. RUZICKA:

2 Q. Jessica -- Ms. Ruzicka, I apologize. Dr. Ruzicka.  
3 Have you received any further payments towards the  
4 attorneys fees after June 7th, 2024?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And on June -- a -- and -- correct me if I'm wrong  
7 your Exhibit 2, it states there was a remaining  
8 balance as of June 7th, 2024 of \$27,000; correct?

9 A. When I wrote that email?

10 Q. Yeah. Is that correct?

11 A. If -- if I wrote it, then yes, it should be.

12 Q. Did you write it?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. So, after June 27th, do you know roughly how  
15 much in attorney's fees was paid after you requested  
16 this almost a year ago?

17 MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, may I approach the  
18 witness?

19 THE COURT: Yes.

20 MS. KORMYLO: We have actually an exhibit for  
21 that.

22 THE COURT: I'm sorry, you have what?

23 MS. KORMYLO: An exhibit for that [inaudible].

24 THE COURT: Okay.

25 MR. RUZICKA: She can just look at Exhibit 2.

1 MS. KORMYLO: And just for the record, we  
2 stipulated it was 10, not 15.

3 THE COURT: Okay.

4 BY MR. RUZICKA:

5 Q. So, the question, Jessica -- Ms. Ruzicka, is after  
6 June 7th, 2024, when you stated in your email on OFW  
7 that there was a remaining balance of \$27,000.

8 And -- and then -- my question is how much more was  
9 paid in attorney's fees since June 7th, 2024?

10 A. It looks like July 16th, you paid 5,000, September  
11 9th, 2,000, October 24th, 5,000 and December 25th,  
12 5,000.

13 Q. So, can you add that up for me?

14 A. Sure. That's 17,000.

15 Q. Okay. So, you're testifying that you've received all  
16 these payments and you never had a problem with them?

17 MS. KORMYLO: Objection, that's irrelevant.

18 THE COURT: I'll allow. Go ahead.

19 BY MR. RUZICKA:

20 A. Repeat the question.

21 Q. You received these additional payments and you never  
22 had a problem with depositing them or accepting them  
23 as payment towards the attorney's fees?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. Do you think that it shows good faith on my part to

1 have made these continuous payments?

2 MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, objection. Calls for  
3 speculation.

4 THE COURT: Yes, sustained. I mean, yes,  
5 sustained.

6 BY MR. RUZICKA:

7 Q. Do you ---

8 THE COURT: Next question.

9 Q. --- believe ---

10 MR. RUZICKA: Yes, ma'am.

11 Q. Do you believe that the ex -- the -- do you believe  
12 that good faith ef -- efforts were made by me in  
13 making payments over the course of time?

14 A. Yes.

15 MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, objection.

16 THE COURT: Well, I'm -- I'm going to allow him  
17 that -- you would ask if she believes -- say that  
18 question again.

19 Q. Do -- do you believe that I made good faith efforts  
20 in paying the attorney's fees over time?

21 THE COURT: If she can -- if she know -- has any  
22 knowledge, or she believes that he had good faith  
23 effort and she knew what -- what his financial  
24 situation was, Ms. Ruzicka.

25 A. They were very sporadic, I guess I can say.

1 Q. Do you believe that it was good faith or not good  
2 faith?

3 MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, again, I object it  
4 calls for speculation.

5 THE COURT: It does -- she -- she won't know  
6 your mind ---

7 MR. RUZICKA: All right.

8 THE COURT: --- unless she -- she knew his  
9 finances.

10 MR. RUZICKA: No sweat.

11 THE COURT: All right. Sustained.

12 Q. Jessica -- Ms. Ruzicka, I -- and I apologize, I'm not  
13 trying to be disrespectful. With regards to Amelia's  
14 braces, when was -- when was that input into OFW?

15 A. I sent an email in June of last year, and I don't use  
16 the expense section of it, so it would have been in  
17 an attachment.

18 Q. Okay. Are you -- are you familiar with the court  
19 order requiring you to use the expense?

20 A. To give you the bills? Yes.

21 Q. Within how many days?

22 A. Ten.

23 Q. Okay. So, did you do that?

24 A. We tried to communicate with you.

25 Q. You sent an email. So, you're saying ---

1 THE COURT: Wait. Let her answer the question.

2 MR. RUZICKA: I'm sorry.

3 THE COURT: Then, you -- you -- you ask ---

4 MR. RUZICKA: We tried to ---

5 THE COURT: --- another question.

6 MR. RUZICKA: --- communicate. Yes, ma'am.

7 BY MR. RUZICKA:

8 A. I -- I tried to communicate with you, and Summers  
9 Orthodontist also tried to reach out to you to set up  
10 a payment plan for her, in which I was told that you  
11 said you weren't in a position to pay for braces.  
12 So, I went ahead with having to, you know, do the  
13 whole.

14 Q. So, the question is, on June 7th, 2024, did you  
15 include in your email this ledger of activity for her  
16 braces?

17 A. Not that ledger. I would have -- because that ledger  
18 has everything that I've paid to this point. So, I  
19 would have included the quote or the contract.

20 Q. So, do you have a copy of this quote or contract?

21 A. I do. I can get it to you.

22 Q. Do you have it with you right now?

23 A. I have the ledger because my ba ---

24 Q. Do you? Thi -- this -- is this ledger? You just  
25 testified this ledger was input into OFW, and then

1           you just testified it was not. What is it? Was it  
2           input into OFW, yes or no?

3       A.    The contract was.

4       Q.    Was the invoices ---

5       A.    Not -- not what you have in your hand, no.

6       Q.    So, what I have in my hand was not input into OFW?

7       A.    Can I see what he has in his hand?

8           THE COURT: No. That is plaintiff's Exhibit 1.  
9           Yes?

10          THE WITNESS: Yes.

11          THE COURT: It's Google's Doc. Was this sent to  
12          him when you sent him this message on OFW?

13          THE WITNESS: No.

14          MS. KORMYLO: Okay, Your Honor.

15          THE WITNESS: But that's ---

16          MS. KORMYLO: Actually, that's uneven.

17          THE COURT: Okay. No. I'm just ---

18          MS. KORMYLO: Because ---

19          THE COURT: --- you ask her.

20          MS. KORMYLO: --- we need to withdraw that ---

21          THE COURT: Withdraw.

22          MS. KORMYLO: --- because -- the exhibit,  
23          because my understanding was the -- the attachment  
24          was on it.

25          THE COURT: Okay. So, Ms. Ruzicka, the only

1           thing you sent him regarding the -- the orthodontics  
2           bill was this OFW?

3           MR. RUZCIKA: E-mail.

4           THE WITNESS: The e-mail.

5           THE COURT: Yeah. E-mail.

6           MS. KORMYLO: When you say e-mail, is it through  
7           OFW?

8           THE WITNESS: OFW. Yes.

9           MS. KORMYLO: And then, you did not ---

10          THE COURT: When did this Ru -- Ms. Ru ---

11          MS. KORMYLO: --- send him this ledger.

12          THE COURT: --- Ms. Kormylo, you can't  
13          inter -- interject it yet.

14          MS. KORMYLO: Okay. Let me correct her because  
15          she has the contract to see ---

16          MR. RUZICKA: She's -- she's done testifying  
17          now.

18          THE COURT: Okay. Yes ---

19          MR. RUZICKA: Ms. Kormylo, please.

20          THE COURT: --- Ms. Kormylo, just wait. You  
21          can't interject. Please ---

22          MS. KORMYLO: Yes. I -- I just need to correct  
23          the record.

24          THE COURT: You can --

25          MS. KORMYLO: The ledger ---



1 THE COURT: --- you can ---

2 MS. KORMYLO: --- was not on it.

3 THE COURT: --- do it on redirect.

4 MS. KORMYLO: Yes.

5 THE COURT: All right.

6 MS. KORMYLO: All right.

7 MR. RUZICKA: So, I -- I move the court to  
8 remove the -- just the testifying because we just  
9 heard that it was not included. So, I -- I'm -- I  
10 gravely ask the court to remove this as an exhibit.

11 THE COURT: Okay. Well, I mean, I -- I'll  
12 consider whether I can -- it's in -- but I'll  
13 consider whether or not I've considered it in  
14 determining whether you're in willful contempt. All  
15 right?

16 MR. RUZICKA: Yes. Yes, ma'am.

17 THE COURT: All right.

18 MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, may I reply to his  
19 motion?

20 THE COURT: Pardon me? Well, I mean ---

21 MR. RUZICKA: No.

22 THE COURT: --- it's already. Listen. Listen.  
23 Y'all stop arguing. All right? All right. Thank  
24 you. I know how to determine whether or not to hold  
25 somebody in contempt regardless of whether this is

1 entered or not. This is just her statement of what  
2 she paid. It didn't mean in her testimony that it  
3 was given to you. All right? So, you can clarify  
4 that for the record. All right? That's just a  
5 statement of the bills.

6 MS. KORMYLO: So, you're ruling out his motion  
7 as held for now?

8 THE COURT: Right. I mean, that it is not a  
9 matter of whether or not. It's a matter of whether  
10 or not she -- he got the -- this statement. She said  
11 that she -- he didn't. This is just a statement of  
12 the bill. All right.

13 MS. KORMYLO: I thought you were meaning to  
14 strike the exhibit as testimony ---

15 THE COURT: No, he's not.

16 MS. KORMYLO: --- so, I [inaudible] reply to  
17 that.

18 THE COURT: You know, I'm not striking this  
19 letter.

20 MS. KORMYLO: Yes, ma'am.

21 THE COURT: Because he got that.

22 MS. KORMYLO: Okay.

23 THE COURT: It doesn't say what -- how much it  
24 is or whether she paid 250 or show anything about --  
25 regardless of this statement attached, this ledger.

1           It's whether or not she complies with the order. All  
2           right?

3           MS. KORMYLO: Yes, ma'am.

4           THE COURT: We'll move on to the next question,  
5           Mr. Ruzicka.

6           BY MR. RUZICKA:

7           Q.    The order, may I -- to reference Ms. Ruzicka, states,  
8                "The mother shall pay the first 250 per child per  
9                year for uncovered medical expenses for children,  
10               which include medical, dental, counseling,  
11               orthodontic, vision, and other such expenses.  
12               Thereafter, the parties shall split it 50/50,  
13               remaining uncovered medical expenses. Mother shall  
14               inform father within 10 days of services rendered by  
15               providing a receipt of payment of the same, and  
16               father shall reimburse the mother of service  
17               provider, depending on, within 10 days of receiving  
18               notice of payment." Jessica, you sent me an e-mail.  
19               Did you, Ms. Ruzicka, ever send me receipts of  
20               uncovered medical, dental, counseling, orthodontic,  
21               or vi -- and other expenses through OFW?

22          A.    No. And the reason is ---

23          Q.    Thank you.

24          A.    --- the orthodontist is the only bill that really  
25                exceeds the 250. That's beyond what I pay.

1 Q. Is it?

2 A. Because I pay the first ---

3 Q. Okay. But -- but -- so, it was -- do the kids go to  
4 counseling?

5 A. They do.

6 Q. Does me -- does medical, is that covered by your  
7 insurance?

8 A. It is.

9 Q. Have you ever provided record of that -- of the  
10 meetings?

11 MS. KORMYLO: Objection, that's irrelevant.

12 THE COURT: Yeah. You're not held in contempt  
13 for that. Just move on. We got it. She already  
14 answered the question, all right?

15 MR. RUZICKA: You bet.

16 THE COURT: Thank you.

17 BY MR. RUZICKA:

18 Q. Have you ever used OFW to info -- and -- to put the  
19 children's medical providers, counselors, or dental  
20 in OFW?

21 MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, our objection is  
22 beyond the scope of our contempt.

23 THE COURT: Ye -- yes, sir. She's already  
24 answered the question, all right?

25 MR. RUZICKA: Your Honor, if the ---

1 THE COURT: You need -- you need to move on.  
2 She already said she didn't. She didn't put in what  
3 you were ---

4 MR. RUZICKA: Okay.

5 THE COURT: --- she -- were saying that you were  
6 held in contempt. So, you'd best move on, right?

7 MR. RUZICKA: Yes, ma'am.

8 THE COURT: Okay. Go ahead.

9 BY MR. RUZICKA:

10 Q. Does OF -- does OFW allow you to put the -- where the  
11 chil -- the children's school information in?

12 MS. KORMYLO: Objection beyond the scope of our  
13 contempt.

14 THE COURT: Yes.

15 MS. KORMYLO: So, he's answered and  
16 counterclaimed, and that's what he's addressing now.

17 MR. RUZICKA: Okay.

18 THE COURT: All right. Okay.

19 MR. RUZICKA: I am in ---

20 THE COURT: Thank you.

21 MR. RUZICKA: I apologize ---

22 THE COURT: That's right.

23 MR. RUZICKA: --- for that, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: You just need to worry about what  
25 you're going to be held in contempt for; okay?

1           MR. RUZICKA: And because they had 13  
2 paragraphs, Your Honor, of what I'm being held in  
3 contempt for, I believe she clarified it for the  
4 court, but it was ---

5           THE COURT: Well, you state -- go ahead ---

6           MR. RUZICKA: --- paragraph 9.

7           THE COURT: --- and finish. All right. Go  
8 ahead and just ask her another question if you have  
9 any remaining questions.

10          MR. RUZICKA: Give me a moment, Your Honor, ---

11          THE COURT: Sure. Take your time.

12          MR. RUZICKA: --- while I organize my thoughts.

13          THE COURT: All right.

14 BY MR. RUZICKA:

15 Q. Jessica, if Our Family Wizard is not used to inform  
16 myself of the children's schools, of the children's  
17 doctor's appointments, of the children's vacations  
18 out of state, what would be the -- what would be the  
19 reason I -- what information did I miss logging in?  
20 No medical expenses? What information did I miss by  
21 not logging in since September of 2023?

22 A. I sent several messages that you didn't open until  
23 just May of 2025.

24 Q. Wha -- was -- those -- did those messages include  
25 expenses to the children's orthodontics? Did they

1 include information of where the children go to  
2 school? Did they include information besides just  
3 your opinion?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Well, the -- the main exhibit, Exhibit 1, it --  
6 the -- the information is -- is there's Summers  
7 Orthodontics 'cause she got braces. It does not  
8 dic ---

9 THE COURT: Wait a minute. You -- you ---  
10 Q. --- show any costs.

11 THE COURT: --- no testimony. Just ask the  
12 question, Mr. Ruzicka.

13 MR. RUZICKA: Well, I'm -- I'm just re --

14 THE COURT: Okay. And ---

15 MR. RUZICKA: Is ---

16 THE COURT: Ask the question.

17 MR. RUZICKA: All right.

18 A. I -- it ---

19 MR. RUZICKA: Yes, Your Honor. I -- I think  
20 that's -- I -- I think that's all. I -- so, I just  
21 want to confirm we're talking about 900 bucks for  
22 braces, OFW, and fi -- \$10,000.

23 THE COURT: Yes.

24 MR. RUZICKA: Those are the three items or ---

25 MS. KORMYLO: And -- and today's fees. Yes.

1 MR. RUZICKA: Yeah. Today's fees.

2 MS. KORMYLO: But not contempt [inaudible].

3 MR. RUZICKA: Yeah.

4 BY MR. RUZICKA:

5 Q. Jessica, if you're getting paid sporadically over  
6 time and you're due \$10,000, why would you feel the  
7 need to hold me in contempt for an action to -- 600  
8 days after the deadline as opposed to the previous  
9 500 days?

10 A. Honestly, the kids' expenses are a lot more, and so I  
11 need to pay for a lot more these days.

12 Q. Are the kids going to a private school?

13 A. No.

14 Q. So -- so, you no -- no longer have a private school  
15 expense?

16 A. No. They're driving, and insurance is very  
17 expensive. So, I would like to have mo -- this money  
18 paid so I can continue to care for the kids.

19 Q. So, caring for the kids requires the use of a  
20 vehicle?

21 A. Yes, it does. You -- you wouldn't agree that caring  
22 for a child is providing food, water, and shelter and  
23 safety?

24 MS. KORMYLO: Objection, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Yeah. Sustained. Move on, Mr.



1 Ruzicka.

2 BY MR. RUZICKA:

3 Q. Did you buy the vehicle?

4 MS. KORMYLO: Objection, Your Honor.

5 Irrelevant.

6 THE COURT: Yeah.

7 MR. RUZICKA: She -- she's saying expen ---

8 THE COURT: She has the right to the money, Mr.

9 Ru ---

10 MR. RUZICKA: Yes, ma'am. Yes, ma'am.

11 THE COURT: Okay.

12 MR. RUZICKA: I'm a -- I'm asking if ---

13 THE COURT: So, I don't --

14 MR. RUZICKA: --- she's ---

15 THE COURT: I think your -- you ---

16 MR. RUZICKA: --- she's stated she had a lot of  
17 expenses, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Okay.

19 MR. RUZICKA: I'm asking for her to answer.

20 THE COURT: Yeah. All right.

21 Q. Did you buy the vehicle?

22 THE COURT: Well, she ---

23 Q. Yes or no?

24 THE COURT: --- she has the right to the money.

25 And ---

1 MR. RUZICKA: Yes, ma'am.

2 THE COURT: --- she wants the money. She needs  
3 the money.

4 MR. RUZICKA: Well ---

5 THE COURT: So, regardless ---

6 MR. RUZICKA: Nee ---

7 THE COURT: --- whether she needs -- needs  
8 it ---

9 MR. RUZICKA: Needs and wants.

10 THE COURT: --- or not.

11 MR. RUZICKA: Okay.

12 THE COURT: Whether she needs it or not.

13 MR. RUZICKA: Yes, ma'am.

14 THE COURT: It was court ordered. So ---

15 MR. RUZICKA: No other questions.

16 THE COURT: Yeah. You can ask them more, but  
17 that's not relevant to whether or not you're in  
18 contempt.

19 BY MR. RUZICKA:

20 Q. Did you pay for the kids' gasoline in the vehicle?

21 MR. KORMYLO: Objection. Irrelevant.

22 A. No.

23 THE COURT: Yeah. Yeah.

24 Q. Do the children ---

25 THE COURT: Sus -- sustained.

1 Q. --- have a job to help pay for expenses?

2 MR. KORMYLO: Objection. Irrelevant.

3 THE COURT: Sustained.

4 MR. RUZICKA: Okay. No other questions.

5 THE COURT: All right. Mister -- wait a minute,

6 Mr. Ruzicka. Let me ---

7 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry.

8 MS. KORMYLO: [inaudible]. Your Honor, I'm so  
9 sorry for that debacle. I would like to refer to  
10 Petitioner's Exhibit 1, in which I did think the  
11 ledger was attached to my client's OFW.

12 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

13 BY MS. KORMYLO:

14 Q. I will turn to the last page of the exhibit, which is  
15 the contract. Was that attached?

16 A. Honestly, this was so long ago. I -- I think I  
17 attached this to it, but I can't be certain. And the  
18 reason is, is in the past, he has contacted with  
19 Summers the two other boys, and he has gone -- done  
20 this before, where they split it down the middle, and  
21 he has a payment plan, I have a payment plan. So,  
22 the \$927 at the time was just that amount for those  
23 months not paid. But moving forward, it is more,  
24 you'll see, than just the \$900.

25 Q. Right.

- 1 A. Right.
- 2 Q. You can't confirm that you ---
- 3 A. I can't.
- 4 Q. --- attached it?
- 5 A. 'Cause I can't.
- 6 Q. In your financial declaration, you've got a gross
- 7 income of 5,520 -- I'm sorry, net income of 5,520,
- 8 and you've got monthly expenses of 9,068. Is that
- 9 accurate?
- 10 A. I know that I don't make enough money every month.
- 11 Q. I'm going to ---
- 12 A. Yeah.
- 13 Q. --- show you your expenses here. What does this say
- 14 for net monthly income?
- 15 A. Five thousand five hundred and twenty.
- 16 Q. Is that truthful?
- 17 A. You -- that's how much I -- after our expenses?
- 18 Or -- that's total.
- 19 Q. Okay.
- 20 A. I'm sorry.
- 21 Q. Does this say total gross income?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Did you sign this under oath?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Did you give my paralegal ---

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. --- your paychecks?

3 A. Yes. Yes.

4 Q. Did you work with her ---

5 A. Yes.

---

6 Q. --- on your income?

7 MR. RUZICKA: Leading the que ---

8 THE COURT: No. Just a minute.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay.

11 MR. RUZICKA: Objection. Leading.

12 Q. Yes.

13 MS. KORMYLO: That's fair.

14 THE COURT: It's -- it's just to develop the  
15 testimony.

16 MR. KORMYLO: I will ---

17 THE COURT: Overrule.

18 MR. RUZICKA: Okay.

19 MR. KORMYLO: I'll stop reading.

20 THE COURT: Okay.

21 BY MS. KORMYLO:

22 Q. What are your net monthly -- what's your net monthly  
23 income?

24 A. Five thousand five hundred and twenty.

25 Q. Okay. What are your monthly expenses?

1 A. Nine thousand sixty-eight dollars.

2 Q. Can you use the money that is ---

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. --- in court order?

5 A. Yes.

---

6 Q. Did you show extensive grace in not bringing them?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Before now?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did you work with them?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Did you take late payments?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Did you write him to try and get him to pay you?

15 A. Yes.

16 MS. KORMYLO: No further questions, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: All right. I just got one question  
18 about the -- the attorney's fees payment. You  
19 indicate that November -- okay. I see. You got all  
20 the payments listed in your petition of how and when  
21 you made the payments; correct? All right. Got it.  
22 All right. I don't have anything. You can sit down.  
23 All right. Mr. Ruzicka, you -- you already sworn  
24 your amendment. Do you want to testify? Then, you  
25 come up to the witness box. All right?

1 MR. RUZICKA: Yes, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: All right. Yes, sir. I'll hear  
3 from you.

4 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Your Honor, for  
5 your ---

6 THE COURT: All right.

7 THE WITNESS: --- patience. I'm holding an  
8 exhibit from Our Family Wizard. It is a calendar  
9 report dated September -- calendar for September 6th,  
10 2023 through May 29th, 2025. And it is blank. There  
11 are no doctor bills, there are no dentist  
12 appointments, there are no orthodontics appointments.  
13 I move this exhibit as respondent's exhibit number 1.

14 THE COURT: All right. Any objections, Miss --  
15 do you want to look at it?

16 MS. KORMYLO: I guess my only objection is  
17 irrelevance. He's already testified he didn't get  
18 the Summers bill and that's the only one we're here  
19 for, the Summer's Orthodontics bill. This one.

20 THE WITNESS: And communication on OFW.

21 THE COURT: It's in the -- the -- that shows  
22 that there's no communication between those months,  
23 Miss ---

24 THE WITNESS: The ---

25 MS. KORMYLO: Okay. Regarding the

1 [inaudible] ---

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 MS. KORMYLO: --- he did -- he [inaudible], did  
4 he open [inaudible]?

5 THE COURT: So, what is this, Mr. Ruzicka? I --  
6 I don't really ---

7 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. This is communication  
8 between all parties. It shows Jessica, when Jessica  
9 would view it, when Jessica would input it. This --  
10 this -- this is everyone who uses Our Family Wizard,  
11 including the ki -- the kids are listed, they've  
12 never viewed it. And so, pursuant to the -- the  
13 ne -- need to check in on OFW and know that there's  
14 orthodontists appointments that I might owe bills  
15 for, there is no record in the calendar.

16 THE COURT: Okay.

17 MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, ---

18 THE COURT: But I think this shows right here  
19 that she just sent you a note on Our Family Wizard on  
20 June 7th and you did view that on May 21st of 2025.  
21 It just doesn't summarize what you owe her or no  
22 attachments as far as compliance with the rule.

23 THE WITNESS: Your Honor, this is evidence to  
24 show that Ms. Ruzicka has im -- never communicated,  
25 as she claims on OFW, about the children's



1           orthodontics or bills that are due. That --  
2           that's ---

3           THE COURT: What ---

4           THE WITNESS: --- this -- this is one of the  
5           items ---

6           THE COURT: Okay.

7           THE WITNESS: --- of evidence.

8           THE COURT: But I think we already established  
9           that she just sent you this, but it doesn't  
10          completely comply with the order, which is that she's  
11          supposed to show you the receipts. She admitted she  
12          didn't see any of that. So, we got -- all right.

13          THE WITNESS: Well, I sure -- I sure love --  
14          evidence to support your findings, Your Honor.  
15          But ---

16          THE COURT: I think she -- that's her testimony.

17          THE WITNESS: Is there an objection to the ---

18          THE COURT: Yeah.

19          MS. KORMYLO: Yeah.

20          THE WITNESS: What was the objection?

21          MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, I object ---

22          THE COURT: Wait a minute. That's up to me to  
23          ask her the questions, Mis -- Mr. Ruzicka. What's  
24          the objection? And -- and I don't even know if I  
25          understand what you're trying to put in evidence.

1           What's your objection, Ms. Kormylo?

2           MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, my objection is that  
3           I -- I have no way of confirming this. This is just  
4           a random ---

5           THE COURT: Just a minute. Sir, please don't  
6           laugh and ---

7           MS. KORMYLO: So ---

8           THE COURT: -- be civil.

9           MS. KORMYLO: --- so, what it says -- what  
10          Mr. Ruzicka's saying is that -- is that there were no  
11          messages posted. What this document says is that  
12          Justin Ruzicka last viewed on 5-30-25, and Jessica  
13          Ruzicka last viewed on 11-26-24, which we know isn't  
14          true because she brought messages, you know, more  
15          recent than that. I will note for the record that  
16          the last time he printed this, it's May 29th, 2025.  
17          So, if he wants to -- if he's using this to say that  
18          Ms. Ruzicka ---

19          THE WITNESS: Where does it show that ---

20          THE COURT: Okay. Wait, wait, wait.

21          THE WITNESS: --- where I printed it?

22          THE COURT: Ju ---

23          THE WITNESS: She's testified ---

24          THE COURT: --- just entered into evidence. Let  
25          it in. Respondent's 1 entered into evidence, all

1 right?

2 (Respondent's Exhibit 1 admitted into Evidence)

3 MS. KORMYLO: My existing objection is relevant.

4 THE COURT: Okay. I -- I'll determine ---

5 MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, ---

6 THE COURT: --- whether or ---

7 MS. KORMYLO: --- I'm not sure ---

8 THE COURT: --- not I can ---

9 THE WITNESS: This is mine.

10 THE COURT: --- put any way that in my  
11 determination.

12 THE WITNESS: I have a copy for her. I'm sorry.

13 THE COURT: But let me just say this ---

14 THE WITNESS: I have a copy for her.

15 THE COURT: --- so we can shortened this 'cause  
16 it's almost four o'clock. Mr. Ruzicka?

17 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.

18 THE COURT: I'm not holding you in contempt for  
19 failing to pay the orthodontic bill that she alleged.

20 THE WITNESS: You're not?

21 THE COURT: Okay. No. Because there was not  
22 clear and convincing evidence. She admitted in her  
23 testimony, Ms. Ruzicka, that she didn't send you any  
24 receipts. All right. So, we can move on to the next  
25 items. All right? Thank you.

1           THE WITNESS: All right. So, and -- and --  
2           your -- just -- are we addressing any of my  
3           counterclaim or no?

4           THE COURT: Well, did you serve her with those?

5           THE WITNESS: Yes.

6           THE COURT: You serve her with the ---

7           THE WITNESS: And I have ---

8           THE COURT: --- but the rule ---

9           THE WITNESS: --- the affidavit of sere ---

10          THE COURT: I can't hold her in contempt because  
11          it's not -- in order for me to hold her in contempt,  
12          she -- it has to be an order signed by a judge,  
13          issued by a rule to show cause, has to be issued by a  
14          judge. Okay?

15          THE WITNESS: This is in a counterclaim?

16          MS. KORMYLO: Yes.

17          THE COURT: Yes.

18          THE WITNESS: Okay.

19          THE COURT: In order for me to hold ---

20          THE WITNESS: Yes, Your Honor.

21          THE COURT: --- anybody in contempt ---

22          THE WITNESS: Yes, Your Honor.

23          THE COURT: --- there has to be an order issued  
24          by a court. All right?

25          THE WITNESS: Yes, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: Just like I issued -- some -- or  
2 some judge issued this one. All right? This -- this  
3 again issue today.

4 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: All right.

6 THE WITNESS: I have another report from Our  
7 Family Wizard. From all creators, that would be  
8 Jessica and myself. All statuses for all expenses  
9 and it is empty. So, there was no expense for  
10 outstanding attorney's fees. There was no expense  
11 for doctor's bills. There was nothing. I would like  
12 to move into evidence exhibit -- I have number two,  
13 Our Family Wizard chronological report.

14 THE COURT: All right. Any objections?

15 MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, I have a few more.

16 THE COURT: All right. Go ahead.

17 MS. KORMYLO: I guess I would just subject to  
18 relevant.

19 THE COURT: I'll just let in, but ---

20 MS. KORMYLO: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

21 THE COURT: --- it's not relevant but you -- you  
22 can let it in. Respondent's 2.

23 (Respondent's Exhibit 2 admitted into Evidence)

24 MS. KORMYLO: I understand. Thank you, Your  
25 Honor.

1           THE WITNESS: Do I need to provide the financial  
2           declaration to the Court, Your Honor, for me?

3           THE COURT: I -- you don't get that. I don't  
4           get to -- have to answer questions. I get to ask the  
5           questions. All right. So, that's up to you as your  
6           own attorney.

7           THE WITNESS: I would like to enter into exhibit  
8           my financial declaration.

9           THE COURT: All right. Let Ms. Kormylo view it.

10          MS. KORMYLO: Thank you.

11          THE WITNESS: It -- it ---

12          MS. KORMYLO: I have no objection, Your Honor.

13          THE COURT: All right. Respondent's 3 entered  
14          into evidence.

15          (Respondent's Exhibit 3 admitted into Evidence)

16          THE WITNESS: And part of my financial ---

17          MS. KORMYLO: Yeah.

18          THE WITNESS: --- declaration is a sworn  
19          affidavit from the C -- CPA to analyze that this is  
20          true and correct. And I'm testifying to that.

21          THE COURT: And your financial le -- declaration  
22          is true and accurate?

23          THE WITNESS: Yes.

24          THE COURT: All right.

25          MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, I do object to an

1 affidavit from the CPA.

2 THE COURT: An affidavit is not considered  
3 testimony. So, where is that? That's not ---

4 THE WITNESS: It's part of the financial -- it's  
5 part of the ---

6 MS. KORMYLO: He handed it to me as part of the  
7 financial declaration.

8 THE WITNESS: Right.

9 THE COURT: All right. So, yeah, I -- he would  
10 have to be here to testify. So, I can't consider any  
11 affidavit. I can consider the financial declaration.

12 THE WITNESS: No sweat. Can I -- can I have  
13 that affidavit then? May I have the affidavit I gave  
14 you, Your Honor?

15 THE COURT: All right.

16 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: You take care of it,  
17 Judge.

18 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

19 THE WITNESS: Holding me in con --  
20 Your Honor, ---

21 THE COURT: Yes?

22 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. I'm -- I'm testifying.  
23 If -- if there were information in our Family Wizard  
24 in communication with the kids' school, kids'  
25 counselor, I would -- I would have logged into it.

1 I'd like to provide an ---

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 THE WITNESS: --- image with the URL showing  
4 this is true and accurate from Our Family Wizard for  
5 the three chil -- the -- for the children's school  
6 information for the courts.

7 THE COURT: All right. Miss -- give it to  
8 Ms. Kormylo.

9 MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, we just objected to  
10 relevance and that to the accuracy in this  
11 information.

12 THE COURT: I need to look. I don't -- you  
13 haven't authenticated it. I don't even know what it  
14 says.

15 THE WITNESS: Well, I've authenticated it. It's  
16 from Our Wi -- Our Wi ---

17 THE COURT: What did it say it was? I don't ---

18 THE WITNESS: It's -- it's from Our Family  
19 Wizard, Count Information Bank (phonetic), and  
20 showing all five parties, but this is the picture of  
21 the teacher and/or school information that is  
22 available in Our Family Wizard se --to -- for me to  
23 see.

24 THE COURT: Okay. And you're saying?

25 THE WITNESS: It's blank, so there's nothing for



1 me to see, so why would I check in OFW?

2 THE COURT: How do you know if you didn't check  
3 in until May 21st of 2025, or May whatever date that  
4 was? Yeah.

5 THE WITNESS: I -- I don't need to know.

6 THE COURT: Okay.

7 THE WITNESS: It's -- it's blank.

8 THE COURT: All right. All right.

9 THE WITNESS: There -- there's no information.

10 THE COURT: All right. What is that?

11 THE WITNESS: Exhibits 6, 7, and 8.

12 THE COURT: For -- all right. Defendant's 4.

13 (Respondent's Exhibit 4 admitted into Evidence)

14 THE WITNESS: So -- so, if there's no  
15 communication to -- to check in on, it would be hard  
16 to -- or there would be no reason to ---

17 THE COURT: Okay.

18 THE WITNESS: --- log into OFW.

19 MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, we're not objecting  
20 that he didn't log -- well, we -- we understand the  
21 court said to use it. That's our only part of our  
22 contempt.

23 THE COURT: Okay.

24 MS. KORMYLO: And our main part today is just  
25 attorney's fee.

1 THE COURT: The attorney's fee?

2 MS. KORMYLO: Yeah.

3 THE COURT: Okay. That you want the 10,000.

4 MS. KORMYLO: That's the main reason we're here.  
5 Yes, ma'am.

6 THE COURT: Okay. All right.

7 THE WITNESS: Your Honor, I showed over the  
8 course of time to make \$42,000 in fees. I earned  
9 less than \$30,000 last year, and I paid \$20,000 in  
10 costs to Ms. Ruzicka. I had to sell cars. I had to  
11 sell real estate. I had to sell everything and  
12 anything to pay those attorney's fees. Thi -- this  
13 was not a willful, I have money sitting in the bank,  
14 choosing not to pay. This -- this was -- this was  
15 ke -- selling everything. I mean, because to --  
16 to -- to -- to pay her, just, you know, I -- I -- I'm  
17 reque -- I don't have the money. I'm begging the  
18 courts for -- to recognize that I don't have the  
19 financial ways to pay for it. If -- if I had, I have  
20 a home that has equity in it that I'm a co-owner in  
21 with my ex-wife, and that home is in appeals. That's  
22 tied up, so equity is tied up in appeals. Any  
23 proper -- any -- anything I have is -- is tied up.

24 If I -- I've tried to go to the bank, asking for  
25 lines of credit, asking for personal lines of credit,

1 credit against equity, credit against my truck. It's  
2 the only vehicle I still have. And the bank says,  
3 "You don't make enough money for us to give you  
4 anymore." So, this is not a willful action, Your  
5 Honor. This is -- this is -- this is a -- a -- a  
6 humble man doing everything he can above and beyond.  
7 I've never missed a child support. I don't make  
8 enough money for that. I have to -- I have to borrow  
9 from family. I've had to borrow from my church.

10 I've had to borrow tens of thousands of dollars  
11 to pay just to live, let -- let alone these  
12 additional expenses. So, I -- I get that Ms. Ruzicka  
13 needs it or wants it, but you can't get blood out of  
14 a rock, Your Honor. And -- and -- and I've shown  
15 very good faith, to her language, sporadically making  
16 the payments. So -- you know, so if I can -- if --  
17 if it's been okay to sporadically make the payments  
18 up until now, what changed? The only thing that  
19 changed was Ms. Kormylo wanting to hit me upside the  
20 head for 3,000 more dollars to bring this to court  
21 action. The only thing she's after, she just  
22 testified, is the \$10,000. And I'm paying it as I  
23 can.

24 This court action, sh -- there's 13 complaints  
25 on the court action. She whittled it down to three.

1 Now, she whittled it down to one. It seems like an  
2 email would have been sufficient, which brings me to  
3 my next point. I'm looking at an email from Justin  
4 Ruzicka, email address houseguy@kw.com (phonetic), to  
5 Vanessa Kormylo at her law firm, dated July 25th,  
6 2024, is the beginning of -- that's the end of the  
7 email. The first email was July 22nd, 2024, from  
8 Ms. Kormylo. I'm testifying that this is an accurate  
9 representation of email exchange between me and  
10 Mrs. Kormylo on behalf of her client, Jessica  
11 Ruzicka, and I move this into record.

12 THE COURT: Okay. Let Ms. Kormylo see.

13 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

14 THE COURT: You said that's the email from you  
15 to Ms. Ruzicka?

16 THE WITNESS: An email exchange between  
17 Ms. Kormylo and myself.

18 THE COURT: Okay.

19 THE WITNESS: Dated July 22nd, 2024, through  
20 July 25th.

21 MS. KORMYLO: I have no objection, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: All right. So, that's  
23 defendant's -- respondent's 5.

24 (Respondent's Exhibit 5 admitted into Evidence)

25 THE WITNESS: In this email I was asked, just

1           like Jessica asked me on June, how quickly I was  
2           going to pay the -- the bills.

3           MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, I have to [inaudible]  
4           exhibit speaks for itself.

5           THE WITNESS: Okay.

6           THE COURT: Okay.

7           THE WITNESS: Fair enough.

8           THE COURT: All right.

9           THE WITNESS: This was in July of 2024, and they  
10          filed this contempt action almost a year later after  
11          receiving an additional \$17,000. So, over --  
12          we're -- we're talking one-fifth of the balance due,  
13          Your Honor. And I would ask the court to forgive me  
14          of that difference because I do not have the ability  
15          to pay it.

16          THE COURT: Well, unfortunately, Mr. Ruzicka, I  
17          cannot undo what's already a court order that was not  
18          appealed. You understand that. And so, you do all  
19          that 10,000. When can you pay it, or can you pay  
20          some monthly fee because you do have \$1,600 here in  
21          your savings and checking account?

22          THE WITNESS: Well, I could pay \$1,600 one  
23          month, and then I would have no savings -- saving.

24          THE COURT: Right.

25          THE WITNESS: So, I ---

1 THE COURT: I understand that, but ---

2 THE WITNESS: Well, I ---

3 THE COURT: --- you know, you got these bills,  
4 so I'm asking you. How can you and when can you pay  
5 this money?

6 THE WITNESS: I could pay.

7 MS. KORMYLO: May I ask him some questions about  
8 his financial declaration?

9 THE COURT: All right. Sure. Go ahead.  
10 Because I mean, it's 4:10, ---

11 MS. KORMYLO: Yes.

12 THE COURT: And then, I'll -- then ---

13 MS. KORMYLO: Sure.

14 THE COURT: --- then, I'll ask my question. Go  
15 ahead.

16 CROSS EXAMINATION

17 BY MS. KORMYLO:

18 Q. Mr. Ruzicka, do you still own the Lindbergh and  
19 Lindell (phonetic) properties?

20 A. Yes. Rent -- it's rented.

21 Q. Okay. So, it would be possible, and two and a half  
22 years ago, you could have sold one or both of those  
23 rental properties.

24 A. Is it possible? That was really -- I -- I -- it's  
25 hard to say. I can't speculate to that.

1 Q. Well, could you have listed both properties for sale  
2 at the time you were ordered to pay the money?

3 A. No. They -- they were under construction. One  
4 didn't have a -- a valid roof. The other one was not  
5 livable.

6 Q. Could you have listed them as is?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Thank you.

9 MS. KORMYLO: Your Honor, I have to [inaudible].

10 THE COURT: Go ahead. You can keep them.

11 Q. And you -- you owned those at the time of the  
12 divorce; correct?

13 A. I did.

14 Q. And you're mentioning you've repaired them now and  
15 are renting them?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So, when you brought them back into repair, you also  
18 could have listed them instead of renting?

19 A. I -- I -- I have sold other assets to make the -- the  
20 bills to pay her - the attorney's fees, so I've  
21 already done that.

22 Q. So, my question is, could you have listed Lindbergh  
23 and Lindell when you brought them back to repair?  
24 And so ---

25 A. No. They're re -- they're -- they're occupied, so

1           during their occupancy, I have a lease that I have to  
2           live out.

3       Q.    So, could you have listed them before renting them  
4           after you repaired them?

5       A.    I could have.

6       Q.    And you're a realtor; correct?

7       A.    I'm not in Flo -- no, I'm not licensed in Florida.  
8           One of those properties is in Florida. I'm a ---

9       Q.    Which your [inaudible]?

10      A.    In South Carolina. Yes, ma'am.

11      Q.    And one of these properties is in Greenville;  
12           correct?

13      A.    Yes, ma'am.

14           THE COURT: And one of these pro -- it's in  
15           Greenville. Okay.

16           MS. KORMYLO: All right. Thank you, Your Honor.

17      A.    Actually, to -- to verify that, they were part of  
18           litigation, so I could not -- I -- I ca -- I -- I  
19           cannot -- I cannot sell them. They're part of the --  
20           the divorce. They were argued as marital assets, and  
21           they're in appeals. So, I want to clarify my  
22           statement. So, they -- they are --  
23           the -- the Florida property, nobody can -- it's --  
24           it's in Florida. So, I could have done that. The  
25           Greenville one, I -- I cannot.



1 Q. So, you could have listed the Florida one?

2 A. Yes, ma'am.

3 Q. Okay. Thank you. And that has 114,000 of equity?

4 A. It does, I believe.

5 Q. Okay. Thank you, sir.

6 A. You're welcome.

7 THE COURT: All right. You can step down. All  
8 right. I'm just going to ask the -- that the --  
9 everyone to exit out, and let me go over everything,  
10 and I'll make my decision. And I'll ask you all to  
11 come back in; all right?

12 MS. KORMYLO: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

13 THE COURT: All right. These are always  
14 difficult cases. It's not always easy. In  
15 particular, this -- I do -- I do find, however,  
16 though, looking back over Mr. Ruzicka's previous  
17 financial declaration, I do believe he can earn  
18 additional -- more income than 1,877. That's  
19 difficult to believe, and he made -- because he made  
20 almost -- he made almost 3,000 he said in his last  
21 month, and his rental incomes have increased. He has  
22 the same income that he had when the court ordered  
23 him to pay these funds. In addition, looking at his  
24 monthly installment payments, he has the same balance  
25 that was over two years ago on Capital One, and with

1           the -- and he's saying he's paying more on that  
2           monthly payment.

3           In addition, he's put the bank loan or -- excuse  
4           me, I'm sorry, the cre -- the Greenville Credit  
5           Union, he indicates that it's 1,800. He had no  
6           balance there on the previous financial -- but that  
7           he pays 235, but he has to pay \$250. Also, he did  
8           explain why his mortgage note increased from 1,793.92  
9           to \$2,035.50. And most of his bills remain the same,  
10          and he's actually got more in savings, 1,600. And  
11          he also could have put that Florida property for sale  
12          to complete his mortgage -- his attorney's fees that  
13          he owed, because he was getting income from that back  
14          then, and so he owned it, and he could have sold it  
15          to pay for the 10,000.

16          I understand he -- he was giving her money  
17          would -- so he wouldn't have to sell his property,  
18          and I commend him for that, but I do find him in  
19          willful for contempt for not paying the \$10,000. The  
20          -- the -- the full amount has had more than required  
21          time. I understand that he believes, Ms. Ruzicka --  
22          that Ms. Ruzicka should have filed a contempt  
23          earlier. However, -- but what I'm going to do is,  
24          I'm going to -- just one second. I'll send this into  
25          90 days. He can purge that contempt by the payment

1 of \$5,000 of the 10,000 that he owes, and if he  
2 purges that and it's released, he will have it until  
3 August fir -- first, to pay the remaining 5,000.  
4 And that's the only issue I'm holding him in contempt  
5 and \$1,200 in attorney's fees to pay that by August  
6 1st. If he does not purge after he serves the 90  
7 days, then he will pay after 90 days he serves, then  
8 -- let me see it's -- September -- I'll give him  
9 until October 17th to pay the 1,200 and the 5,000.  
10 All right. And if he doesn't pay it, Ms. Ruzicka can  
11 submit and -- an affidavit with the court and the  
12 rest of the order will not be issued as arrest and he  
13 has served 90 days. All right? And, Ms. Kormylo,  
14 you do the order.

15 MS. KORMYLO: Yes, ma'am.

16 THE COURT: All right. Thank y'all so much.

17 MR. RUZICKA: Can I ask for clarification?

18 THE COURT: Yes. 5,000 right now or serve 90  
19 days. All right?

20 MR. RUZICKA: I'll serve in jail for 90 days if  
21 I pay 5,000?

22 THE COURT: No. If you can purge it by paying  
23 the 5,000.

24 MR. RUZICKA: Okay.

25 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

1 MR. RUZICKA: Okay. [inaudible]. Thank you.

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25 (THERE BEING NOTHING FURTHER, THIS HEARING CONCLUDED)

## CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

State of South Carolina

County of Greenville

I, CYLIA ISRAEL, a court-approved transcriber, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, accurate and complete Transcript of Record of the proceedings had and evidence introduced in the hearing of the captioned case, relative to appeal, in the Greenville County Family Court for Greenville, South Carolina, on the 17th day of June, 2025.

That I am not related to nor the employee of any of the parties hereto, nor related to or employed by any attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto, nor interested in the outcome of this action.

Jennifer Jaeger

Jennifer Jaeger, Transcriber

Notary Public for S.C.

Commission Expires: 10/28/2032