

November 1, 2024

Judicial Merit Selection Commission
Post Office 142
Columbia, SC 29202

Re: Affidavit of Rhonda Meisner

Dear Chairman Caskey, Vice-Chairman Rankin and Commission Members:

Please accept this as my response to Ms. Meisner's Affidavit.

1. I had 3 matters with Ms. Meisner on my docket in July 2019--July 11, 2019, July 12, 2019 and July 15, 2019. As a result of my orders issued in these matters, Ms. Meisner filed a complaint with ODC in September 2019 which was dismissed (Dismissal attached). I've attached my response to ODC as it provides a detailed explanation of the events that occurred in 2019 and I would incorporate this document into my response to Ms. Meisner's current complaint.
2. As to the allegations that I took action on Ms. Meisner's cases after I recused myself, Ms. Meisner is mistaken. It would not be uncommon for my AA to send an email on behalf of a visiting judge regarding a case. Our AAs assist visiting judges when they are assigned to Richland County as their AAs don't travel with them. If this was done, I was not involved.
3. As to Judge Hurley or Judge Frierson-Smith hearing administrative matters on the 365 rule during my term as Chief Administrative Judge, this was necessary as I was recused from hearing any matters involving Ms. Meisner, even administrative matters.
4. In addition, as to the 4 orders attached to Ms. Meisner's Affidavit, these are not my orders.
5. I've attached the Court of Appeals' opinion affirming my dismissal of Ms. Meisner's request for an Order of Protection. I note the last paragraph where the Court acknowledges that I specifically ordered that Ms. Meisner "could bring the allegations in the private divorce litigation." Hence, Ms. Meisner was not prevented in any way from being heard in the private litigation on the matters she raised in her petition for an order of protection.

In conclusion, I deny *ex-parte* communications; and I deny that I acted unfairly or dishonestly in my dealings with Ms. Meisner, or in any way violated the Judicial Canons or the law.

With Highest Regards,


Monet S. Pinous

Family Court Judge



The Supreme Court of South Carolina
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Deborah S. McKeown
Commission Counsel

1220 Senate Street, Suite 111
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
Telephone: (803) 734-1965
Fax: (803) 734-0363

December 16, 2019

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Rhonda Lewis Meisner
P.O. Box 689
Blythewood, SC 29016

RE: NOTICE OF FINAL DISPOSITION
The Honorable Monet S. Pincus
Matter Number: 19-DE-J-0153

Dear Mrs. Meisner:

You previously filed a complaint with the Commission on Judicial Conduct about The Honorable Monet S. Pincus in connection with the above-referenced matter. The Commission instructed the Office of Disciplinary Counsel to conduct an investigation into your allegations.

On December 13, 2019, an investigative panel of the Commission convened to consider the recommendation of the Disciplinary Counsel for disposition of this matter based on the information gathered in the investigation. As required by the Rules for Judicial Disciplinary Enforcement, Rule 502, SCACR, the inquiries of the panel were limited to whether or not there was evidence of ethical misconduct on the part of Judge Pincus that would warrant further investigation or the filing of formal charges.

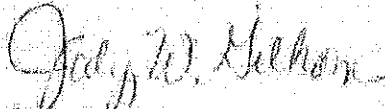
After considering the information received from you, Judge Pincus' response, and the report of Disciplinary Counsel setting forth the results of the investigation, the investigative panel voted to dismiss your complaint. At the direction of the Commission, I am notifying you of the action taken by the Commission on this matter. This dismissal constitutes a final disposition of your complaint.

RECEIVED
R 12/17/19

Rhonda Lewis Meisner
December 16, 2019
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As required by the rules, Judge Pincus and the Disciplinary Counsel are being notified of the action taken by the investigative panel by copy of this letter.

Sincerely,



Jody W. Gilham
Administrative Assistant

JWG/

cc: The Honorable Monet S. Pincus

Joseph P. Turner Jr., Esquire
Senior Assistant Disciplinary Counsel

The letter dated September 27, 2019 to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel and attachments thereto have been removed to preserve confidentiality.

**THIS OPINION HAS NO PRECEDENTIAL VALUE. IT SHOULD NOT BE
CITED OR RELIED ON AS PRECEDENT IN ANY PROCEEDING
EXCEPT AS PROVIDED BY RULE 268(d)(2), SCACR.**

**THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals**

Rhonda Meisner, Appellant,

v.

Grant Meisner, Respondent.

Appellate Case No. 2019-001383

Appeal From Richland County
Monét S. Pincus, Family Court Judge

Unpublished Opinion No. 2022-UP-267
Submitted May 1, 2022 – Filed June 15, 2022

AFFIRMED

Rhonda Meisner, of Blythewood, pro se.

Sheila McNair Robinson, of Moore Bradley Myers, PA,
of West Columbia; and Katherine Carruth Goode, of
Winnsboro, for Respondent.

PER CURIAM: Rhonda Meisner (Wife) appeals a family court order granting Grant Meisner's (Husband's) motion to dismiss Wife's petition for an order of protection. On appeal, Wife argues the family court erred when it dismissed her petition and failed to accept evidence of the abuse at the hearing. We affirm pursuant to Rule 220(b), SCACR.

We hold the family court did not err by dismissing Wife's petition for an order of protection because Wife's petition did not include the date or time with details of the alleged abuse as required by section 20-4-40(b) of the South Carolina Code (2014). *See Simmons v. Simmons*, 392 S.C. 412, 414, 709 S.E.2d 666, 667 (2011) ("In appeals from the family court, this [c]ourt reviews factual and legal issues de novo."); *Lewis v. Lewis*, 392 S.C. 381, 392, 709 S.E.2d 650, 655 (2011) ("[A]n appellant is not relieved of his burden to demonstrate error in the family court's findings of fact. Consequently, the family court's factual findings will be affirmed unless 'appellant satisfies this court that the preponderance of the evidence is against the finding of the [family] court.'" (quoting *Finley v. Cartwright*, 55 S.C. 198, 202, 33 S.E. 359, 360-61 (1899))); § 20-4-40(b) ("A petition for relief *must* allege the existence of abuse to a household member. It *must* state the specific time, place, details of the abuse, and other facts and circumstances upon which relief is sought and must be verified." (emphases added)). Moreover, Wife's arguments that she should have been entitled to amend her petition and the family court erred by failing to address her request for separate support and maintenance is not preserved for review because they were not raised to and ruled on by the family court. *See Doe v. Doe*, 370 S.C. 206, 212, 634 S.E.2d 51, 55 (Ct. App. 2006) ("[W]hen an appellant neither raises an issue at trial nor through a Rule 59(e), SCRCP, motion, the issue is not preserved for appellate review.").¹

We further note that although the family court dismissed the petition with prejudice, the family court also ordered that Wife could bring the allegations in the private divorce litigation. This is consistent with section 20-4-40(d) of the South Carolina Code (2014).

AFFIRMED.²

GEATHERS and HILL, JJ., and LOCKEMY, A.J., concur.

¹ In her reply brief, Wife asserted that a complete reading of the statute provided that not all of the requirements in section 20-4-40(b) needed to be included in the petition, so long as they are presented at the subsequent hearing. She further argued the notice requirement under section 20-4-40 referred to the proceeding, not the pleadings. Because these issues were raised for the first time in Wife's reply brief, they are not properly before this court. *See Cont'l Ins. Co. v. Shives*, 328 S.C. 470, 474, 492 S.E.2d 808, 811 (Ct. App. 1997) ("An appellant may not . . . use the reply brief to argue issues not argued in the initial brief.").

² We decide this case without oral argument pursuant to Rule 215, SCACR.



The South Carolina Court of Appeals

JENNY ABBOTT KITCHINGS
CLERK

V. CLAIRE ALLEN
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

POST OFFICE BOX 11629
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29211
1220 SENATE STREET
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201
TELEPHONE: (803) 734-1890
FAX: (803) 734-1839
www.sccourts.org

June 15, 2022

Rhonda Meisner
P.O. Box 689
Blythewood SC 29016

Mrs. Sheila McNair Robinson, Esquire
Moore Bradley Myers Law Firm, P.A.
PO Box 5709
West Columbia SC 29171

Ms. Katherine Carruth Goode, Esquire
PO Box 1175
Winnsboro SC 29180

Re: Rhonda Meisner v. Grant Meisner Appellate Case No. 2019-001383

Dear Counsel and Ms. Meisner:

Enclosed is the decision of the Court. The remittitur will be sent as provided by Rule 221(b) of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules.

Very truly yours,

V. Claire Allen

CLERK

cc: Jeanette W. McBride