

JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION )

In the Matter of: M. Scott Rankin )  
Candidate for 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Seat 2 Family Court )

RECEIVED

DATE 10/28/24

WITNESS AFFIDAVIT FOR



In regard to my intended testimony, I will offer information as to the following:

(1) My name is Rhonda Lewis Meisner Post Office I am 59 years old my address for work is PO Box 689 my home address is Blythewood, SC 29016. *Redacted*

(2) The other persons who have knowledge of the facts concerning my testimony are as follows:

court reporters Sharon Haroon address unknown,  
my former attorney Brett Stevens 1811 Bull Street Columbia SC 29201 803-587-8506 (November 18, 2019 hearing).

Brenton Burry , Assistant Director of SC Supreme Court Commission on CLE 950 Taylor Street suite 120 Columbia, SC, 29201.

*Redacted*  
Sheila Robinson, *Redacted*  
April Gremillion, *Redacted*  
Dick Whiting *Redacted*

The witnesses with the star beside their name are the beneficiaries of Judge Rankin's rulings. I am not putting this affidavit or testimony in the record for any purposes other than to help the legislature make a determination of whether Judge Rankin should be reappointed. I do not believe based on my experiences in the family court that any of the judges should be reappointed and there should be a fresh start for the Richland County Family Court so that the community can heal and regain confidence in the system. I contend upon information and belief, Judge Rankin did not follow the statutes, precedential laws, and instructions from this honorable legislature regarding custody, visitation, spousal support, equitable distribution and the Guardian *ad Litem* statutes and along with its appointment instructions. It is my testimony that Judge Rankin did not treat me fairly in the following particulars:

(a) specific facts relating to the candidate's  
1. character, As I understand Judicial Character, this relates to Qualities that judges should exhibit in judicial proceedings, such as patience, dignity, fairness, impartiality, and honesty in decision making. I will address the fairness, impartiality, and honesty in decision making. I was disappointed to find Judge Rankin to not be impartial, fair, or honest in his

decision making. It is my testimony that instead of listening to the parties and reviewing their submitted evidence, affidavits and other evidence and applying the law, I observed him make rulings based on the attorney's arguments instead of reviewing the evidence and then applying South Carolina law.

**Issue # 1 Judge Rankin awarded fees to the Guardian ad Litem (GAL) attorney April Gremillion on November 18, 2019 despite the fact the GAL violated Judge Hurley's Order to do an expedited investigation and submit a written report within 30 days.** The GAL alleged that I threatened her; however, my former attorney pointed out that she continued to work 5-6 hours beyond the meeting time where she said that I threatened her. Judge Rankin asked the GAL questions, but did not ask me *any* questions related to the GAL's false claims that could have been put into the record which was prejudicial because this Order for attorney's fees is on appeal. I have attached the transcript of this hearing as evidence. The GAL misrepresented the conversation that I had with her regarding the mental status of my now ex- husband who has been diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia, a disease known to cause hallucinations and delusional thoughts in some patients and explained that he had access to weapons which scared me and should scare her. When the GAL missed her deadline to submit her report, I asked for the Order extending her time to complete the report. The GAL filed a motion (for which she billed for) to be removed from the case because upon information and belief, she knew that I was going to hold her accountable for failing to follow Judge Hurley's Order. **The Order appointing the GAL required her to complete an expedited investigation and submit a written report within 30 days.** She violated this court order which should have subjected her to incarceration via a rule to show cause instead of payment; however, her GAL fees were awarded despite violating a court order. This GAL admitted taking time off during this 30 day period to work on another case and stated she was sick for part of the time. I believe Judge Rankin's treatment of this issue favored the attorney instead of the defendant that was subjected to her failures. I think because the GAL fees are awarded by statute and are governed by the Order of appointment this goes to the competency of Judge Rankin. It is my opinion, the laws and orders should be followed by officers of the Court and because Judge Rankin was in charge of his Court room he failed me and my children by failing to act equitably in this matter or applying the equitable tenet of those who seek equity must do equity.

**Issue # 2 Failure to Preserve Marital Assets currently valued in excess of \$300,000 that required upon information and belief less than \$100,000 to preserve.** Upon information and belief, Judge Rankin told the parties in chambers and outside the official record "she's going to get a chunk of change" at the end of this. At the time he denied an equitable distribution there was approximately \$1,850,000 in marital retirement accounts that could have preserved this asset. A Court of Equity should fairly consider

the parties situation, particularly as it relates to marital assets and upon information and belief, this Honorable Legislature has directed the family courts to preserve marital assets. The Plaintiff's expert witness testified at the time Judge Rankin made this ruling there was at least \$1,000,000 in marital funds in possession of my husband that could have been used to preserve the asset. Judge Rankin and his wife invest in rental properties and have multiple properties based on his disclosures before he became judge, so he absolutely knows how important assets are. His excuse that the case began before entering family court does not contemplate that the asset could have been preserved or that married couples are free to determine how they handle their business affairs as a couple but once in the family court, the fact that a wife may defer to her husband is no longer relevant with regard to financial matters, because both are seeking independence. **I have submitted the transcript of the hearing and the affidavit of attorney's fees submitted by my husband's attorney.** It is my understanding, In South Carolina, family courts are tasked with ensuring a fair and equitable distribution of marital assets during divorce proceedings. The preservation of marital assets is crucial to maintain fairness for both parties involved. This responsibility is outlined in Equitable distribution law S.C. Code Ann. § 20-3-620. Despite upon information and belief Judge Rankin's in-chamber comments about the chunk of change, he did not order an equitable distribution to preserve the asset.

**ISSUE # 3 Failures to Award Spousal support despite the fact an alimony calculator suggested that I should have been awarded over \$8000 per month during the pendency of the divorce Section 20-3-125:**

"During the pendency of a divorce or separation action, the court may make such temporary orders as are just, including an order for the payment of temporary alimony, suit money, and counsel fees." It is not just for one spouse of a 26 year marriage to have access to more than \$1,850,000 and approximately \$20,000 per month and the other spouse to only have access to \$1, 584 per month ultimately losing her attorney as a result. It is my understanding that providing for each other as spouses is required in South Carolina pursuant to **Section 20-3-130.** **During the November 18, 2019 hearing, financial declarations were submitted showing a more than 10 time advantage to my husband. It is my opinion and understanding of South Carolina law that Judge Rankin did not act honorably or fairly. Upon information and belief,** A spousal support calculator was submitted at the November 18, 2019 hearing. I have submitted a version of the calculator that was provided to me by my former attorney. Upon information and belief, one of the witnesses to the case the financial advisor Christopher Levant's had in his notes that my ex-husband's attorney Sheila Robinson stated Judge Rankin did not understand why judge Hurley did not order spousal support, but he failed to order spousal support either. I believe this speaks to his unequal treatment and his competency because one party should not be allowed to maintain a significant advantage. I believe that this violates the due process and equal protection clause of the United States Constitution. It is my opinion that because South Carolina law provides for the **Prevention of Dissipation of Assets (§ 20-3-**

630, S.C. Code Ann.) Judge Rankin's failure to provide spousal support or an equitable distribution speaks not only to his failure to be equitable but also his competency for not following South Carolina law. § 15-43-10 to prevent a spouse from transferring, selling, or concealing marital assets.

**Issue # 4 Failures to Order neurological or require Psychiatrist evaluation despite request of wife of 26 years stating something was wrong with her husband because he was having delusional conversations and seeing hallucinations.** At the first hearing before Judge Rankin, on November 18, 2019, I was extremely hopeful that he would right the wrongs because he appeared competent. However, despite giving an affidavit from me and several others during that hearing that "something was wrong with my now ex-husband" because he had delusional conversations, saw hallucinations and had a frank Parkinsonian like tremor, instead of ordering tests, Judge Rankin accepted a letter and one page evaluation from a Neurosurgeon not a Neurologist. Judge Rankin accepted this letter despite the fact that upon information and belief he was aware that my husband's attorney abandoned her own motion to have me tested once I requested via my attorney that my husband be submitted to psychiatrist and/or neurological tests. Importantly, Erwin Mangubat, the neurosurgeon that submitted the letter was not disclosed as an expert witness at the time or anytime before the hearing. As such, his letter and one page assessment should have been excluded. Dr. Mangubat's submissions did not include an affidavit. It is my opinion had Judge Rankin ordered the requested tests in November of 2019, the crazy situations that occurred subsequently would have been viewed through a different lens. I believe this issue goes to his competency because he should have required an affidavit

**Issue # 5 Failures to ensure the Guardian *ad Litem* he appointed Richard Whiting was qualified and followed the GAL statutes.**

- A. Judge Rankin appointed Richard Whiting (GAL) to replace April Gremillion; however, once he appointed him he failed to review the GAL's qualifications or issue an exemption provided by statute. ability to function in that role. Mr. Whiting's (GAL) affidavit at the time of appointment stated that he does not necessarily complete the continuing education, but that he lectures on the topics frequently, or words to this effect. Upon information and belief, Judge Rankin did not issue an exception and Brent Burry with the Supreme Court's office of Continuing education stated that Mr. Whiting's age exception as an attorney did not apply to his position as GAL. I have attached email correspondence confirming this communication. Upon information and belief, Judge Rankin did not check his affidavit after appointing him. Also, upon information and belief an exemption was not issued until over two years after the litigation began. As such, it is my understanding based on my reading of the law that this GAL was appointed inappropriately which in my opinion goes to the competency of the Judge that appointed him, M. Scott Rankin. The legislature intended for GAL's to be competent and for Judges to oversee them. This did not happen in this case because at the time of appointment the GAL was not qualified based on his own affidavit and did not receive a timely exemption request. In reading Brenton Burry's email, it is clear that Mr. Whiting could not claim any exemption for his age during his appointment as a GAL.
- B. Judge Rankin allowed the GAL to bill for things not provided for by statute such as transcription of his emails, telephone calls, letters and any other written document

because upon information and belief, the GAL admitted he could not keyboard (type).

- C. **Judge Rankin allowed the GAL to bill in 15 minute increments despite the fact every other attorney and the previous GAL on the case billed in 6 minute increments thereby significantly increasing costs to a staggering over \$100,000.**
- D. **Judge Rankin allowed the GAL to bill for conversations with other attorney's including my ex-husband's attorney.** I have read the GAL statute and the submissions by the GAL must be supported by admissible evidence; however, conversations with other attorneys cannot possibly be supported by admissible evidence due to attorney client relationship/confidentiality and the attorneys do not have firsthand knowledge of facts that they did not personally witness. In effect, and contrary to Patel v. Patel, this Judge sanctioned the GAL being "coached" and "lobbied" by my ex-husband's attorney Sheila Robinson.
- E. **Judge Rankin failed to remove the GAL when significant evidence was presented that he was not following the GAL statute and appeared to have his own memory problems, problems understanding or problems hearing.** In a hearing where I challenged the propriety of the GAL's bills the GAL tried to get an affidavit into evidence where he had an attorney suggest that his billings were reasonable; however, the attorney had dates in his submitted affidavit that were not accurate. When the GAL tried to enter the affidavit into evidence, I objected upon information and belief at least 3 times before I called Judge Rankin's name in the hearing because the GAL continued to argue when Judge Rankin sustained my objection of hearsay. At this particular hearing it was clear to me that upon information and belief, the GAL was not understanding what was occurring in the hearing. Finally, Judge Rankin told the GAL that he could not submit the affidavit or words to this effect. In my opinion, the Judge should have immediately dismissed the GAL from the case for three reasons. First, he consulted with another attorney about this case without permission from the Court as required by his Order of Appointment. In that consultation, he allowed the attorney to review private documents for which he had no authority to allow. Second, the affidavit submitted by the attorney started in 2018 the problem is the parties entered the Richland County Family Court in 2019. So his affidavit was based on an additional year of billings and finally, the GAL's lack of understanding of what was going on when the objection was sustained.
- F. **Judge Rankin failed to monitor the orders he issued to the GAL such as when the GAL made a motion with the court to have psychological evaluations. Judge Rankin allowed the GAL to abandon a motion he made for psychological evaluations despite the fact the GAL requested and received the grant of psychological evaluations by Order of the Honorable M. Scott Rankin.** Importantly, the timing of this abandonment of the motion by the GAL coincided with the fact my ex-husband was diagnosed with a blood disorder although upon information and belief, his diagnosis via biopsy was later, he was diagnosed with some blood disorder in late 2021. This was particularly egregious because the GAL had suggested Samer Touma, PhD and I stated there was a conflict because I contacted, which was that I objected to the GAL's request for a psychologist to evaluate the parties because I believed my husband really needed a physician or psychiatrist to evaluate him. This request was denied by Judge Rankin despite the serious allegations of illness, scribed by my ex-husband's attorney such that the change in the Orders from the bench ruling was significant on multiple occasions.

One particular time I remember was when he granted every weekend visitation for my children and me and then refused to change the Order back to his bench ruling when the Order was incorrectly scribed by Sheila Robinson my ex husband's attorney.

At the first hearing before Judge Rankin, on November 18, 2019, I was extremely hopeful because he appeared competent that he would correct the egregious First Temporary Order scribed by Judge Michelle Hurley when I was unrepresented that significantly interfered with my children's and my civil rights and failed to follow the law as it relates to custody, visitation, child, and spousal support. During the hearing, I submitted an affidavit accompanied by a sworn financial declaration, **that evidenced the parties were unequal financially (ten to one)** and that the children were having severe emotional responses to custody in my husband's care. My youngest child was suspended from school, and the older children that are highly gifted were failing core classes that would deny them the ability to get the Palmetto Scholarships and prepare them for college. At the inception of the hearing, the Judge (off the record) took the attorneys and the Guardian *ad Litem* in his chambers as reflected by his admission in the transcript. Upon information and belief, he said words to the effect "she's going to get a chunk of change" at the end of this. This is inappropriate because it is impossible for the parties to address misinformation submitted to the judge in this "back door" scenario which in this situation was critical because instead of ordering neurological and health tests for my then husband, he relied on the submission of a letter and upon information and belief a neurological test performed for surgical patients by a neurosurgeon Dr. Erwin Mangubat and not a neurologist, which would have been a complete workup. This is critical for a judge in multiple hearings he based his decision on child custody and visitation on allegations my husband made that I abused my children; however, I submitted affidavits that my husband at the time "was not thinking right" at the time he made those allegations coupled with the fact upon information and belief he was instructed to make the false claims by his attorney Sheila Robinson, who upon information and belief, threatened to quit the case if my husband continued to speak with me during the litigation. Additionally, multiple people submitted affidavits in support of the fact that I have never abused my children and my children requested more time with me. When he finally granted additional visitation from the bench, upon information and belief, he allowed my husband's attorney to modify his instructions to reduce his order from the bench. Consistently he favored my husband's attorney and failed to consider the ample evidence presented. my allegations prior to hearings. and that he had a physical impairment of tremors in addition to reporting hallucinations and having delusional conversations with me where he referred to me in the third person.

**2.competency**

**3.ethics including any and all allegations of wrongdoing or misconduct on the part of the candidate**

- (b) specific dates, places, and times at which or during which such allegations took place; The dates and times are reflected in the transcripts, Orders, emails, communications etc. submitted in support the other dates will be recited in my oral testimony that are not submitted in this affidavit.
- (c) names of any persons present during such alleged actions or possessing

evidence the names are submitted above; however, there were citizens in some of the hearings that may not be noted above.

- (d) how this information relates to the qualifications of the judicial candidate.
- (4) Set forth a list of and provide a copy of any and all documents to be produced at the hearing which relate to your testimony regarding the qualifications of the judicial candidate.

Transcript of the November 19, 2019 hearing  
Emails from Judge Rankin's secretary and Judge Pincus' email  
Orders associated with the case  
By reference the complaint against Monet Pincus and Michelle Hurley

- (5) State any other facts you feel are pertinent to the screening of this judicial candidate.

The fact that he and his wife maintain multiple rental properties and he is the Judge that ruled that one of my rentals that was a marital property could not be preserved is of extreme importance and should be investigated by this committee and others to ensure that Judge Rankin was not a beneficiary to the loss of the marital property including requiring Judge Rankin to admit under oath that he had no contact with anyone that purchased 406 Koon Store Road or was not familiar with the purchasers of 406 Koon Store road or its property managers along with reviewing his financial records, and records in the secretary of state's office to ensure that he was not in any way involved with that particular property.

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.

## **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.

[Handwritten Signature]

Signature

Sworn to me this 25<sup>th</sup> day of Oct, 2024

[Handwritten Signature] L.S.

Notary Public of South Carolina

My commission expires: 9/28/2028

 **Hunter Glisson**  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
Commission Expires: 09/28/2028



LAW OFFICES OF  
**RICHARD G. WHITING**  
A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION  
1515 LADY STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 7877  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202

TELEPHONE (803) 256-9067  
FACSIMILE (803) 256-0223  
dick.whiting@whitinglawac.com

September 13, 2021

**HAND DELIVERED**

The Honorable M. Scott Rankin  
Richland County Family Court  
Richland County Judicial Center  
1701 Main Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

RE: Grant Meisner v. Rhonda Meisner  
Civil Action No. 2019-DR-40-2277

Dear Judge Rankin:

Enclosed for your consideration is the original and three (3) copies of the proposed Order for Psychological Evaluations and Payment Thereof and Order for Reasonableness of Guardian *ad Litem* Fees in the above captioned matter which was before you on August 16, 2021. The proposed order has been sent to Ms. Robinson and *pro se* Defendant, Ms. Meisner, for review. Also enclosed are email responses from each of them, Ms. Robinson approving same and Ms. Meisner's as set out therein. I have addressed Ms. Meisner's objection to Dr. Harari in a separate correspondence to Your Honor of September 13, 2021, another copy enclosed.

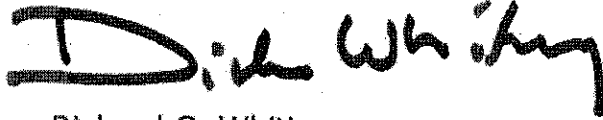
Trusting you will find the order acceptable for signature, I would appreciate your staff placing the clocked-in copies in the pick-up box and I will see that Ms. Robinson and Ms. Meisner each receive a copy of same. As always, please let me know if anything else is needed.

Please accept my kindest and highest regards.

FELLOW, AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MATRIMONIAL LAWYERS  
CERTIFIED FAMILY COURT MEDIATOR

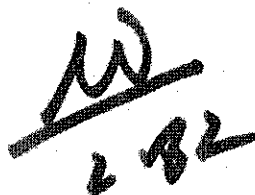
CERTIFIED FAMILY LAW TRIAL ADVOCATE - NATIONAL BOARD OF TRIAL ADVOCACY

I am, very truly yours,



Richard G. Whiting

/klh  
enclosures (7)  
cc: Shella M. Robinson, Esquire (via email)  
Ms. Rhonda Meisner (via email)



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )

COUNTY OF RICHLAND )

Grant Meisner )

Plaintiff, )

vs. )

Rhonda Meisner )

Defendant. )

IN THE FAMILY COURT  
FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

JUDGMENT IN A  
FAMILY COURT CASE

Docket No. 2019-DR-40-2277

Submitted by:

Richard G. Whiting

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): Notice of Motion and Motion for Psychological Evaluations filed January 17, 2021, and Motion for Expedited Review of the Reasonableness of the Guardian ad Litem Fees Pursuant to S.C. Code § 63-03-850 (D) filed April 16, 2021.

This order adds or dismisses the following parties to this case:  
 dismiss  add: \_\_\_\_\_  dismiss  add: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>INFORMATION FOR THE JUDGMENT 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)
		\$
		\$
		\$
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:

Sheila M. Robinson  
P.O. Box 5709  
West Columbia, SC 29171  
**ATTORNEY(S) FOR THE PLAINTIFF(S)**

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

Richard G. Whiting  
P.O. Box 7877  
Columbia, SC 29202  
**GUARDIAN AD LITEM**

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

**Court Reporter:** DCRP

**Custodial Parent (if applicable):** Plaintiff/Father

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	IN THE FAMILY COURT
	)	OF THE
COUNTY OF RICHLAND	)	FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Grant Meisner,	)	
	)	ORDER FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL
Plaintiff,	)	EVALUATIONS AND
	)	PAYMENT THEREOF
versus	)	AND
	)	ORDER FOR REASONABLENESS
Rhonda Meisner,	)	OF GUARDIAN <i>AD LITEM</i> FEES
	)	
Defendant.	)	Civil Action No. 2019-DR-40-2277
	)	

DATE OF HEARING:	AUGUST 16, 2021
PRESIDING JUDGE:	HONORABLE M. SCOTT RANKIN
PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY:	SHEILA M. ROBINSON, ESQUIRE
DEFENDANT'S ATTORNEY:	PRO SE
GUARDIAN AD LITEM:	RICHARD G. WHITING, ESQUIRE
COURT REPORTER:	DCRP

This matter came before the Court pursuant to the Guardian ad Litem's Notice of Motion and Motion for Psychological Evaluations and Payment Thereof filed March 11, 2021, and to Defendant's Motion for Expedited Review of the Reasonableness of the Guardian ad Litem Fees. Present and appearing were Plaintiff and his attorney, the pro se Defendant, and the Guardian *ad Litem*.

AS TO THE APPOINTMENT OF AN EVALUATOR TO CONDUCT  
PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS OF THE PARTIES:

I have had an opportunity to hear from the Guardian *ad Litem* who indicated he had initially filed a motion for psychological evaluations early on in this case but

withdrew that motion. Subsequently, at a later point in time, the Guardian *ad Litem* filed another motion that we address today. The Guardian reports that he has had discussions with Dr. Marc Harari to conduct these evaluations and understood that the parties agreed for such evaluations to go forward, except that Defendant demanded that Plaintiff be responsible for the cost of these evaluations. Plaintiff indicated that he has no objection to these evaluations going forward, however he believes that both parties should be responsible for their portion of the expense for the evaluations. Plaintiff offers no objection to Dr. Harari conducting the evaluations.

I have heard extensive oral argument from the parties and the Guardian *ad Litem*.

I find it is appropriate that Dr. Marc Harari be appointed to conduct psychological evaluations. The Guardian *ad Litem* is to arrange for these to go forward and, based the information of the Guardian *ad Litem* to the parties, the parties are thereafter to immediately contact Dr. Harari's office and to cooperate with Dr. Harari's office for these evaluations to take place as soon as possible. The expense of these evaluations shall be split equally between the parties, Plaintiff paying his portion and Defendant's portion being paid by Plaintiff with that being an advance against her equitable distribution in this case.

AS TO THE ISSUE OF DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR EXPEDITED REVIEW  
OF THE REASONABLENESS OF THE GUARDIAN *AD LITEM* FEES:

I have reviewed the motions and the returns filed by Plaintiff, Defendant and Guardian *ad Litem*. It appears that this issue has previously been before the court on three (3) separate occasions. Two other judges and myself have previously addressed this issue, each finding that the Guardian *ad Litem* bills are appropriate and comply with the requirements set down by statute.

However, I find it appropriate that within ten (10) days of the date of this hearing that Defendant identify with specificity those charges which she believes are inappropriate and specifically set out the reason she believes those charges should not be allowed. The Guardian *ad Litem* offers no objection to Defendant identifying those charges and setting forth her reason for objecting to the specific billings. Thereafter, the Guardian *ad Litem* shall have ten (10) days to respond to Defendant concerning her objection to certain activities being billed. If there continues to be a disagreement as to the billing of a particular item, then that item may be brought back before the court at a subsequent hearing or at the Final Hearing.

I find the current billing as set out by the Guardian's invoices to be appropriate subject to the objection of those charges as identified by Defendant as set out hereinabove. This court notes that three (3) previous orders find that the

billing practices of the Guardian *ad Litem* are appropriate, and that matter is once again before the court this date.

Defendant's argument concerning the Guardian *ad Litem* billing on a quarterly hour basis as opposed to a one-tenth of an hour basis (6 minutes) has likewise been before this court previously and three (3) orders set forth that the Guardian's billing practices are appropriate. However, Defendant may choose to raise this issue again before the court at a final hearing herein.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

---

Honorable M. Scott Rankin

At Chambers:  
Camden, South Carolina

September \_\_\_\_\_, 2021



## Keri Hannon

---

**From:** Keri Hannon  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 2, 2021 11:57 AM  
**To:** sheila@mbmlawsc.com; Rhonda Meisner (scorequipment@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** Liz Sineath  
**Subject:** Meisner v.Meisner  
**Attachments:** Order-2021-08-24-MotionPsychEvals-MotionReasonablenessGALFees DRAFT.pdf  
**Categories:** Review OR Waiting for Response

Dear Ms. Robinson and Ms. Meisner:

Attached please find the proposed order from the hearing on August 16, 2021 before Judge Rankin. Please review it and advise if it is acceptable for forwarding on to the court for signature and filing. I plan to submit this proposed order to Judge Rankin the first of next week.

Very truly yours,

Richard G. Whiting  
Law Offices of Richard G. Whiting  
151 1/2 Lady Street  
Post Office 7877  
Columbia, SC 29202  
(803) 256-9067  
(803) 256-0223 (fax)  
[dick.whiting@whitinglawsc.com](mailto:dick.whiting@whitinglawsc.com)

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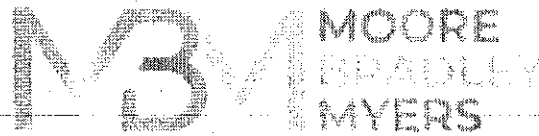
**Keri Hannon**

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**From:** Sheila Robinson <Sheila@mbmlawsc.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 2, 2021 1:41 PM  
**To:** Keri Hannon; Rhonda Meisner (scorequipment@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** Liz Sineath  
**Subject:** RE: Meisner, Grant v. Meisner, Rhonda: Meisner v.Meisner

This order meets with my approval. Thank you.

Thank you,  
Sheila McNair Robinson



Post Office Box 5709  
West Columbia, South Carolina 29171  
(803) 796-9160 - office  
(803) 791-8410 - fax  
[sheila@mbmlawsc.com](mailto:sheila@mbmlawsc.com)

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**From:** Keri Hannon [mailto:Keri.Hannon@whitinglawsc.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 2, 2021 11:57 AM  
**To:** Sheila Robinson <Sheila@mbmlawsc.com>; Rhonda Meisner (scorequipment@gmail.com) <scorequipment@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** Liz Sineath <lsineath@mbmlawsc.com>  
**Subject:** Meisner, Grant v. Meisner, Rhonda: Meisner v.Meisner

Dear Ms. Robinson and Ms. Meisner:

Attached please find the proposed order from the hearing on August 16, 2021 before Judge Rankin. Please review it and advise if it is acceptable for forwarding on to the court for signature and filing. I plan to submit this proposed order to Judge Rankin the first of next week.

Very truly yours,

Richard G. Whiting  
Law Offices of Richard G. Whiting  
1515 Lady Street  
Post Office 7877  
Columbia, SC 29202  
(803) 256-9067  
(803) 256-0223 (fax)  
[dick.whiting@whitinglawsc.com](mailto:dick.whiting@whitinglawsc.com)

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**Keri Hannon**

---

**From:** scorequipment@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 2, 2021 2:05 PM  
**To:** Dick Whiting; sheila@mttlaw.com  
**Cc:** scoreequipment@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Objections to Order for Psychological Reviews

Good afternoon Mr. Whiting and Ms. Robinson,

I am making the objection that Dr. Marc Harari by his change in practice is not an appropriate clinician because he no longer does assessments for suitability of parents or makes custody determinations.

Additionally, I object to the manner that he intends on performing his assessment as not meeting the standard for admissibility because he is allowing the Guardian ad Litem to "control" the information provided with oversight of the production window and believe that this "process" is not only unfair, violative of the scientific process and unreliable, but also allows for the likelihood of an outcome influenced heavily by the Guardian and his asst. Keri Hannon.

Regards,

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*Rhonda Lewis Meisner*  
Post Office Box 689  
Blythewood, SC 29016  
[scorequipment@gmail.com](mailto:scorequipment@gmail.com)  
(803)206-3402

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LAW OFFICES OF  
**RICHARD G. WHITING**  
A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION  
1515 LADY STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 7877  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202

TELEPHONE (803) 256-0007  
FACSIMILE (803) 256-0223  
dick.whiting@whitinglawsca.com

September 8, 2021

**VIA EMAIL ONLY**

The Honorable M. Scott Rankin  
Richland County Family Court  
Richland County Judicial Center  
1701 Main Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

RE: Grant Meisner v. Rhonda Meisner  
Civil Action No. 2019-DR-40-2277

Dear Judge Rankin:

I attach hereto a communication I received from Dr. Harari wherein he has indicated that he himself is backing out of some of his psychological evaluations that would be part of any litigation. The contents of his correspondence are self-explanatory. I also attach a copy of Ms. Meisner's email to me and Ms. Robinson of September 2, 2021, time stamped 2:05 p.m. where she now objects to using Dr. Harari under his present procedural rules.

I would ask that the court advise whether or not Dr. Harari overseeing another doctor associated with his office is acceptable and, if not, for the court to simply designate someone to conduct these psychological evaluations at the earliest possible opportunity.

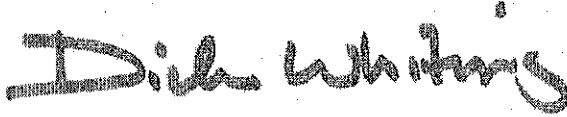
If any additional information is needed, please let me know.

  
FELLOW, AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MATRIMONIAL LAWYERS  
CERTIFIED FAMILY COURT MEDIATOR

CERTIFIED FAMILY LAW TRIAL ADVOCATE - NATIONAL BOARD OF TRIAL ADVOCACY

Please accept my kindest and highest regards.

I am, very truly yours,



Richard G. Whiting

/klh  
enclosures (2)  
cc: Shella M. Robinson, Esquire (via email only)  
Ms. Rhonda Meisner (via email only)

ND  
2/6/21

**From:** Marc Harari, Ph.D. <comppsyhsc@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 3:36 PM

**To:** Dick Whiting <Dick.whiting@whitinglawsc.com>

**Cc:** Neve Trumpeter <neve.trumpeter@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Fwd: Forensic Psych Evals

Dick,

As we discussed, I am taking a break from conducting forensic evaluations for family court. Dr. Nevelyn Trumpeter, a longtime associate of mine, is presently performing "forensic" psychological evaluations. She is not performing child custody evaluations, alienation assessments, or parental fitness evaluations. Additionally, Dr. Trumpeter is solely performing evaluations in situations in which she evaluates both parents (not one-sided evaluations). Additionally, Dr. Trumpeter does not wish to participate in cases where there are sexual abuse allegations. Such cases typically require more in-depth investigations anyway. Due to COVID and limited availability, Dr. Trumpeter will be reviewing referrals for forensic psychological evaluations on a case-by-case basis. The following paragraphs contain a general summary of the evaluation process.

I have a few instructions with respect to how Dr. Trumpeter will be conducting the evaluations. The goal of these instructions is to ensure a fair, reasonable, and transparent evaluation process. First, any written communication that she has with the attorneys representing the parents will be done on a copy-to-all basis. Additionally, any telephone communication would need to be conducted via conference call. This way, everyone is exposed to the same exact information. Pertaining to the GAL, Dr. Trumpeter will initially communicate with him/her privately as a collateral source. However, her notes of her communication with the GAL will be documented and open to discovery as part of the case. After the data collection period is concluded, Dr. Trumpeter's communication with the GAL will solely be via copy-to-all or conference call with the other attorneys.

Pertaining to a data collection period, that is the range of time from when Dr. Trumpeter first meets with the parents after they sign their respective Statements of Understandings and Court Fees Statement to an agreed upon date that she stops collecting information to write up the reports. Typically, during the course of the testing process, Dr. Trumpeter will send an e-mail requesting a final date for the submission of documented collateral information. Thereafter, she performs follow-up interviews with the parents based on the accumulated information she obtained during the course of her investigation. Afterward, she closes the data collection window, and her reports are based on the information she obtained during this finite time period.

With respect to the documented collateral information, Dr. Trumpeter requests that the GAL be the gatekeeper of this information to be provided. Therefore, all collateral must go through him/her to be admissible. So Dr. Trumpeter can keep track of everything, she respectfully requests that she receive hard copies of all the collateral information she is asked to review.

Even if Drop Box is used, Dr. Trumpeter would still like hard copies of all the materials. The Drop Box can serve as a backup to ensure that all parties have access to the information she will be reviewing as part of the investigation.

Dr. Trumper wants to make sure the process is fair and transparent to all parties involved. For parent psychological evaluations, the fees start at \$2500.00 per parent. Specifically, the retainer is for 10 hours per parent (10 \* 250.00). The rates will go up depending on the nature of the collateral information Dr. Trumpeter is asked to review or the complexities of the evaluation. My office has developed an additional contract for the parents (I will send later) with respect to fees.

My office does not bill health insurance for forensic evaluations. The retainer needs to be provided on or before the date of the appointment.

Please note that my name would be listed on the report as an "assisting psychologist." I would perform a secondary role with respect to the supervision of the psychometricians that assist Dr. Trumpeter. Additionally, I would proofread the report and provide any guidance necessary for Dr. Trumpeter. However, she would ultimately be responsible for the report as the primary psychologist.

Finally, here are the three psychological questions are typically assessed in a psychological evaluation:

- Does Mr./Ms. XXX appear to function with a mental health condition or underlying psychological problems which would result in impairment?
- How do Mr./Ms. XXX's psychological and interpersonal tendencies potentially affect the co-parenting relationship?
- Based on the accumulation of acquired data, what treatment interventions appear necessary for Mr./Ms. XXX?

If you remain interested in Dr. Trumpeter's services, she first wishes to arrange a conference call with the GAL and attorneys. This would provide her the opportunity to understand the scope of the evaluations and answer any questions.

Respectfully,  
Marc Harari, Ph.D.

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**Keri Hannon**

---

**From:** scorequipment@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 2, 2021 2:05 PM  
**To:** Dick Whiting; sheila@mttlaw.com  
**Cc:** scoreequipment@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Objections to Order for Psychological Reviews

Good afternoon Mr. Whiting and Ms. Robinson,

I am making the objection that Dr. Marc Harari by his change in practice is not an appropriate clinician because he no longer does assessments for suitability of parents or makes custody determinations.

Additionally, I object to the manner that he intends on performing his assessment as not meeting the standard for admissibility because he is allowing the Guardian ad Litem to "control" the information provided with oversight of the production window and believe that this "process" is not only unfair, violative of the scientific process and unreliable, but also allows for the likelihood of an outcome influenced heavily by the Guardian and his asst. Keri Hannon.

Regards,

---

*Rhonda Lewis Meisner*  
Post Office Box 689  
Blythewood, SC 29016  
[scorequipment@gmail.com](mailto:scorequipment@gmail.com)  
(803)206-3402

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Outlook

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**Representations to the Court yesterday**

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From scorequipment@gmail.com <scoreequipment@gmail.com>

Date Wed 7/21/2021 5:43 AM

To 'Sheila Robinson' <sheila@mttlaw.com>

Cc scoreequipment@gmail.com <scoreequipment@gmail.com>

Good morning Ms. Robinson,

Please consult with your partner that attended the Probate Hearing. You represented that " She lied to the probate court or she lied to this Court" seemingly to infer that I had not disclosed marital property; however, my argument to the Probate Court was that Grant is in possession of marital property that I have no way to discover. I also argued that the stock and bitcoin might be held in Micah's name and I am not sure about that.

Once you confirm with your partner, I expect a correction letter sent to Judge Rankin via email within 2 days.

Respectfully,

*Rhonda Lewis Meisner*

South Carolina Operating Room Equipment, LLC

Post Office Box 689

Blythewood, South Carolina 29016

(803)333-9900 office

(803)206-3402 cellular

[scoreequipment@gmail.com](mailto:scoreequipment@gmail.com)

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND )  
GRANT MEISNER, )  
) )  
PLAINTIFF, )  
) )  
VS. )  
) )  
RHONDA MEISNER, )  
) )  
DEFENDANT. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF THE  
FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
C.A. NO.: 2019-DR-40-2277

**FOURTH TEMPORARY ORDER**

Date of Hearing: September 1, 2020  
Presiding Judge: M. Scott Rankin  
Plaintiff's Attorney: Sheila McNair Robinson  
Defendant's Attorney: Self-Represented  
Court Reporter: Karen Kocsis

This matter came before the Court for a temporary hearing on September 1, 2020 at 12:00 noon. The Defendant filed a Notice of Motion and Motion for Emergency/Expedited Temporary Hearing on July 28, 2020. The request for an Emergency/Expedited hearing was denied, and a temporary hearing was thereafter scheduled and held via WebEx pursuant to the authority of the South Carolina Supreme Court Order issued on April 30, 2020.

The action was commenced by the filing of a Notice of Motion and Motion for Temporary Relief, Summons and Complaint on July 11, 2019. The Defendant was personally served with the pleadings on July 17, 2019, as evidenced by the affidavit of service filed with the Court. The Defendant filed an Answer and Counterclaims **with allegations of adultery and physical cruelty** on August 15, 2019. The Plaintiff filed a Reply on August 21, 2019. An Order appointing Richard G. Whiting as the Guardian *ad Litem* for the minor children was filed on December 17, 2019.

Present at the hearing were the Plaintiff and his attorney, Sheila McNair Robinson. **The Defendant wife lost her legal representation due to her inability to pay her legal fees; therefore, she was self-represented at this hearing.** Richard G. Whiting was present as the duly appointed

Guardian *ad Litem* for the subject minor children.

The hearing notice which was served on the Plaintiff by the Defendant indicated the date, time and method for this hearing and also required the parties to submit all documents within 24 hours of the hearing date and time. The Plaintiff objected to the extensive package submitted by the Defendant at 9:30 a.m. on September 1, 2020. **Temporary Hearings pursuant to SRFC Rule 20 provide that packets may be served immediately before the hearing, so not withstanding the hearing notice, the statutory rules for Temporary Hearings allow the admission of the packet and the Court accepts the packet as conforming to the S. C. R. Civ. P. Rule 20. The Court also notes the Order by the Supreme Court that provided for Web-ex hearings did not provide for further abridgment of Rule 20, and therefore accepts the evidence, in toto.**

After a careful review of the extensive file, the affidavit packages submitted by both parties, the Supplemental Report of the Guardian *ad Litem*, and after hearing arguments from the Plaintiff, from the Defendant, and from Mr. Whiting, this Court makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

1. Both parties are citizens and residents of Richland County, South Carolina.
2. The Plaintiff and the Defendant last resided together as husband and wife in Richland County, South Carolina.
3. The Plaintiff and the Defendant are presently husband and wife, having been married on April 17, 1993. Four children have been born to this union, namely: M.M., deceased; A.M., born in 2003; J.M., born in 2003, and A.M., born in 2008. This Court finds that no other children have been born to these parties.
4. This Court finds that the three (3) minor children have resided in the State of South Carolina all of their lives. South Carolina is therefore the home state of the children pursuant to the UCCJEA, codified at S.C. Code §63-15-300 (2008).

5. Therefore, this Court has jurisdiction over the parties personally and the subject matter hereof. Venue is proper in Richland County.

6. This Court finds that a Temporary Order was issued by The Honorable Michelle M. Hurley on August 7, 2019. The terms of the Temporary Order required the Defendant to vacate the marital home by 5:00 p.m. on July 19, 2019, and the parties have been separated since then. That Order also gave the parties joint custody of the three (3) minor children, with the Plaintiff having primary physical placement and with the Defendant having daytime only, supervised visits. That Order also denied the Defendant's request for alimony and for an advance on equitable division.

7. **This Court finds that a Second Temporary Order was issued on December 5, 2020 provided that the maternal grandmother could supervise visitation for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, but did not change the supervised visitation requirement based on the First Temporary Order and the fact no Guardian ad Litem was appointed and the Court found it prudent to proceed with caution. The defendant brought to the Court's attention that the plaintiff's counsel informed Christopher Leventis that this Court previously stated it could not understand why spousal support was not ordered; however, this Court still declines to change the First Temporary Order regarding any financial support for the wife that is contrary to the First Temporary Order. This Court previously declined to intervene and provide wife an equitable distribution, at husband's request, to prevent a property with \$100,000 in equity from being lost to foreclosure.**

8. This Court finds that a Third Temporary Order was issued on May 12, 2020, which declined to change the terms of the First Temporary Order and Referenced the Second Temporary Order with regard to its denial of a medical assessment based on this Court's acceptance of the neurological exam performed by Dr. Erwin Mangubat.

**The court declined to change the findings of the First Temporary Order and the Second Temporary Order with respect to custody, visitation, alimony and monetary issues. Additionally, the Court granted the Plaintiff authority to access marital assets to advance payment for Guardian *ad Litem* Fees and for the Court ordered payment of \$8,000 attributed as a sanction to his wife to be considered as an advance to the Defendant on equitable division.**

9. This Court finds that the Defendant filed this Notice of Motion and Motion for Emergency/Expedited Temporary Hearing seeking a modification of the provisions within the prior Temporary Orders. Specifically, she is seeking the following temporary relief: an immediate change in custody or alternatively for substantial unsupervised visitation; for an Order requiring the older boys to attend counseling; for an award of alimony from the Plaintiff; for an advance of equitable distribution from a marital account of the Plaintiff; for an Order requiring the Plaintiff undergo a medical evaluation by an uninterested neurologist; and for an Order which gives the Defendant the final authority on major decisions for the children, including school and health matters.

10. The Defendant alleges that since the issuance of the prior temporary orders, events have occurred which relate to the care, safety and mental health of the children and **the mother's company has had a 50% reduction in monthly income which she has been using to support herself. As a result, she argued in open court that she will be unable to pay her bills and suggested during the hearing she may need to file for food stamps without intervention and an advance of her equitable share based on her inability to support herself and that the children's school performances have drastically diminished since the Plaintiff has had primary custody.** She

also alleges that the Plaintiff has mental health issues related to a degenerative and progressive neurological disease and these issues are impeding the Plaintiff's ability to properly parent the children. **She also informed the Court that the First Temporary Order attributed her company's income personally to her. She had had to use the company's income as one source**

for her living expenses. She further informed the Court that being unable to support herself and pay company expenses, she borrowed company money to pay personal expenses which resulted in several properties being sold for taxes in December of 2019. As such the defendant reported that without financial support the properties and the resulting income will be lost permanently. For these reasons, the Defendant is asking the Court to modify the Order and grant her custody of the children and to allow her to have final decision-making on all child-related issues. **The plaintiff acknowledged that the Court denied the defendant's recent motion for emergency intervention where the defendant requested the Court order the custodial father to take the children to the doctor and the dentist for a required procedure. The court denied the motion, but required the father to take the children to the doctor and dentist.** At the hearing, she further expressed concern with the Red Suburban vehicle, which is titled in the Defendant's name and being driven by the housekeeper nanny, Sheryl Boyd. She is asking for an Order which prohibits Ms. Boyd from driving the vehicle or which transfers the automobile to the Plaintiff's name and requests the Court to require the husband to pay her \$3,500.

11. The Plaintiff argued that the Defendant's motion is improper because the allegations raised by the Defendant in her motion have been addressed previously by the Court. Hence, the Plaintiff does not believe there have been any substantial changes in circumstances giving the Court the authority to modify the prior Orders. Specifically, the Plaintiff argued the allegations of any neurological deficit of the Plaintiff, the school issues of the children, and the boys' underlying safety and well-being were specifically addressed in both the Second Temporary Order and Third Temporary Order. Both of those Orders also specifically found that there were no concerns with the neurological health of the Plaintiff. All three (3) prior Orders gave the Plaintiff primary custody of the children and supervised visits to the Defendant. Further, the Plaintiff argues that the Defendant has failed to establish that there have been any significant changes in her finances that warrant a modification of the financial requirements of the prior Orders. In short, the Plaintiff argues that the

Defendant's motion should be summarily dismissed with costs/fees assessed to the Defendant.

12. This Court finds that Mr. Whiting has been very involved in this case and has conducted extensive work as part of his investigation. **The defendant at the Third Temporary Hearing and as part of her motion for protection from the guardian's fees requested the Court to assign a lay guardian ad Litem and complained about not only the fees but the fact the guardian bills in 15 minute increments.** Mr. Whiting discussed with the Defendant the possibility of having some unsupervised visitation with the children because she was claiming she could not afford to pay for a supervisor and because he wanted to see how the boys reacted to the unsupervised visits. Mr. Whiting reported that both parties cooperated such to allow for a few day-time only unsupervised visits, although JM has refused to participate much in visiting with his mother at all. Mr. Whiting has interviewed all three (3) boys after some of the visits with their mother, and their positions have not changed at all throughout this case. The youngest child still wants the visits with his mother to be supervised, and the twins want to visit with their mother on their own terms. They do not want to be forced to visit. The children collectively do not want any overnight visits with their mother. Mr. Whiting informed the Court that he has not filed a motion to have the Court readdress the custody and visitation issues because he does not feel that he is at a point to make a recommendation for anything different to occur, as his investigation is ongoing. **NOT IN**

#### **EVIDENCE**

13. This Court **disagrees** with the Plaintiff and finds that the issues raised by the Defendant in this motion have **not** been previously addressed and ruled upon by the Court in three (3) prior temporary hearings. **This Court finds a 50% reduction in monthly income and the potentially loss of multiple properties accompanied by the children's significant and alarming school grades satisfy the substantial change requirements.** This Court finds that Defendant has failed to meet her burden of proof in establishing that



any substantial, material change in circumstances has occurred since the issuance of the previous Order. Therefore, this Court finds that there is no reason for the Court to alter the provisions in the prior Temporary Orders. **The Court further finds that the defendant's argument that she and her children have been significantly prejudiced by the previous Temporary rulings which require immediate redress because as a Court of Equity, the main goal is just that, a fair and equitable determination of the issues, regardless of the findings of previous Temporary Orders.**

14. This Court denies the Defendant's request to have the Plaintiff submit to a medical evaluation, as there is no basis, other than the Defendant's self-serving claims, to establish a need for one. **This Court having reviewed the affidavit of Shawnee Davis , a lay guardian ad Litem that witnessed the tremors, and having been informed by the defendant that Dr. Erwin Mangubat was an undisclosed expert witness at the time he filed the initial report; thereby making it inadmissible, along with the fact that he wrote a prescription for an HIV medication for his soon to be ex-wife finds that a medial exam is warranted.** This Court further references the findings in Second Temporary Order and the Third Temporary

Order that there are no issues with Plaintiff's health.

15. This Court does find that a specific schedule of visitation for the Defendant and the children should be provided. **The defendant argued that any abridgement of access to her children is unconstitutional and that the First Temporary Order that relied on the previously fired housekeeper's affidavit that was undated is unreliable. Additionally, the children have had almost failing grades, expulsions, and out of school suspensions. While the Court is mindful of Mr. Whiting's attempts, this Court finds the extrinsic evidence overwhelming that a change in custody should occur before a tragic and avoidable event occurs.** This Court finds, based on the input from Mr. Whiting, the children shall have day-time only visitation with the Defendant on alternating Saturdays, commencing ~~September 5, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and on alternating Sundays, commencing~~ September 13, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. **This Court further finds that 7 hours a week is woefully inadequate and to prevent a violation of the wife's constitutional rights to parent her children, shared custody is hereby ordered to prevent the older children from being required to attend a school the family prior to separation agreed was in the best interest of the children. In fact, the father even suggested in the materials provided that he would buy yet another house to prevent the children from changing schools. The mother is running for School Board and if successful will allow the older children the option of living with either parent and attending Blythewood High School. It flies in the face of common sense to further injure these brilliant teens with a change in schools after they have been through so much.** This Court finds that all three (3) boys shall be required to visit with the Defendant on these days. This Court finds that Mr. Whiting is to remain involved, as he has been, such that he can discuss this new schedule of visitation with the children and ensure that such is in their best interests. Mr. Whiting has the authority to file a motion to have the visitation issue readdressed if he believes that such is appropriate and necessary to protect the best interests of the children.

16. This Court finds that the Defendant's request for the children to have counseling was also addressed at the Second Temporary Hearing and Third Temporary Hearing. This Court finds that the youngest child has been in counseling with Dr. Seth Scott, and Mr. Whiting shall speak to Dr. Scott to address any issues that Mr. Whiting believes needs to be addressed with the child in counseling. In the event that Dr. Scott believes that either parent should be involved in counseling, the parties shall participate as requested by the counselor. With respect to the twins, this Court finds that they have recently been evaluated by Dr. David Downie, but Mr. Whiting shall select an appropriate counselor to evaluate the twins to determine if counseling is needed. Mr. Whiting recommended that the boys submit to an evaluation by Dr. Samer Touma, but the Defendant stated on the record that she had already spoken to Dr. Touma about potentially becoming a witness for her in some fashion in this case. Due to that information, the Court found that Dr. Touma had a conflict and could not serve in this role. At the hearing, the Court directed Mr. Whiting to locate another

counselor for these services. However, subsequent to the hearing, Mr. Whiting notified the Court and parties via email that he had spoken to Dr. Touma to learn that he (Dr. Touma) has no record or memory of a conversation with the Defendant. (That email is attached). This Court therefore finds that the twins shall be evaluated by Dr. Touma. **The defendant wife has subsequently submitted an affidavit and denies Dr. Touma should be involved with counseling of the children and objected vehemently to the guardian ad Litem broaching this subject after he admitted knowledge that Dr. Touma was put on probation for inappropriate relationships with his clients. As such, the wife's affidavit cannot be ignored.** If Dr. Touma recommends continued counseling for the twins, the Plaintiff shall ensure that such continues. In the event that Dr. Touma believes that either parent needs to participate in counseling with the twins, the parties shall cooperate to the extent requested by Dr. Touma. The goal of this counseling is to repair the children's relationship with their mother. **Not in evidence and the defendant further suggests there is no problem with the relationship only the alienation by the father.**

17. With respect to the Defendant's request for an advance on equitable division from one of the Plaintiff's assets, this Court agrees with the Plaintiff and therefore denies same. **This Court agrees with the defendant that it violates her due process rights to have multiple millions of dollars in assets and the inability to access those assets to defend herself or prosecute her claims. In fact, a review of the attorney fee filings by the Court finds the husband visited the attorney the day before he claimed abuse by the wife. This is quite concerning to the Court and the Court finds the wife is entitled to a preliminary equitable distribution of the account containing \$331,000.** This Court finds that the Defendant has made this same request at all three (3) prior temporary hearings, and that request has been denied each time. Again, this Court finds that the Defendant has failed to meet her burden of proof that a substantial, material change in circumstances has occurred. However, this Court finds that the Plaintiff has no objection to the transfer of the title to the Red Suburban from the Defendant to the Plaintiff, as the Temporary Order gives the Plaintiff use and possession of such and

requires the Plaintiff to pay for such. This Court finds that the Court is not in the business of piecemealing the marital estate at a temporary hearing but since there is an agreement, the Court will allow it. Therefore, the Defendant shall sign the title of the Red Suburban vehicle such to convey ownership of said vehicle to the Plaintiff **and pay defendant \$3,500 for the vehicle.** This shall not alter any allocation of the marital estate for final hearing purposes. Further, the Plaintiff has agreed to pay the outstanding **2019 and 2020** property taxes for the properties that are in the name of the defendant's companies so that they are not lost in the tax sale even though some of the properties are not marital in nature in lieu of not ordering an **equitable distribution or spousal support** that are solely in the Defendant's name such to maintain those marital assets. This Court therefore finds that the Plaintiff shall pay the outstanding 2020 property taxes for the properties titled in the Defendant's sole name so that those marital assets will be maintained during the pendency of

this action. The total amount paid by the Plaintiff for these taxes shall be considered as an advance to the Defendant for equitable division purposes. **These amounts shall be factored in when spousal support is awarded.**

18. This Court finds that the Defendant is again asking the Court to grant her spousal support/alimony from the Plaintiff due to the disparity in incomes, length of the marriage, the Defendant's inability to support herself, and other statutory factors. Again, the Defendant has made this same request at the three (3) prior temporary hearings, and the request was denied each time. The Defendant has now claimed that she has lost rental income due to the loss of renters and that her job in medical sales for start-up companies has not been fruitful either, especially since hospitals stopped allowing access in March, 2020 due to COVID 19. Although, the hospitals are opening back up, she claimed she is still not earning income from that employment. The Defendant further testified that some of her properties have been sold at a 2019 Richland County tax sale due to the fact that she was unable to pay property taxes on the properties. She testified that she has also borrowed money from her mother and from a friend to pay her expenses. The Defendant claims she is in need of alimony from Plaintiff on a temporary basis.

19. This Court finds that the Second Temporary Order noted that discovery had not been completed which left an incomplete financial picture, thereby creating difficulty in making findings with respect to financial issues. **Based on the unrefuted testimony of the defendant, This Court finds that the plaintiff has had all of the bank statements for the defendant personally and her business accounts since at least October of 2019 which was before the Second Temporary Hearing and even hired an expert witness in January. The wife further testified that she has lived a pauper existence in the last year which should not occur given the couples significant assets. The outstanding discovery on both parts should not delay the rightful payment of spousal support as no allegations have been made by the husband that would deny alimony.** This Court finds that discovery is still incomplete, as multiple motions to compel were heard by Judge Hurley on August 20, 2020 some of which were the

**defendant's motion requesting the plaintiff's location via google which he declined to provide.**

Additionally, this Court finds that the allegations raised by the Defendant are not new, as she has been claiming since the initial Temporary Hearing that she is unable to support herself. **This Court finds the disparity between the husband and wife should be addressed immediately to stop further disparate treatment of the parties. Further, the wife contends that the purpose of Temporary Hearings are to provide as equitable as possible the previous positions until a final disposition can be determined. This Court agrees that a Court of Equity cannot persist inequitable treatment of the parties. The Court agrees with the defendant and further finds that the husband has impermissibly reduced his income in an attempt to deny the wife spousal support. As such, the wife's figures for spousal support will be utilized. This Court orders the plaintiff to pay the wife the past due spousal support of \$8800 per month from September of 2019 to present. The funds can be accessed from husband's retirement accounts or any other sources.** She has previously claimed that her inability to pay property taxes, the loss of rental income, and the loss of income from her medical sales business were reasons for needing alimony from the Plaintiff. This Court therefore denies the Defendant's motion for temporary alimony and finds this issue shall be heard at the merits hearing.

20. This Court finds that the Second Temporary Order required mediation to occur within 120 days from November 18, 2019; however, due to the lack of cooperation by the Defendant, mediation has still not been scheduled **not in evidence and untrue due to the fact the plaintiff caused multiple delays by refusing to sign the consent order to relieve Brett Stevens, by failing to notify Judge Riddle of agreement for July 31, 2020, and by changing one date. The husband denied access to marital home and records and plaintiff changed the mediation date on two occasions. The wife alleges she needs access to the marital home to retrieve evidence to complete mediation and cannot afford the mediation expense. The Court further finds that both the plaintiff and defendant have been involved with delays.** This Court further finds that mediation shall take place with Judge Riddle on November 30, 2020 starting at 10:00 am. This Court finds that there is no reason for mediation to have been delayed this long, and it shall not be delayed further.

21. This Court finds that the Plaintiff is seeking an award of attorney's fees from the Defendant due to the fact that she has requested a fourth temporary hearing with essentially the same allegations. The Plaintiff argues that the Defendant's litigious efforts have yielded her no beneficial results and have cost the Plaintiff a lot of money in fees.

22. The factors for this Court to consider in determining the award of attorney's fees and costs include: (a) the nature, extent and difficulty of the case; (b) the time necessarily devoted to the case; (c) professional standing of counsel; (d) the contingency of compensation; (e) the beneficial results obtained; and (f) the customary fee charged for similar legal activities. EDM v. TAM, 415 S.E. 2d 812 (1992); Glasscock v. Glasscock, 403 S.E. 2d 313 (1991); and Johnson v. Johnson, 341 S.E. 2d 811 (S.C. App. 1986). Further, "...when parties fail to cooperate and their behavior prolongs proceedings, this is a basis for holding them responsible for attorney's fees." Bodkin vs. Bodkin, III, 694 S.E.2d 230 (Ct. App. 2010).

23. This Court is cognizant that this is the fourth temporary hearing in this case. **The filings by the plaintiff and the motions by the plaintiff are virtually equal with the plaintiff's motion**



being attempts to avoid depositions of critical parties via motion to quash the subpoenas issued, motions for protective orders and motions to deny access to phone and location records. In fact, this Court has been scheduled to hear a motion for a psychological evaluation of the defendant filed by the plaintiff which the plaintiff subsequently withdrew along with a motion to compel which was withdrawn by agreement. This is a complex case with multiple moving parts including investigations into prescription fraud, requests for extrinsic fraud hearings, lost pension checks, unrequested changes in address and others. The number of motions filed by both parties are almost equal. This Court further acknowledges the number of motions filed by the Defendant, the number of hearings held and the totality of what has happened in this case. This Court finds that for each motion filed by the Defendant, counsel for the Plaintiff is required to exert a great deal of effort to prepare for the hearings to represent her client. **The Court finds the plaintiff's counsel has allegedly failed to name expert witnesses, filed motions on behalf of unrepresented parties, and allegedly failed to provide evidence in her possession. As such, both parties cry foul and this Court denies any award of attorney's fees.** This Court has reviewed the financial declarations presented by both parties. Although it is clear that the Plaintiff is earning more income than is the Defendant, it is also clear that

the Defendant is not making any payments on her child support obligation under the terms of the Temporary Order, and she is not maintaining the mortgage on the home where she resides, as required by the Temporary Order. Although the contempt issues are not before the Court at this hearing, those facts are important to the Court when considering the Defendant's ability to pay these fees. This Court has reviewed the attorney's fees affidavit submitted by Mrs. Robinson and finds the time expended to be reasonable. This Court further considers the professional standing of the Plaintiff's counsel as well as the beneficial results earned for her client at this hearing. In considering all those factors, this Court finds that the Defendant shall be responsible for paying a portion of those fees incurred by the Plaintiff. This Court finds that the Defendant shall contribute the sum of \$3,000 to the Plaintiff by December 1, 2020. **The defendant cannot pay even her normal expenses as such, an award of attorneys fees without the accompanying support or equitable distribution would result in unwarranted punishment of the wife who has been extremely prejudiced by these Temporary Rulings along with her children.**

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED a **50% reduction in monthly income and the loss of her legal representation is evidence the wife has had significant changes warranting intervention from this Court.** that the Defendant has failed to establish any changes in circumstances such to allow the Court to modify the prior Order, and the request for modification is hereby **granted denied;**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Defendant shall have **custody of her minor children to prevent further irreparable damage to the children.** day-time only visitation with all three (3) boys at the times and per the requirements set forth in full herein above; **Daytime only visitation for 7 hours per week is unconstitutional restraint of the right to parent given the facts of this case.**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Defendant shall sign the title to the Red Suburban vehicle over to the Plaintiff, **and the plaintiff shall pay the defendant \$3500;**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Plaintiff shall pay the outstanding **2019 and 2020**

taxes on the properties titled **the names of the defendant's companies** solely in the Defendant's name so as to preserve the marital estate, with this amount being considered **along with the back spousal support** as an advance of equitable distribution to the Defendant at the final merits hearing;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the request for temporary spousal support by the Defendant is hereby **granted in the amount of \$8,800 monthly from August of 2019 with the arrearage being accessed by the plaintiff's retirement accounts and deducted from his equitable share** denied;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that counseling for all three (3) minor children shall take place

**With one of the three Christian Counselors recommended by Seth Scott, Phd as set forth in full hereinabove;**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that mediation shall take place with Judge Riddle on November 30, 2020 starting at 10:00 a.m with the caveat that the plaintiff makes the marital home available to the defendant to retrieve her personal property and papers for an uninterrupted 7 hour period.;**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Defendant shall pay to the Plaintiff the sum of 0.00 in attorney's fees by December 1, 2020 and the issue of attorneys fees is stayed until the final hearing;**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED wife shall be granted joint physical custody of the children and physical custody to occur so as to allow the older children to attend Blythewood High School that all other issues shall be held in abeyance pending further Order of the Court.**

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
M. Scott Rankin  
Presiding Judge of the  
Family Court for the  
Fifth Judicial Circuit

\_\_\_\_\_, South Carolina

September \_\_\_\_\_, 2020





Outlook

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**Re: Meisner v. Meisner Civil Action No.: 2019-DR-40-02277**

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From Rhonda Meisner <scorequipment@gmail.com>

Date Fri 9/8/2023 9:38 AM

To Rankin, Michael S. Secretary (Nichole A. Todd) <mranks@sccourts.org>

Cc Allison Driggers <allison.driggers@smithrobinsonlaw.com>; Shanon Peake  
<shanonp@smithrobinsonlaw.com>; sheila@mbmlawsc.com <sheila@mbmlawsc.com>

2 attachments (61 KB)

image002.jpg; image002.jpg;

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Thank you for the update. I have not received a copy of the Order either.

Rhonda Meisner, South Carolina Sales Manager  
South Carolina Operating Room Equipment, LLC  
P.O. Box 689  
Blythewood, SC 29016  
(803)206-3402

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On Fri, Sep 8, 2023 at 11:00 AM Rankin, Michael S. Secretary (Nichole A. Todd)  
<[mranks@sccourts.org](mailto:mranks@sccourts.org)> wrote:

Good Morning, I checked with the clerk's office and the signed order was filed July 31, 2023. Thank you and I hope everyone has a great weekend.

Kindest Regards,

Nichole A. Todd

Administrative Assistant to

**The Honorable M. Scott Rankin**

Family Court of the Fifth Judicial Circuit

Kershaw County Courthouse

P.O. Box 1557

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RE: [EXTERNAL] Meisner v. Meisner 19-DR-40-2277 Resuming the Trial Tomorrow Morning

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From Pincus, Monet S. Secretary (Amanda Tharin) <mpincussc@sccourts.org>  
Date Thu 10/20/2022 9:50 AM  
To Sheila Robinson <sheila@mbmlawsc.com>  
Cc scoreequipment@gmail.com <scoreequipment@gmail.com>; dick.whiting@whitinglawsc.com <dick.whiting@whitinglawsc.com>; Rankin, Michael S. Secretary (Nichole A. Todd) <mrankinsc@sccourts.org>; VICKIE VICK <VICK.VICKIE@richlandcountysc.gov>

I'm sorry that I can't answer that question. It will be up to the trial Judge.

---

**From:** Sheila Robinson <sheila@mbmlawsc.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 20, 2022 12:40 PM  
**To:** Pincus, Monet S. Secretary (Amanda Tharin) <mpincussc@sccourts.org>  
**Cc:** scoreequipment@gmail.com; dick.whiting@whitinglawsc.com; Rankin, Michael S. Secretary (Nichole A. Todd) <mrankinsc@sccourts.org>; VICKIE VICK <VICK.VICKIE@richlandcountysc.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Meisner v. Meisner 19-DR-40-2277 Resuming the Trial Tomorrow Morning

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\*\*\* **EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside the organization. Please exercise caution before clicking any links or opening attachments. \*\*\*

Will this be for half day or will we be going the entire day? I just need to know what witnesses need to appear. Thank you.

*Sheila McNair Robinson  
Attorney at Law  
Moore Bradley Myers Law Firm, P.A.  
1700 Sunset Boulevard  
West Columbia, SC 29169  
(803) 796-9160*

On Oct 20, 2022, at 12:19 PM, Pincus, Monet S. Secretary (Amanda Tharin) <mpincussc@sccourts.org> wrote:

All, on behalf of Judge Rankin, **please be advised that the trial will commence tomorrow morning at 9:30 am with a different Judge. Everyone is required to be present at 9:30 am tomorrow morning for the commencement of the trial.**

Please be advised that all Orders issued by Judge Smithdeal in this matter are vacated. I've attached the Order vacating the Orders, along with the Orders that have been vacated. This includes all his oral and evidentiary rulings as well. Please also be advised that the evidence admitted in this matter will not be part of the new record. You will have to start your record over.

Please confirm your receipt of this email, and reply all.

**Please be advised this will be your only notice to appear.**

Amanda Tharin, on behalf of Judge Rankin.

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of Moore Bradley Myers. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

<Filed Order vacating orders.pdf>

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Moore Bradley Myers Law Firm, P.A.  
1700 Sunset Blvd.  
Post Office Box 5709  
West Columbia, SC 29171  
Phone: 803-796-9160  
Fax: 803-791-8410

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE FAMILY COURT  
COUNTY OF COLUMBIA

Grant Meisner,  
Plaintiff,

vs. Transcript of Record  
2019-DR-40-2277

Rhonda Meisner,  
Defendant.

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November 18, 2019  
Columbia, South Carolina

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B E F O R E:

The Honorable M. SCOTT RANKIN

A P P E A R A N C E S:

Sheila McNair Robinson, Representing Plaintiff Father  
Brett Stevens, Representing Defendant Mother

Transcribed by SHARON G. HARDOON, CSR, II  
from DCRP, Digital Courtroom Recorder Project

1 THE COURT: This is docket number  
2 2019-DR-40-2277. This matter is before me -- two  
3 motions. The first motion that I'll be addressing  
4 is the motion by the guardian ad litem, April  
5 Gremillion, a motion to be relieved.

6 Present in the courtroom is the  
7 plaintiff, who is represented by Sheila Robinson.  
8 The defendant is present with her attorney,  
9 Brett Stevens. And the Guardian ad Litem is  
10 present.

11 Miss Gremillion, I'll be glad to hear you  
12 on your motion.

13 MS. GREMILLION: Thank you, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Before we start --

15 MS. GREMILLION: Yes.

16 THE COURT: -- let me put on the record,  
17 I was in chambers with the lawyers discussing the  
18 issues surrounding this case. Of course, I've got  
19 a file which is this thick, and so I wanted to get  
20 caught up to speed from the attorneys as to the  
21 issues that we're going over today and the issues  
22 probably going forward so we address some of those  
23 in there and we're going to put some of those  
24 things on the record. I just want the parties to  
25 know that we were just having a frank discussion

1 with the attorneys back there.

2 Now, we're going to address the issues  
3 contained in the motions. Okay?

4 All right. I apologize for the  
5 interruption.

6 MS. GREMILLION: No, that's okay, Your  
7 Honor.

8 As you know, I was appointed as guardian  
9 ad litem in this case, and I was ordered to do an  
10 expedited investigation. I did jump on the  
11 investigation and started within days of being  
12 appointed, and investigated the initial  
13 allegations in the case. Met with the parties.  
14 Met with the children. Did a home visit at dad's.  
15 Did a visitation with mom and the children at a  
16 pond because she didn't really have a residence to  
17 do a home visit at the time, or at least not one  
18 that she wanted me to visit at that time. I met  
19 with the children. I went to their schools.

20 Then more allegations came up from mom,  
21 concerns -- concerns for mom, and I felt that I  
22 should investigate those as well. So then I  
23 investigated those as well. But in my last  
24 in-person meeting with mom, she made some comments  
25 that made me very uncomfortable about she hoped I

1 was scared. Her intention was to scare me.

2 And because of some things that were  
3 shared with me about her litigation history and  
4 some things that she was doing in this case, I  
5 decided that because the children, in my opinion,  
6 were safe, I investigated all the allegations,  
7 that it would be best for myself, my practice, my  
8 career, and my family to ask to be relieved in  
9 this case.

10 And I would like to go on the record and  
11 say that, in all the years that I've been a  
12 guardian ad litem, this is the first motion that  
13 I've had to argue like this. I don't like to  
14 leave a case in the middle of the case. The  
15 children have a rapport with me and I hate to  
16 start them with a new guardian ad litem, but I  
17 just felt like, for myself, I needed to file this  
18 motion to get out of this case.

19 And, Your Honor, if I may approach, I can  
20 bring you a copy of my billing statement and  
21 accounting statements, and you can see all the  
22 work that I've done.

23 THE COURT: Do the lawyers have copies of  
24 these?

25 MS. GREMILLION: They do, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: All right. Miss Robinson,  
2 what is your position as it relates to  
3 Ms. Gremillion's motion to be relieved?

4 MS. ROBINSON: Your Honor, we have no  
5 objection to it, but I just would like to note for  
6 the record, I've done a cursory review of her  
7 statement of time entered, and it appears that a  
8 large majority of her time was designated to  
9 mother, mother's witnesses, and reviewing mother's  
10 information. So I just think that's important.  
11 My client has already paid half the bill. He's  
12 paying for more than of her time dealing with the  
13 complaints and concerns that Miss Meisner has had,  
14 most of which, I'm certain, are unfounded.

15 Thank you.

16 THE COURT: Miss Stevens, I'll be glad to  
17 hear from you.

18 MS. STEVENS: Thank you, Your Honor.  
19 Certainly I have no objection to Miss Gremillion's  
20 request to be relieved, Your Honor. I do have an  
21 objection to her fees that she's requesting.

22 In paragraph 18 of the temporary order,  
23 the Court appointed her as guardian ad litem to do  
24 an expedited investigation, that she was supposed  
25 to issue a preliminary report within 30 days of

1 the date of this order. If you look at her  
2 billing statements, she was immediately notified  
3 that she was going to be appointed as the guardian  
4 ad litem in July 19th of this -- in this case, and  
5 she never issued a report in this matter, Your  
6 Honor, despite the fact that she was court ordered  
7 to do a preliminary report within 30 days of the  
8 date of the temporary order.

9 In my records, the temporary order was  
10 signed, let's see, about August 6th. It was  
11 served on me on August 13th.

12 So I think that, at the very latest, the  
13 preliminary report could be argued that it was due  
14 approximately September 13th.

15 I never received a preliminary report. I  
16 asked Miss Gremillion to do a preliminary report.  
17 She said that she was not going to do a  
18 preliminary report, Your Honor.

19 In her billing statement, I will say that  
20 on August 26th, she did bill for reviewing my  
21 client's financial information. I don't think  
22 that's appropriate. It's a filing point too. I'm  
23 not sure what that's from.

24 And then after the follow-up meeting, the  
25 meeting that she alleges where my client said, I

1 hope you're scared -- and let me say that my  
2 client contends that she was very upset with  
3 Miss Gremillion for not issuing the preliminary  
4 report. That she was not trying to threaten her,  
5 but that she wanted her to realize that she really  
6 wanted that preliminary report because she had  
7 supervised visitation at this time and she was  
8 hoping that it would be unsupervised at the time  
9 that the report was issued.

10 Miss Gremillion, did extensive work after  
11 that meeting. So after she felt uncomfortable, of  
12 course she filed a motion to be relieved. She  
13 did, you know, approximately -- you know, let's  
14 see. Approximately about five more hours of work,  
15 Your Honor. So I am contesting here fees in that  
16 regard.

17 My client has represented to this Court  
18 that she has not -- she's barely making any money.  
19 We filed a financial declaration of her per  
20 Judge Hurley's order. Filed it on August 1st of  
21 2019. I have a copy of that if it's not in the  
22 file, but she says her income really hasn't  
23 changed and that she has claimed \$1,584 a month.  
24 She said if she filed a Schedule C, it's probably  
25 more like zero. That, basically, she gets rental

1 income, but has to pay expenses on rental  
2 properties, and then multiple tenants aren't  
3 paying.

4 So she has paid the retainer to April.  
5 Her mom helped her pay that. She feels that she's  
6 severely financially prejudiced by having to pay a  
7 new guardian, by having to pay April when there's  
8 no beneficial result from April's investigation  
9 and that April didn't follow the Court order in  
10 issuing the preliminary report, Your Honor.

11 Thank you.

12 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

13 MS. GREMILLION: Your Honor, I would like  
14 to address a couple of points.

15 THE COURT: Okay.

16 MS. GREMILLION: It is true that I've  
17 spent more time with Miss Meisner than  
18 Mr. Meisner. That's clear from my billing  
19 statement.

20 First, my review of the Wells Fargo  
21 statements, I make it a point not to get involved  
22 in financial matters unless I absolutely have to.  
23 And the reason I reviewed those Wells Fargo  
24 statements was because they were given to me by  
25 father's counsel for the specific purpose of



1 reviewing the alcohol sales -- the alcohol  
2 purchases, because there are allegations of  
3 alcoholism in this case. And that is why I  
4 reviewed those financial statements. That is the  
5 only reason.

6 Also as to the threatening statement and  
7 then me continuing to investigate, that is true.  
8 Mother came in and she met with me. She was upset  
9 that I had not finished my investigation. But  
10 then she made very serious allegations about  
11 father and the children's safety. And I promised  
12 her that I would investigate those matters  
13 immediately, and I did. I threw myself into that  
14 investigation to make sure those children were  
15 safe and that her allegations were unfounded.

16 And then when I told her that I was not  
17 going to move forward with getting her  
18 unsupervised visits, she sent me an email that  
19 said, "Disappointing..."

20 And it was at that point, combined with  
21 her initial statements in her in-person meeting,  
22 me finding those allegations to be unfounded, and  
23 then her email saying "Disappointing," that I made  
24 the decision that I had to get off the case. And  
25 I knew the children were safe, so I did.

1 Thank you, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: All right. Thank you very  
3 much.

4 I am going to grant the guardian's motion  
5 to be relieved. As for fees, the remaining  
6 balance of the fees, from what I've been given are  
7 \$2,006.25, which is owing by Mrs. Meisner. Given  
8 the situation of having to get another guardian ad  
9 litem and other issues that are coming up in this  
10 case, I'm going to allow her to pay that -- I  
11 think you indicated a payment plan would be  
12 acceptable.

13 MS. GREMILLION: Of course, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: I'm going to require her to  
15 do that at the rate of \$200 a month beginning  
16 December 15th until that balance is paid in full.  
17 It's roughly going to take about 10 months. Of  
18 course, the final allocation for attorney's fees  
19 will be determined at a merits hearing, and the  
20 Court, whatever happens with that, can make a  
21 determination as to -- which will result in their  
22 cost of the guardian ad litem fee.

23 Also, I'm going to appoint Dick Whiting  
24 as the guardian ad litem, allow him to do an  
25 expedited investigation and have another

1 supplemental temporary hearing. I'm going to  
2 expedite him within 30 days. Each side will pay  
3 him \$750 each within 20 days. \$5,000 additional  
4 cap, \$175 hourly rate.

5 And, Miss Gremillion, I'm going to have  
6 you do this order. And then in the order, if you  
7 will, also include the information as it relates  
8 to Mr. Whiting. Okay?

9 MS. GREMILLION: Yes, sir.

10 THE COURT: And you are hereby relieved.  
11 Anything else that I need to address as it relates  
12 to her?

13 MS. GREMILLION: No, sir.

14 THE COURT: Miss Stevens, anything else?

15 MS. STEVENS: No, Your Honor. Thank  
16 you.

17 THE COURT: If you'll draw that order,  
18 you may be excused.

19 MS. GREMILLION: Thank you, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: The next matter is a motion,  
21 mother's supplemental temporary relief by  
22 Miss Stevens. Miss Stevens, I'll be happy to hear  
23 you.

24 MS. STEVENS: Thank you, Your Honor. I  
25 have a number of documents to hand up. I think

1 that the plaintiff does, too. Let me hand those  
2 up for her. There are a couple of extra things  
3 that didn't make it in my packet. Here's the  
4 plaintiff's packet. Do you want me to hear from  
5 me first?

6 THE COURT: I'll be glad to hear from  
7 you.

8 MS. STEVENS: Okay, great. Thank you,  
9 Your Honor. I've tried to outline in the  
10 supplemental temporary hearing information sheet  
11 that I provided to you sort of what the issues are  
12 before the Court today. Basically, there are four  
13 issues; custody, visitation, the plaintiff's  
14 health, the foreclosure of the 406 Koon Street  
15 Store Road home, and temporary support.

16 Your Honor, since the temporary hearing  
17 in this matter, the initial temporary hearing was  
18 held on an emergency basis. My client was served,  
19 I think, approximately, maybe, less than 24 hours  
20 before the hearing and was not represented by  
21 counsel at that hearing.

22 She went to that hearing and that was  
23 based on the fact that she had been arrested for  
24 public disorderly conduct. That was in the middle  
25 of June. I, kind of, provided a timeline for you

1 on the supplemental temporary hearing information  
2 sheet.

3 It's also based on the fact that DSS had  
4 to obtain an inspection warrant and an  
5 investigation in their case. They showed up at  
6 the house. Mr. Meisner and Mrs. Meisner were  
7 there. And I think they basically said, if you  
8 all can't figure out how to protect these kids,  
9 then we're going to try to take these kids into  
10 custody.

11 Law enforcement would not EPC the kids at  
12 that time, but, at that point in time, Mr. --  
13 Dr. Meisner, excuse me, filed for an emergency  
14 hearing. He had previously, about three days  
15 prior, filed a summons and complaint for divorce  
16 against my client.

17 I just want to point to the timeline that  
18 the DSS investigation had been ongoing since  
19 May 23rd of 2019. Neither party participated in  
20 that investigation. During that time, between May  
21 and the time that Dr. Meisner moved for the  
22 emergency hearing, my client was having  
23 significant unsupervised time with the kids. He  
24 didn't move out of the house. They didn't  
25 participate in the investigation. Ultimately, DSS

1 had to obtain an inspection warrant. And I have  
2 passed up some pictures that my client took during  
3 those months with the kids. I mean, she took them  
4 fishing. She even went out of town with the  
5 10-year-old. Dr. Meisner did not have any problem  
6 with her being unsupervised with those children  
7 until DSS got the inspection warrant.

8 So I want to point that out as background  
9 information for you, for the Court.

10 Since that temporary hearing, where my  
11 client -- she was awarded joint custody, but she  
12 only has daytime supervised visits with her kids  
13 and that's as agreed upon by the parties. Her  
14 arrest and charges stemming from public disorderly  
15 conduct have been dismissed, and I've provided  
16 that dismissal to you. She didn't go through PTI.  
17 They were dismissed as being groundless in  
18 September of this year.

19 Also, we went to trial earlier this month  
20 on the DSS investigation. Ultimately, DSS filed a  
21 petition for central registry entry against my  
22 client. I provided the incident report that the  
23 DSS charges are based on. I do think that it is  
24 absolutely absurd that DSS is seeking central  
25 registry based on the event that happened on

1 May 23rd, and so I have provided that report to  
2 you so you can look at it for yourself.

3 The DSS case was dismissed without  
4 prejudice. I do want to have full candor with the  
5 Court. It was based on the fact that DSS did not  
6 follow the statute as far as the central registry  
7 goes. And so, therefore, they did not protect my  
8 client's due process rights during that hearing,  
9 and Judge Crouch dismissed that without prejudice.  
10 So DSS can refile. They haven't refiled yet.  
11 They don't have an order yet from that hearing,  
12 Your Honor. But I do represent Miss Meisner in  
13 that hearing, and I will represent that that's  
14 what happened.

15 I will say that when Judge Crouch  
16 dismissed it without prejudice, my client said  
17 that she would go forward that day. And I believe  
18 that the DSS attorney is here in the other  
19 courtroom and she said she be would free to come  
20 in and talk with you, if you wanted to. We did  
21 say, can we please go forward, my client wants it  
22 over with. And, at that time, Dr. Meisner said  
23 that he would not go forward because he did not  
24 feel comfortable not being represented by an  
25 attorney even though he was merely a witness. And

1 so he has actually prolonged any going forward on  
2 the DSS complaint.

3 So, at this point, it's dismissed,  
4 Your Honor, because he wouldn't go forward.

5 Based on those two major events that have  
6 occurred since the emergency temporary hearing, we  
7 are asking for custody of these children. My  
8 client has been the primary custodian. I have  
9 provided a letter from the doctor saying he's  
10 never witnessed any abuse of these children. My  
11 client or the nanny was the one that was bringing  
12 them into the doctor's appointments. I think  
13 Dr. Meisner works a good bit of hours. He still  
14 has a nanny. You know, my client was primarily  
15 taking care of these children. The allegations  
16 have been dismissed. She wants custody of her  
17 children.

18 In the alternative, we are really asking  
19 for some unsupervised visitation. Dr. Meisner  
20 didn't have any problem with her having  
21 unsupervised visitation until DSS got this  
22 inspection warrant. She has had trouble just  
23 having basic quality time with your children,  
24 Your Honor.

25 I have provided an affidavit from the



1 paid supervisor, Shawnee Davis, and that's at  
2 number 7, Your Honor, that shows that, even though  
3 when she's tried to visit with her children,  
4 Dr. Meisner has not made the older children visit,  
5 that there has been some alienation going on by  
6 Dr. Meisner with the visitation.

7 So, at this time, Your Honor, she just --  
8 she really misses her children. She feels like  
9 she's not getting any quality time with them. I  
10 will say that Dr. Meisner did not participate in  
11 the DSS investigation until they got an inspection  
12 warrant. And also my client did file for an order  
13 of protection at the end of June of 2019. It was  
14 dismissed with prejudice. That is on appeal. But  
15 she feels like some of this was -- some of what he  
16 has done has been retaliation for that event as  
17 well, Your Honor. So the custody and visitation  
18 is very important for my client.

19 Let me just go through and make sure I've  
20 hit on all my -- oh, I want to say that the  
21 parties' youngest son, who is 10, Adam, I  
22 provided -- he has recently been expelled for  
23 something very similar -- doing to another child  
24 at school what he did to mother. That's at 5. He  
25 got angry at a female student during class,

1 pretended to flip her off. When she asked him to  
2 stop, he told her that she should just kill  
3 herself, and then putting a gun to his head. He  
4 was suspended for two days.

5 Very similarly, he showed up at the  
6 house, the night of -- that Dr. Meisner called the  
7 police, that was basis of the DSS investigation,  
8 where the child showed up at the front door with a  
9 mask, had a gun and pointed it at mom's face. Mom  
10 got very upset.

11 And, as we discussed in chambers, these  
12 ~~parties very, very sadly had a child commit~~  
13 suicide last year, Your Honor, and so I think my  
14 client a very sensitive to guns and she is very  
15 worried about the ten-year-old, and did have a  
16 very emotional reaction when he showed up and  
17 pointed a gun at her face when Dr. Meisner called  
18 the police.

19 As I said, I provided an affidavit from  
20 the visitation supervisor. You know, at this  
21 point, we really -- we're really just hurting to  
22 have time with our kids. Miss Meisner is very  
23 emotional about that.

24 The other thing, Your Honor,  
25 is that Miss Meisner has been told that because

1 Dr. Meisner has physical custody of the children  
2 and he lives at an address that is not being  
3 claimed for the children's school, that, beginning  
4 January, the kids are going to have to move --  
5 change schools. So right now, they're at  
6 Blythewood High School, but his house is not zoned  
7 for Blythewood High School. So I just want to  
8 raise that as another ground for my client having  
9 custody because the kids are going to have change  
10 schools, apparently, as of January 1st.

11 The second issue that I want to bring  
12 before the Court's attention today at the  
13 supplemental temporary hearing is that my client  
14 is contending that there have been a number of  
15 things that she's observed about plaintiff, about  
16 his health during their marriage very recently.  
17 That she's very concerned that he is suffering  
18 from some type of dementia or neurological  
19 disorder. She asserts that, prior to the  
20 separation, he reported to her that he was having  
21 visual hallucinations, that he was having  
22 olfactory hallucinations, that sometimes he  
23 participated in conversations with her that didn't  
24 make sense, that he had threatened suicide at one  
25 time. That he had tremors in his hands and she

1 doesn't understand what the tremors are for. The  
2 visitation supervisor, Shawnee Davis, has provided  
3 in her affidavit that she witnessed the  
4 plaintiff's tremors.

5 And so my client is asking that the Court  
6 order a neurological evaluation, that he follow  
7 all recommendations, just to get that off the  
8 table to make sure nothing is going on there.

9 There is a home located at 406 Koon Store  
10 Road. It's in the defendant's name, but it is  
11 marital property. It's in foreclosure. There's  
12 \$100,000 in equity in the home. I've provided the  
13 foreclosure documents. It's set to be sold on  
14 December 1st of this year. There's \$75,000 due  
15 and owing at least, that's not with the attorney's  
16 fees and costs, to get it out of foreclosure. I  
17 want to bring that to the Court's attention. My  
18 client has no ability or access to any funds or  
19 any marital assets to get this out of foreclosure,  
20 so we're asking the Court to determine if marital  
21 funds can be used to save this home from  
22 foreclosure.

23 Like I said, there's \$100,000 in equity.  
24 They owe, probably, close to \$100,000 after fees.  
25 She is contending that the IRA money -- that

1 there's an IRA that has money in it. It can be  
2 transferred to a self-directed IRA and that there  
3 won't be any tax consequences based on their age  
4 and based on the situation of the parties being  
5 separated. That it can make -- that the  
6 406 Koon Store Road can remain a marital asset,  
7 but it will be saved out of foreclosure. So she  
8 is offering that as an option to save the  
9 406 Koon Store Road, otherwise it will be sold.

10 Your Honor, Judge Hurley did not award  
11 spousal support in this case. She didn't really  
12 address it. She didn't say in the order that she  
13 wasn't going to award spousal support. She just  
14 didn't address it. And using the numbers that  
15 were used to calculate my client's child support  
16 obligation, I've attached as Exhibit 8, that  
17 defendant is owed approximately \$7500 in support  
18 per month if we equalize the income so you can  
19 look at that as Exhibit 8. And that's using  
20 Judge Hurley's numbers that she used for the child  
21 support. It might actually be Exhibit 9, sorry.  
22 Yeah, Exhibit 9.

23 I subpoenaed the plaintiff's salary  
24 income and I've included it as Exhibit 10. In  
25 2018, he made \$272,000 per year. As I said, my

1 client is contending at this point that she makes  
2 no income. I have ordered that she makes \$1500.  
3 I provided you with her social security statement,  
4 Your Honor, that shows that since 2013, she really  
5 hasn't made hardly any money.

6 And so when I used the defendant's  
7 numbers, which is actually Exhibit 11, the alimony  
8 goes up to \$9,000 a month, Your Honor.

9 She has been very prejudiced in this case  
10 by the fact that there is no support. There is a  
11 huge -- a huge division in these parties' incomes.

12 She is really -- her mother is pretty much  
13 supporting her at this time. She's trying to fund  
14 litigation. She's trying to see her children.  
15 She's having to pay for a supervisor. She's  
16 having to pay for the guardian. And I think it's  
17 really -- it is very, very stressful for her, Your  
18 Honor, to go from a household income where, you  
19 know, there's at least, based on his income in  
20 2018, \$22,000 a month coming in to basically what  
21 she says that she has rental income coming in from  
22 her rental homes, but after she pays expenses and  
23 the like, her income is probably around \$1500,  
24 maybe less. Maybe closer to zero after those  
25 expenses, Your Honor. And so she really cannot

1       afford all of the things that she needs to be  
2       doing in this case. And so she has been very  
3       prejudiced by the fact that she has not been  
4       provided that support.

5                I will say that, you know, the financial  
6       declaration submitted by the plaintiff at the  
7       temporary hearing said that he had about \$19,000 a  
8       month, but in reality it was about \$3,000 more.

9                And so I'm alleging that as my change at  
10       this point to see if there's any money that we can  
11       get on the table for my client on a monthly basis  
12       just to pay for her basic needs. I mean, just  
13       food, visitation supervisors, things like that.

14               I will note that the plaintiff has  
15       already filed a rule to show cause in this action.  
16       I provided it as Exhibit 12 to show that my client  
17       hasn't been paying what she's been ordered to pay.  
18       She's been ordered to pay the mortgage on one of  
19       the homes. She's been ordered to pay child  
20       support. She can't pay these things. She's not  
21       making any money and she's not receiving any  
22       money.

23               And I think if you go through the  
24       statutory factors, Your Honor, there is absolutely  
25       no way this is not an alimony case. They're not

1       alleging adultery. They're not alleging that  
2       she's not entitled to alimony. This is a 26-year  
3       marriage. And so, you know, my client is  
4       absolutely entitled to spousal support at this  
5       point.

6               And so, Your Honor, I'm asking you to  
7       award some spousal support today so that she can  
8       overcome the burden of just not being able to  
9       afford basic needs.

10              And I believe that those are all the  
11       issues before you, Your Honor, today. Thank you  
12       so much.

13              THE COURT: All right. I appreciate  
14       it.

15              Okay. Miss Robinson.

16              MS. ROBINSON: Thank you. May it please  
17       the Court? Your Honor, this is, essentially,  
18       defendant's fourth bite at the temporary apple.  
19       She has been before Judge Pinkus. She has been  
20       before Judge Hurley. And now she comes before  
21       you.

22              She has been told no on these issues each  
23       time she's entered the courtroom, and yet she's  
24       hoping that you're going to give her a different  
25       answer. So it's my argument today that it's just



1 procedural defective, her efforts to do so.

2 She had a petition for protection from  
3 domestic abuse which she filed. It was heard  
4 before Judge Pinkus. It was dismissed.

5 I had a temporary hearing back on  
6 July the 18th. She was there. She had documents.  
7 She had affidavits. She testified. She was given  
8 full opportunity to say most of what you've heard  
9 from the Miss Stevens today. Judge Hurley issued  
10 the order as a result of that hearing. That order  
11 remains in effect.

12 And then Miss Stevens filed a motion for  
13 a de novo temporary hearing, or, in the  
14 alternative, a motion for reconsideration.  
15 Judge Hurley denied that.

16 Then the defendant, on her own behalf,  
17 filed a petition for stay from judgement on that  
18 same temporary order, and just last week  
19 Judge Hurley denied that.

20 Almost all of these issues have been  
21 raised by her. So there's nothing in the motion  
22 today that really hasn't been addressed before.  
23 So I believe it should be dismissed for those  
24 reasons.

25 However, there are some things that I

1 think you need to know about that she's raised as  
2 what she says are changes in circumstances that  
3 are not.

4 First of all, the dismissal of the DSS  
5 case. They came over here on November 4th and 5th  
6 for a trial to have Miss Meisner placed on the  
7 central registry because of a finding of abuse  
8 against her by DSS. I didn't know about this. I  
9 was not made known of any of this until the Friday  
10 before. And when I found out about it through my  
11 client, I notified the Court that I was in a  
12 two-day trial in Lexington County and couldn't be  
13 here.

14 I wasn't here. I spoke to the DSS lawyer  
15 this morning and I have learned that the  
16 underlying action that DSS filed to have her  
17 placed on the registry was dismissed. The  
18 underlying finding of abuse against her still  
19 exists. Okay? So that's not gone. They're  
20 fixing to refile. The only reason they've not  
21 refiled yet is because the order dismissing the  
22 prior case has not been prepared yet. So they're  
23 still going after her for the central registry.

24 Secondly, the public disorderly conduct  
25 that she says was dismissed, and, therefore,

1 shouldn't be before the Court today, if you just  
2 look back at our pleadings that we filed and the  
3 order issued by Judge Hurley, that was not a  
4 central focus of her case -- of the case. It  
5 wasn't even mentioned in Judge Hurley's order.  
6 She made a finding that a prima facie showing of  
7 Miss Meisner's alcohol abuse existed. Those were  
8 her concerns.

9 In fact, she basically says that the  
10 reason that she is going to have supervised  
11 visitation is because of her concerns with  
12 Miss Meisner's alcohol abuse and resulting  
13 behavior. It has nothing to do with the  
14 outstanding criminal charge or the DSS charge, not  
15 mentioned. So it's my position today that those  
16 are not substantial changes in circumstances that  
17 warrant a review of any order.

18 The foreclosure of her property, she is  
19 in the business of buying and selling real estate,  
20 managing real estate, renting real estate. My  
21 client doesn't play a part in that. So he's never  
22 really had an idea of what's going on in her world  
23 of real estate. He will say and he does say in  
24 her affidavit that she has a long-standing history  
25 of mismanaging those properties, so the fact that

1       there is yet another property in foreclosure is a  
2       not a shock.  However, that is also not a change  
3       in circumstances.

4               According to the documents that she has  
5       provided both in her motion and in her packet  
6       today, that property, she stopped paying on that  
7       property back in 2014.  That's when the  
8       foreclosure action began.  So this was in  
9       existence when this hearing was held back in July  
10      of 2019.  So that's not a change in circumstances  
11      either.

12              And you see my client's financial  
13      declaration.  There's no money.  They're here  
14      today asking for my client to put forth \$75,000 to  
15      pull one of her pieces of property out of  
16      foreclosure.  There's nothing there.  The only  
17      money that he has generated is in his IRA, and  
18      pulling any money of that will absolutely cause a  
19      hit to them tax-wise and penalty-wise, contrary to  
20      what Miss Stevens has said.

21              Your Honor, you also got to take into  
22      consideration her lack of credibility.  In fact,  
23      Judge Hurley picked up on that immediately in the  
24      initial temporary hearing and makes findings of  
25      that lack of credibility in her temporary order.

1           The very initial hearing, which was  
2 before Judge Pinkus, she filed a financial  
3 declaration claiming that she had zero income.  
4 She came to court on July the 18th and testified  
5 when Judge Hurley questioned about the zero income  
6 that she did, in fact, have income. That she had  
7 made a lot of money in surgical sales, that she  
8 had lost a contract at the end of 2018, therefore,  
9 wasn't receiving any money at that particular  
10 time, but she was receiving \$4400 a month in rent.

11           So the judge actually imputed that amount  
12 of money to her as rent in the temporary order,  
13 although finding that she was capable of earning  
14 more.

15           And then she filed a financial  
16 declaration on August the 1st, and in that she  
17 claims that she had \$1500 a month in gross monthly  
18 income. And then she had to complete a guardian  
19 ad litem questionnaire with Miss Gremillion after  
20 that and she had claimed that she had \$72,000 in  
21 income, plus the rental monies, and that is  
22 attached in her handwriting to her client's  
23 affidavit package. Hence, she can't tell the  
24 truth. So the Court -- I'm asking the Court to  
25 take that into consideration when looking through

1 her documents and asking for money, and another  
2 reason why Judge Hurley issued the order.

3 I understand she's here asking for a  
4 change in circumstances on the children's issue.  
5 We don't have a guardian now. And it's clear from  
6 Judge Hurley's order she wanted the children to  
7 have a voice. Now that we don't have a guardian  
8 ad litem, we don't have a voice for the children  
9 today. They are 11 and they are 16, but there has  
10 been a lot of turmoil in these children's lives,  
11 and I do believe it would be prudent for the Court  
12 to wait and hear what Mr. Whiting has to say as a  
13 voice for the children before any changes are  
14 made.

15 I understand that she is, in her motion,  
16 asking for the ability to have unsupervised  
17 visitation and the ability to travel. I would  
18 just point to Paragraph 15 of Judge Hurley's order  
19 where it specifically says, "This Court cannot  
20 allow defendant to travel with the children at  
21 this time. Therefore, this Court finds that  
22 defendant shall not travel out of the Columbia  
23 area with the children during her visits on a  
24 temporary basis, including the planned trip to  
25 Boston."

1           So it's our position that without the  
2           recommendation of a guardian ad litem to, A,  
3           remove the supervision, and, B, allow her to  
4           travel that that continues to need to be  
5           supervised and it needs to be here in the  
6           Richland County area.

7           Back in September, Miss Gremillion  
8           notified us by email that the supervisor appointed  
9           by Judge Hurley had quit and refused to supervise  
10          any more of Miss Meisner's visits. I immediately  
11          responded with five potential supervisors that  
12          could take the place of the other lady. None of  
13          those people worked for Miss Meisner except for  
14          the paid supervisor. So we have a list of folks  
15          out there that's available to her. And these are  
16          not my client's family members and friends. These  
17          are people that go to church, the same place we  
18          pick the initial supervisor, so there is a person  
19          out there.

20          Your Honor, we propounded discovery  
21          requests on her back in July of this year. She's  
22          not answered them yet. There's a motion to compel  
23          pending and scheduled to be heard on December the  
24          5th. She's here today asking for a change in  
25          circumstances claiming to be destitute, has

1 filed -- or made five different claims of income  
2 during this case since June.

3 I have no idea what she holds, what she  
4 owns, what she has. And she's here today asking  
5 Your Honor to look over the shoulder of  
6 Judge Hurley without giving me the first piece of  
7 documentation that I've requested and that I've  
8 been entitled to receive. So I would say,  
9 Your Honor, that she's got unclean hands.

10 She's not done anything in compliance  
11 with the Court order with respect to the child  
12 support. She's not paid anything. She's paid  
13 \$492 in August and nothing since then. So she has  
14 a child support arrearage of \$3300. She was given  
15 possession and use of a home which she could live  
16 and she's not made the first mortgage payment on  
17 that. In fact, my client has had to bring that  
18 mortgage out of default just to keep it out of  
19 foreclosure and the payments have gone from \$900 a  
20 month to \$1600 a month. Again, unclean hands.

21 He who seeks equity, must be do equity. So I  
22 would ask that this entire motion be dismissed.

23 I do want to mention one thing about what  
24 she claims as far as -- actually, a couple things.  
25 Adam, the 11-year-old. He's not 10. He's 11.



1 He's not been expelled. I sent her our motion. I  
2 sent her our affidavit package. It was in our  
3 argument. The child has not been expelled. He  
4 had a behavioral write-up from school for behaving  
5 badly. He got a two-day suspension. He had to  
6 get cleared by a psychiatrist that he was not  
7 threatening himself or others. That is also  
8 attached our affidavit package and the child was  
9 cleared to go to school.

10 The next thing is about my client's  
11 health. She's raised that issue, and I do believe  
12 that is the issue that Miss Gremillion was talking  
13 about having to investigate so severely there with  
14 her allegations about my client. He has no health  
15 issue. He's an anesthesiologist. He works  
16 full-time. And to put to bed any claims that he  
17 has neurological issues, we have provided a  
18 document from a neurosurgeon who provided a  
19 neurological and cognitive exam evaluation of  
20 Dr. Meisner just last week. He's been cleared.

21 She is on a campaign to ruin my client.  
22 She has reported him to the Department of Mental  
23 Health. She has reported him to ATF saying that  
24 he has an illegal amount of gun powder and an  
25 illegal weapon in his home. ATF showed up at his

1 house, searched it, he was cleared of all  
2 wrongdoing. I even noticed on Miss Gremillion's  
3 report, she had a conversation with the ATF  
4 because of allegations Miss Meisner made.

5 She has reported me twice to the Office  
6 of Disciplinary Counsel, so I'm in the midst of an  
7 evaluation by ODC because of that. She is filing  
8 all types of things. She's not doing discovery,  
9 not paying child support, yet, she's filing all of  
10 these things and creating so much havoc in this  
11 case. If she would devote her energies and her  
12 talents on working, she wouldn't have to be here  
13 asking the Court to give her money today. She's  
14 clearly got a history of making money, making in  
15 excess of a hundred grand a year. She has a job  
16 of surgical sales. She has real estate. She can  
17 make her own money where she won't need any today.  
18 She just needs to pay attention to herself, get  
19 herself well, and get herself back to working.

20 Again, I would ask that the motion be  
21 dismissed and I have provided an attorney's fees  
22 affidavit and asking for fees.

23 THE COURT: Do you have anything in  
24 response?

25 MS. STEVENS: I do, Your Honor. Thank

1       you. Very briefly.

2                   I do want to say the suspension versus  
3 expelled, that's my fault. I'm sorry. So, yes,  
4 the child was suspended, not expelled for two  
5 days.

6                   As far as the DSS finding, we appealed  
7 the internal finding. They dismissed the appeal  
8 when they filed the central registry case. There  
9 is no internal finding. There is nothing there at  
10 this time. Nothing has been filed by DSS.

11                   I have provided the defendant's alcohol  
12 results. They've alleged all of this alcohol. I  
13 will say that we provided those results to you at  
14 number 4. But, for the very first test after the  
15 emergency hearing, she has been negative for all  
16 tests that she's taken for alcohol. There's  
17 nothing in the incident report in this case that  
18 indicates that mother was drinking at the time  
19 that the May 23rd incident occurred, Your Honor.

20                   Obviously, my client cannot afford the  
21 plaintiff's attorney's fees. We are here in good  
22 faith because the public disorderly conduct got  
23 dismissed, because the DSS case got dismissed. I  
24 think that we have, in good faith, filed for this  
25 to say, please let us have some extended

1       visitation or custody of these children, which is  
2       my client's primary concern in addition to the  
3       collateral things I have raised.

4               I will say that in the transcript of the  
5       temporary hearing it says -- when Judge Hurley  
6       asked her about her income she said, I do have  
7       rental income. I have -- in fact, I gave you a  
8       letter from Andrea Wilson about me providing, kind  
9       of, a statement, blah, blah, blah. Anyway, she  
10      says, if everyone pays their rent with people  
11      being in the house today, which one person is two  
12      months behind, then it's 4400 a month, minus 600,  
13      whatever that is, but that's what I'm being paid  
14      right now as we speak together. I do have two  
15      vacant rental properties that are not generating  
16      income right now, and she did not include expenses  
17      when she's saying this is her rental income.

18             I don't think it's a far stretch to say  
19      that her income is \$1500 a month after expenses  
20      for these homes. She pays for utilities. She  
21      pays for maintenance. She pays for a number of  
22      things, repairs to do, plus the taxes on the  
23      properties. They haven't -- some of the taxes  
24      haven't even been paid on the these properties  
25      because she doesn't enough income from the rental

1 properties to pay the taxes this year.

2 She is asking -- Your Honor, there is no  
3 set visitation. She wants some Thanksgiving  
4 visitation and she wants some Christmas  
5 visitation. Her mother, I think, would be a great  
6 supervisor for her visitation, which is approved  
7 at this time, Your Honor. But her mother has been  
8 up here for the DSS hearing. I'm not a witness in  
9 this case, but I'll say she seems very reasonable.  
10 The kids are very bonded to her. I think that  
11 Miss Gremillion would have told you that if she  
12 were still here. And I'm asking that her mom be  
13 allowed to supervise visits, especially for  
14 Thanksgiving and Christmas. Her mother lives in  
15 Georgia about four hours away. They usually spend  
16 every Thanksgiving with her mother, and she really  
17 wants to have that time with her kids. So I'm  
18 asking for some visitation.

19 There's absolutely nothing at this point  
20 that my client is guilty of. She is not -- she  
21 hasn't been -- the disorderly -- you know, as I  
22 said, the disorderly has been dismissed. The DSS,  
23 I know it's without prejudice, but it has been  
24 dismissed. There is no internal finding at this  
25 point. And, Your Honor, I just think, based on

1 the fact that my client has, sort of, been snowed  
2 in this litigation, we're asking for some relief.

3 Thank you, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: If you all give me a few  
5 minutes to go back in chambers --

6 MS. ROBINSON: Your Honor, I forgot to  
7 hand up my return. Can I just hand that up real  
8 quick? My apologies.

9 THE COURT: All right. If you all will  
10 give me time to go through these documents.

11 MS. ROBINSON: Thank you.

12 THE COURT: All right. We are back on  
13 the record in the matter Grant Meisner vs. Rhonda  
14 Meisner, 2019-DR-40-2277. I've reviewed the  
15 documents presented by the attorneys. I've  
16 reviewed the prior order of Judge Hurley. I had  
17 an opportunity to review the file this morning  
18 before court started.

19 Miss Robinson, I'm going to have you do  
20 the order.

21 As it relates to the issues with the  
22 children, unfortunately, I don't have a guardian  
23 ad litem right now, okay? I am cognizant of the  
24 fact that Miss Meisner does need, perhaps, some  
25 time with the children on Thanksgiving, and I'm

1 going to allow that. I'm going to give six hours  
2 of time on Thanksgiving to be supervised by her  
3 mother. And I'm basing that on conversations with  
4 the previous guardian ad litem in chambers. I do  
5 think that that would be appropriate. Six  
6 hours -- I understand mother lives in Georgia.  
7 I'm not sure it's very practical to get the  
8 children, take them to Georgia, and then take them  
9 back here. So I think that visitation needs to  
10 occur here in the Columbia area. So, that would  
11 mean they would be in the car for four hours, so  
12 they need to have that time. I'm going to have  
13 that time from three o'clock to -- 3:00 to 9:00 on  
14 Thanksgiving day. I'll let the lawyers work out  
15 exactly the logistics of where they are going to  
16 do the exchange.

17 Dick Whiting is going to be the guardian  
18 ad litem. I will -- as I previously mentioned, I  
19 think we need to have an expedited investigation.

20 As it relates to any additional  
21 visitation outside of what the parties have  
22 already been doing, I'm going to let him make that  
23 call. I'm going to let him make the decision  
24 whether it would be appropriate for unsupervised  
25 visitation, whether it would be appropriate for an

1 additional third-party supervisor to be -- this  
2 doesn't have to be a paid third-party supervisor.  
3 That just doesn't make any sense based on my  
4 conversations with the lawyers and with the  
5 previous guardian ad litem. So it seems like  
6 there could be somebody who could supervise --  
7 supervise until Mr. Whiting determines that that's  
8 no longer necessary.

9           Respectfully speaking, of course, I'm  
10 denying your motion on a change of custody given  
11 the -- my reading of the file. There are a lot of  
12 issues going on here. And losing a child is  
13 tragic enough, but you also, you both, are losing  
14 a marriage. So, there are a lot of stressors  
15 going on, and we need to proceed with caution as  
16 it relates to what's in the best interest of these  
17 children. I'm confident that Mr. Whiting will get  
18 in here and take the appropriate steps necessary  
19 to make sure that we are looking out for the best  
20 interests of these kids.

21           These kids have been caught up -- not  
22 only are their parents divorcing, but they've lost  
23 a sibling. So, I'm always going to err on the  
24 side of the children. And so you all have your  
25 issues to work out and we need to make sure that



1 these children are protected.

2 I'm also going to allow Mr. Whiting, if  
3 he believes it appropriate, for some therapeutic  
4 counseling to involve mom. I'm going to have dad  
5 cooperate with that, of course. With the issues  
6 that I've read, and with all due respect to  
7 Miss Meisner, it seems like that the issues that  
8 I'm seeing are issues and dealings that you had to  
9 deal with. I commend you on the negative alcohol  
10 screens. But that first one, it was a doozy.  
11 Okay?

12 MRS. MEISNER: Sir --

13 THE COURT: Ma'am, I don't need you to  
14 talk. I understand this is very upsetting, but it  
15 was pretty high level.

16 So there have been some -- there's just  
17 been things, and things that you all have been  
18 dealing with for a while.

19 So I can't change custody. I can't  
20 really do anything visitation-wise because I don't  
21 have the guardian ad litem. Mr. Whiting, I trust,  
22 is going to do a good job, kind of, of getting to  
23 the root of the issues and hopefully we can  
24 rectify those.

25 I'm also appointing Leslie Riddle as

1 mediator. She is a retired family court judge,  
2 very effective. I'm going to have the mediation  
3 with her scheduled and be set up within 120 days  
4 of today's hearing.

5 Again, as it relates to Mr. Whiting, I'm  
6 going to allow him authority, without having a  
7 separate hearing, to determine, with the  
8 assistance of the lawyers, what will be an  
9 appropriate visitation schedule going forward  
10 after his investigation.

11 As it relates to the financial issues, I  
12 am troubled that discovery has not been completed.  
13 If discovery had been completed, then I feel like  
14 I would have a clear financial picture of what the  
15 assets -- what the income is of Miss Meisner. I  
16 don't have that. And, unfortunately, I'm  
17 hamstrung. So I can't just pull a number out of  
18 thin air when we don't have the full, complete  
19 picture from a financial standpoint.

20 The property in Miss Meisner's name --  
21 this action was filed in 2014. This has been  
22 going on for five years. I'm not going to require  
23 the plaintiff to get that property out of  
24 foreclosure. This happened well -- there was  
25 something going on well before this action was

1 commenced. I'm not going to require him to do  
2 that.

3 I'm going to hold the issue of spousal  
4 support in abeyance. I think there's some  
5 discovery that is outstanding, and that may have a  
6 different financial picture. I don't think  
7 Judge Hurley was -- just saying she's not entitled  
8 to it. I think if I had a better understanding of  
9 the financial issues, then I would be in a better  
10 position to address that. I don't feel  
11 comfortable at this time, given that that has not  
12 been completed when it was issued in July and  
13 responses were due sometime the end of August, at  
14 least in September, and here we are towards the  
15 end of November.

16 However, I will allow -- once discovery  
17 has been received by both parties, I will allow  
18 that issue to be brought back up. I do see the  
19 income of Mr. Meisner. I've also looked at the  
20 income of Miss Meisner up until 2014. She's  
21 making a significant amount which would not  
22 suggest the need for financial assistance.

23 I don't know what's been going on over  
24 the last five years, but I do see the issues with  
25 credibility that Judge Hurley indicated in her

1 order as well as the guardian ad litem before --  
2 the guardian ad litem questionnaire which was  
3 filled out by Miss Meisner indicating her earning  
4 \$72,000 per year.

5 Long story short, I don't have the  
6 information to be able to make that call at this  
7 point, but I will give you the opportunity, once  
8 discovery -- initial written responses have been  
9 given, to bring that back up in court.

10 I'm going to hold attorney's fees in  
11 abeyance.

12 Anything else that I need to address,  
13 Miss Robinson?

14 MS. ROBINSON: Nothing from me,  
15 Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Miss Stevens?

17 MS. STEVENS: Your Honor, my client would  
18 like for you to address the medical exam that she  
19 has requested. I know that the plaintiff said  
20 that he has undergone that, but she is requesting  
21 an objective neurologist to do an exam on him.

22 THE COURT: All right. Miss Robinson?

23 MS. ROBINSON: Your Honor, he's already  
24 done that. He went to a neurosurgeon and had that  
25 completed. I don't know what else he can do.

1           THE COURT: I'm looking at the report,  
2           and that was required to do so. That satisfies  
3           the Court as to that issue. That doesn't mean  
4           that something can't come out at later date  
5           through the discovery.

6           But, Miss Stevens, I'm satisfied as to  
7           the neurological condition of Mr. Meisner. I  
8           think, you know, if you want to the deposition of  
9           the neuro who did that, Miss Stevens, you  
10          absolutely have the right to. But based on what  
11          I've seen, the Court has no concerns.

12          MS. STEVENS: Thank you, Your Honor.

13          THE COURT: All right. Miss Robinson  
14          prepare me an order.

15          MS. ROBINSON: I'll do it, Your Honor.

16          THE COURT: Good luck to both of you.

17          MS. ROBINSON: Thank you.

18                         (The hearing was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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I, SHARON G. HARDOON, Official Circuit Court Reporter, II for the State of South Carolina at Large, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, accurate and complete Transcript of Record, digitally recorded of the proceedings had and evidence introduced in the hearing of the captioned case, relative to appeal, in the Family Court for Charleston County, South Carolina.

I do further certify that I am neither kin, counsel, nor interest to any party hereto.

January 2, 2020



Sharon G. Hardoon, CSR  
Official Circuit Court Reporter, II

 Outlook

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Re: Emergency hearing tomorrow-

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From Brett Stevens <brett@brettstevenslaw.com>

Date Tue 4/28/2020 8:37 AM

To Rhonda Meisner <scorequipment@gmail.com>

That's fine, Rhonda. Please use whatever I have given you in support of your case. I have your case file as well. Let me know if you want to come pick it up or if you need anything out of it.

I hope you are well!  
Brett

---

On Tue, Apr 28, 2020 at 11:19 AM Rhonda Meisner <[scorequipment@gmail.com](mailto:scorequipment@gmail.com)> wrote:

Good afternoon Brett,

---

We have an emergency hearing scheduled tomorrow and if you approve, I would like to use the alimony and child support calculator you gave me earlier this year. Please let me know.

Warm regards,

Rhonda Meisner, South Carolina Sales Manager

South Carolina Operating Room Equipment, LLC

Post Office Box 689

Blythewood, S.C. 29016

(803)333-9900

(803)206-3402

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Brett L. Stevens  
Stevens Law, LLC  
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Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 587-8506  
[brettstevenslaw.com](http://brettstevenslaw.com)

--CORONAVIRUS NOTICE--

Please be advised that I am working reduced hours from home during this time. Thank you for your patience. I will respond to emails and set conference calls as I am able.

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# Alimony Calculator

Prepared By: Brett L. Stevens

**Alimony = 8,894**

**Child Support = 1,178**

|                                         | Husband       | Wife          |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b><u>Tax Information</u></b>           |               |               |
| Monthly Income:                         | 26,500        | 1,584         |
| Annual Gross Income:                    | 318,000       | 19,008        |
| Filing Status:                          | Single        | Single        |
| <b><u>Child Support Information</u></b> |               |               |
| Number of Children:                     | 3             |               |
| Health Insurance:                       |               |               |
| Extraordinary Medicals:                 |               |               |
| Pre-Tax Child Care                      |               |               |
| Prior Support:                          |               |               |
| Additional Dependents:                  |               |               |
| <b><u>Other Obligations</u></b>         |               |               |
| Payroll Deductions:                     |               |               |
| Other Obligations:                      |               |               |
| <b><u>Results</u></b>                   |               |               |
| <b>Alimony:</b>                         | <b>-8,894</b> | <b>8,894</b>  |
| <b>Child Support:</b>                   | <b>1,178</b>  | <b>-1,178</b> |

|                                  |               |              |
|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>Disposable Income:</b>        | <b>9,111</b>  | <b>9,112</b> |
| <b>Net Alimony Cost/Benefit:</b> | <b>-7,894</b> | <b>7,894</b> |

| <u>Payments</u>           | <u>Base</u> | <u>+ 5% Costs</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| <b>Alimony.....</b>       |             |                   |
| Monthly                   | 8,894       | 9,338.70          |
| Semimonthly               | 4,447       | 4,669.35          |
| Biweekly                  | 4,105       | 4,310.17          |
| Weekly                    | 2,052       | 2,155.08          |
| <b>Child Support.....</b> |             |                   |
| Monthly                   | 1,178       | 1,236.90          |
| Semimonthly               | 589         | 618.45            |
| Biweekly                  | 544         | 570.88            |
| Weekly                    | 272         | 285.44            |

|                                              | Husband      | Wife    |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------|---------|
| <b><u>Disposable Income Calculations</u></b> |              |         |
| Monthly Income:                              | 26,500       | 1,584   |
| Federal Taxes:                               | -6,844       | -57     |
| State Taxes:                                 | -1,670       | -10     |
| FICA/Medicare:                               | -1,159       | -121    |
| Other Payroll Deductions:                    |              |         |
| Other Obligations:                           |              |         |
| <u>Prior Support:</u>                        |              |         |
| Net Monthly Income:                          | 16,827       | 1,396   |
| After-Tax Alimony:                           | -8,894       | 8,894   |
| Child Support:                               | <b>1,178</b> | -1,178  |
| <u>Other Support Items:</u>                  |              |         |
| Net Disposable Income:                       | 9,111        | 9,112   |
| <br>                                         |              |         |
| <b><u>Tax Calculations</u></b>               |              |         |
| Gross Income:                                | 318,000      | 19,008  |
| Deductions:                                  | -12,200      | -12,200 |
| <br>                                         |              |         |
| Taxable Income (without alimony):            | 305,800      | 6,808   |
| Federal Taxes (without alimony):             | 82,124       | 681     |
| State Taxes (without alimony):               | 20,038       | 124     |
| <br>                                         |              |         |
| Taxable Income (with alimony):               | 305,800      | 6,808   |
| Federal Taxes (with alimony):                | 82,124       | 681     |

---

|                             |        |     |
|-----------------------------|--------|-----|
| State Taxes (with alimony): | 20,038 | 124 |
|-----------------------------|--------|-----|

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**After-Tax Alimony Calculation**

|                                    |        |     |
|------------------------------------|--------|-----|
| Fed. Taxes w/o Alimony Adjustment: | 82,124 | 681 |
|------------------------------------|--------|-----|

|                                     |        |     |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-----|
| State Taxes w/o Alimony Adjustment: | 20,038 | 124 |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-----|

|                                     |         |     |
|-------------------------------------|---------|-----|
| Total Taxes w/o Alimony Adjustment: | 102,162 | 805 |
|-------------------------------------|---------|-----|

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|                                     |        |     |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-----|
| Fed. Taxes with Alimony Adjustment: | 82,124 | 681 |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-----|

|                                      |        |     |
|--------------------------------------|--------|-----|
| State Taxes with Alimony Adjustment: | 20,038 | 124 |
|--------------------------------------|--------|-----|

|                                      |         |     |
|--------------------------------------|---------|-----|
| Total Taxes with Alimony Adjustment: | 102,162 | 805 |
|--------------------------------------|---------|-----|

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Difference in Annual Taxes:

Difference in Monthly Taxes:

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|                                               | Husband | Wife   |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------|--------|
| <b><u>Net Cost/Benefit of The Alimony</u></b> |         |        |
| Alimony:                                      | 8,894   | 8,894  |
| Difference in Taxes:                          |         |        |
| Difference in Child Support                   | -1,000  | -1,000 |
| -----                                         | -----   | -----  |
| Net Cost/Benefit of Alimony                   | -7,894  | 7,894  |
| <b><u>Child Support - Worksheet A</u></b>     |         |        |
| Monthly Income:                               | 26,500  | 1,584  |
| Alimony:                                      | -8,894  | 8,894  |
| Other Support Obligations:                    |         |        |
| Add. Dependents Deduction:                    | [0]     | [0]    |
| Net Monthly Income:                           |         |        |
| Total Income:           28,084                |         |        |
| -----                                         | -----   | -----  |
| Health Insurance:                             |         |        |
| Extraord. Med. Exp.:                          |         |        |
| Child Care:                                   | []      | []     |
| Total Adjustments:                            |         |        |
| -----                                         | -----   | -----  |
| Basic Support from Tables:   3,157            |         |        |
| Total Adjustments:                            |         |        |
| Total Support Needed:       3,157             |         |        |
| -----                                         | -----   | -----  |
| Percentage of Total Income:                   | 62.7%   | 37.3%  |

---

|                         |       |       |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|
| Share of Basic Support: | 1,979 | 1,178 |
| Other Spt. Adjustments: |       |       |
| Monthly Support:        | 1,979 | 1,178 |

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Camden, SC 29021

(803) 425-7228

[mrankinsc@sccourts.org](mailto:mrankinsc@sccourts.org)

---

**From:** Allison Driggers <[allison.driggers@smithrobinsonlaw.com](mailto:allison.driggers@smithrobinsonlaw.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2023 10:54 AM

**To:** Rankin, Michael S. Secretary (Nichole A. Todd) <[mrankinsc@sccourts.org](mailto:mrankinsc@sccourts.org)>

**Cc:** Shanon Peake <[shanonp@smithrobinsonlaw.com](mailto:shanonp@smithrobinsonlaw.com)>; [scorequipment@gmail.com](mailto:scorequipment@gmail.com);  
[sheila@mbmlawsc.com](mailto:sheila@mbmlawsc.com)

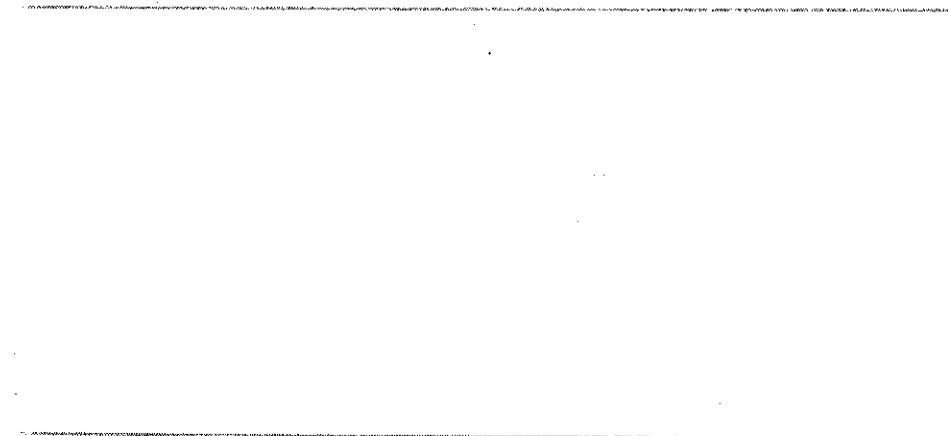
**Subject:** Meisner v. Meisner Civil-Action No.: 2019-DR-40-02277

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**\*\*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside the organization. Please exercise caution before clicking any links or opening attachments. \*\*\*

Good morning Judge Rankin, I am following up with you regarding the Order in the above referenced case. The attached Order is for the hearing on Defendant Rhonda Meisner's Motion to Compel, which was held on July 12, 2023. Please let me know if I need to file the document through the family court or if there is anything else I need to do.

Thank you,



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**RE: RTSC Order instructionstt**

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From scorequipment@gmail.com <scorequipment@gmail.com>

Date Fri 9/24/2021 8:16 AM

To 'Jones, Gwendlyne Y.' <gjonesj@sccourts.org>; 'Sheila Robinson' <sheila@mttlaw.com>

Cc dick.whiting@whitinglawsc.com <dick.whiting@whitinglawsc.com>

Good Morning Judge Jones,

The actual dates for the request for spousal support and equitable distribution are as follow:

July 18, 2019 before the honorable Michelle Hurley

November 18, 2019 before the Honorable M. Scott Rankin

April 29, 2020 before the Honorable Rosalyn Frierson-Smith

October 5, 2020 before the Honorable M. Scott Rankin

February 3, 2021 before the Honorable Michelle Hurley

July 20, 2021 before the Honorable M. Scott Rankin

September 21, 2021 before the Honorable Rosalyn Frierson- Smith

---

There are no allegations that would preclude spousal support.

Respectfully,

Rhonda Meisner

---

**From:** Jones, Gwendlyne Y. <gjonesj@sccourts.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 23, 2021 12:52 PM

**To:** scorequipment@gmail.com; 'Sheila Robinson' <sheila@mttlaw.com>; dick.whiting@whitinglawsc.com

**Subject:** RE: RTSC Order instructions

All:

In response to Ms. Meisner's email, please clarify the following in the preparation of the order:

- Defendant made several requests for alimony, or advancements toward equitable distribution at previous hearings. All requests were denied. A request for alimony, reduction in child support or advancement toward equitable distribution was not before me.
- The Defendant lists the "loaned amounts" in the *other income* section of her financial declaration.
- The Court's ruling regarding the contempt action remains as ordered. The Defendant has 5 days from the *filing* of my order to comply. Upon the filing of an affidavit from Plaintiff that Defendant has not complied, a bench warrant shall be issued for her arrest.

**Gwendlyne Y. Jones**

**Family Court Judge**

**Fifth Judicial Circuit**

**1701 Main Street Columbia, SC 29201**

**P.O. Box 192 Columbia, SC 29202**

**Phone: (803) 576-1760**

Facsimile: (803) 576-1763

[gjonesj@sccourts.org](mailto:gjonesj@sccourts.org)

From: [scorequipment@gmail.com](mailto:scorequipment@gmail.com) <[scorequipment@gmail.com](mailto:scorequipment@gmail.com)>

Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 8:55 AM

To: Jones, Gwendlyne Y. <[gjonesj@sccourts.org](mailto:gjonesj@sccourts.org)>; 'Sheila Robinson' <[sheila@mttlaw.com](mailto:sheila@mttlaw.com)>;

[dick.whiting@whitinglawsc.com](mailto:dick.whiting@whitinglawsc.com)

Cc: [scorequipment@gmail.com](mailto:scorequipment@gmail.com)

Subject: RE: RTSC Order instructions

\*\*\* **EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside the organization. Please exercise caution before clicking any links or opening attachments. \*\*\*

Dear Judge Jones,

I am unable to pay these amounts and will be forced to go to jail for six months which will be very detrimental to my children.

I would like to bring your attention to some of the terms of your Order and request you consider delaying these payments until the final hearing.

1. The "loaned amounts" from the companies are noted on the financial declaration under the income section as other income; however, I am personally only receiving \$43.59 monthly from my pension and I am borrowing all of the money that I am using from others including the companies.
2. The memo order also stated that I have not filed for alternative relief; however, I have had multiple motions for Temporary Relief and requested spousal support that would eliminate any payment of child support as an offset to the amount owed, with no relief from the Court. I even requested spousal support and the back due spousal support at the hearing as an affirmative defense to the amounts owed as being premature until final hearing.
3. Additionally, the HOA fees and the mortgage payments are stayed by the filing of the Notice of Appeal and as argued those orders were all appealed.
4. The requirement to sign over the title is not stayed; however, I do not believe that I can comply with that Order in 5 days because it will take more time than that to complete any required process. Upon Information and belief, *My soon to be ex-husband has the title.* I will attempt to get

the replacement title tomorrow, but may not be able to comply within the short 5 day time frame.

**(b) Exceptions.** The exceptions to the general rule are found in statutes, court rules, and case law. Where specific conditions must be met before the exception applies, those conditions must be strictly complied with. A list of some, but not all, of the exceptions to the general rule is:

(1) Money judgments as provided in S.C. Code Ann. § 18-9-130.

(2) Judgments directing the assignment or delivery of documents or personal property as provided in S.C. Code Ann. § 18-9-150.

(3) Judgments directing the execution of conveyances or other instruments as provided in S.C. Code Ann. § 18-9-160.

(4) Judgments directing the sale or delivery of possession of real property as provided in S.C. Code Ann. § 18-9-170.

(5) Judgments directing the sale of perishable property as provided in S.C. Code Ann. § 18-9-220.

(6) Family court orders regarding a child or requiring payment of support for a spouse or child as provided in S.C. Code Ann. § 63-3-630.

(7) Worker's compensation awards as provided in S.C. Code Ann. § 42-17-60.

(8) An appeal from an order granting an injunction or temporary restraining order.

(9) Family court orders awarding temporary suit costs or attorney's fees as provided in S.C. Code Ann. § 63-3-530(A)(2).

(10) Ejectment orders as provided in S.C. Code Ann. § 27-37-130 and S.C. Code Ann. § 27-40-800.

(11) Appeals from administrative tribunals as provided in S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-380(A)(2) and § 1-23-600 (G)(5).

Respectfully,

Rhonda Meisner

---

From: Jones, Gwendlyne Y. <[gjonesj@sccourts.org](mailto:gjonesj@sccourts.org)>

Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 1:25 PM

To: Sheila Robinson <[sheila@mttlaw.com](mailto:sheila@mttlaw.com)>; Rhonda Meisner <[scorequipment@gmail.com](mailto:scorequipment@gmail.com)>;

'dick.whiting@whitinglawsc.com' <dick.whiting@whitinglawsc.com>

**Subject:** RTSC Order instructions

Attached, please find instructions for the preparation of the order from the hearing held on September 9, 2021.

Sincerely,

**Gwendlyne Y. Jones**  
**Family Court Judge**  
**Fifth Judicial Circuit**  
**1701 Main Street Columbia, SC 29201**  
**P.O. Box 192 Columbia, SC 29202**  
**Phone: (803) 576-1760**  
**Facsimile: (803) 576-1763**

**[gjonesj@sccourts.org](mailto:gjonesj@sccourts.org)**

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|                         |   |                                      |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA | ) | IN THE FAMILY COURT OF THE           |
|                         | ) | FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT               |
| COUNTY OF RICHLAND      | ) | C.A. NO.: 2019-DR-40-2277            |
|                         | ) |                                      |
| GRANT MEISNER,          | ) |                                      |
|                         | ) |                                      |
| PLAINTIFF,              | ) |                                      |
|                         | ) |                                      |
| VS.                     | ) | <b>AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF</b>       |
|                         | ) | <b>ATTORNEY'S FEES FOR PLAINTIFF</b> |
| RHONDA MEISNER,         | ) | <b>FOR FINAL MERITS HEARING</b>      |
|                         | ) | <b>( Through July 21, 2023 )</b>     |
| DEFENDANT.              | ) |                                      |
|                         | ) |                                      |

---

Personally appeared before me, Sheila McNair Robinson, who, after being duly sworn, deposes and states as follows:

1. Affiant is an attorney in private practice and has been retained to represent the legal interests of Plaintiff, GRANT MEISNER, in this action.

2. Affiant's legal practice has always been predominantly domestic, and presently, 100% of her work is domestic.

3. Affiant incorporates herein Rule 23, Rules of the South Carolina Supreme Court, which contains the Canons of Professional Ethics and further calls the attention of the Court to the holdings in Glasscock v. Glasscock, 403 S.E.2d 313 (1991); Nienow v. Nienow, 232 S.E.2d 504 (1977); and Mitchell v. Mitchell, 320 S.E.2d 706 (1984), concerning the factors and criteria which should be considered in the setting of attorney's fees; and she relies upon the discretion of this Court in the determination of the amount of fees, based upon the Court's file, the Court's knowledge of the litigation between the parties, which reflects the difficulty of the services rendered, the time necessarily expended, the result accomplished, the fact that there is no contingency of compensation in a domestic relations case, the professional standing of counsel, and fees customarily charged in this area for similar legal services.

4. Affiant is informed and believes that, during the preparation of this case, the time spent, as set forth more fully hereinafter, was necessary for the protection of the client's interests.

5. Upon Plaintiff's retaining of Affiant, Plaintiff was informed by the office that he would be charged an hourly rate of Three Hundred Fifty (\$350.00) Dollars per hour by Sheila McNair Robinson; One Hundred Seventy-Five (\$175.00) Dollars per hour by Associate Attorneys; and One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars to One Hundred Fifty (\$150.00) Dollars per hour for Paralegal time.

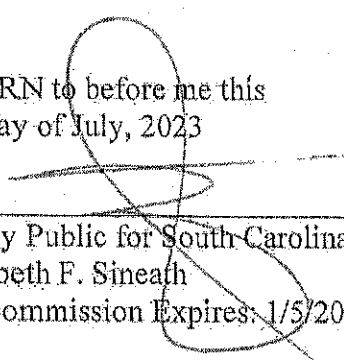
6. Affiant, in accordance with her time and expense records, which are maintained on a daily basis, states to the Court that through July 21, 2023, her fees and costs have been \$384,023.08. She expects to incur additional time representing Plaintiff in this case at the final merits hearing and in drafting the final Order.

7. Based on the time necessarily devoted to this case, the other criteria which have been held to be relevant in the setting of attorney's fees, costs and suit money, and the fact that Plaintiff has insufficient finances to enable him to pay for this action, Affiant, on behalf of her client, requests that this Court review the file herein, together with this Affidavit, and grant judgment in favor of the undersigned's client against Defendant in a sum which may be determined by the Court to be reasonable as attorney's fees, costs and suit money, and that Defendant be required to pay the same within a reasonable time as may be determined by the Court.

Further Affiant Sayeth Not.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sheila McNair Robinson

SWORN to before me this  
31<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2023

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
Elizabeth F. Sineath  
My Commission Expires: 1/5/2027

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND )  
 )  
Grant Meisner, )  
 )  
 )  
Plaintiff, )  
 )  
vs. )  
 )  
Rhonda Meisner, )  
 )  
 )  
Defendant. )

IN THE FAMILY COURT  
FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

DOCKET NO. 2019-DR-40-2277

**AFFIDAVIT OF ATTORNEY'S FEES**

Comes now, Brett L. Stevens, the former attorney for Defendant in this matter, who being first sworn-states as follows:

1. The charges incurred in this matter on behalf of Rhonda Meisner are set forth in the attached billing records which can be summarized as follows:

**TOTALS:**

**2019-DR 40-2277 (Divorce Action)**

|              |                         |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| Billed Time: | \$6,597.50 (49.3 hours) |
| Costs:       | <u>\$182.05</u>         |
| Total:       | \$6779.55               |

- **Amount unpaid as of 11/3/2022: \$2528.15**
2. Attorney time in this case was charged at \$150.00 per hour which is lower than the fee normally charged in the area for similar services;
  3. I believe all actions taken on behalf of Defendant were reasonable and necessary in the course of litigation;
  4. I have been licensed to practice law in South Carolina since 2006;
  5. I have almost exclusively practiced family law since I opened my own practice in August of 2016;
  6. I have a J.D. from the University of South Carolina (2006); a Master's Degree in English from Clemson University (2001); and a Bachelor's Degree in English and Theatre from Presbyterian College (1999);
  7. This was a difficult case in that it was very litigious, a DSS case was initiated, and an emergency hearing was held at the initiation of this case;

8. I represented Ms. Meisner until she could no longer finance litigation;
9. Further, deponent sayeth naught.

---

Brett L. Stevens, S.C. Bar No. 73830  
Stevens Law, LLC  
1822 Bull Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201  
T: (803) 587-8506  
E: Brett@BrettStevensLaw.com

Sworn to and Subscribed before me  
This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public for South Carolina

Printed Name of Notary: \_\_\_\_\_

My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_