

EXHIBIT

1

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF LEXINGTON)

IN THE FAMILY COURT FOR THE
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
CASE NO.: 2023-DR-32-00229

Megan Cronin,)
)
Plaintiff,)
v.)
)
William Cronin,)
)
Defendant.)
)

**AFFIDAVIT OF
WILLIAM CRONIN**

PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE ME, WILLIAM CRONIN, WHO TESTIFIED TO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Megan and I were married on **July 23, 2011**. I work as a sales representative with Hunter Engineering Company, Megan is a speech language pathologist. She owns her own business, Inspire Speech and Feeding. In 2022, Megan made about \$130,000.00. I have averaged \$113,833.68 for the last several years. My CPA died last fall and I have been unable to file my taxes for 2022. I also receive rental income from a commercial property we own for Megan's business (and lease a portion to a law firm). I apply that rental income to the commercial mortgage.

2. We have two children together, A.C. (2014) and L.C., (2017) who are my whole world. Megan left our home on **February 1, 2023** and took our children with her. I believe she is pursuing an adulterous affair. I have not seen or heard from our children since **February 1, 2023**. I do not know how they are being cared for, where they are living, or how they are handling their parents' separation. I have been the primary caregiver for our children since their births. Megan and her Father trumped up a CDV charge against me, I believe to deflect from her affair. I am devastated by this and implore the Court to listen to the 5 minute recording of this incident, as it is obvious I am trying to de-escalate the situation and it is Megan and her Father who are not.

3. On **January 1, 2023** I discovered Megan is having an affair. I purchased a laptop in Christmas of 2022. The laptop was used by both of us and had the same family password that all of our household devices had. This laptop was never hidden from me by Megan and we both used it. Megan had been acting strange, focused on her cell phone, and hiding her cell phone. She had been getting up early on Fridays and putting on makeup when this is typically a day she sleeps in. When I logged into the laptop, the Imessages account showed Megan talking to a man named Anthony Petrella. She revealed she had sent him nude photographs and they called each other “my love”. (Exhibit A, messages with paramour). Later that day I confronted Megan about this. Her initial response was that she didn’t want to talk about it. She went into the bedroom and started throwing clothes in a suitcase. I asked her directly who Anthony was. Megan admitted she knew him. Days later I asked her more specifically about the messages and she said he was someone who had replied to her Instagram story. She would never admit they were having an affair. When I asked where he lived or if she had met him in person, she refused to answer. We coexisted for weeks. Megan asked me if I was going to find an apartment and I told her no, that this was where the children lived. I would not leave our children. Megan eventually said “clearly this will never work because you will never look at me the same way.” I suggested we go talk to a counselor. We never went.

4. On **January 24th** I had to go on a business trip to Dallas and St. Louis. On **January 26th** Megan texted me to indicate she was separating from me. On **January 31st** Megan texted me to say when I got home she was going to leave with her Dad and go to her “own place”. She indicated the children would stay with me. (Exhibit B). After a long flight, I came back on **February 1st at 2:00 AM**. I realize now going on this trip was probably not a good idea. I had no idea Megan would fall off the deep end while I was gone. When I got home, Megan’s father

Mike was there. Megan and her father initially sat in the kitchen and stared at me. I walked them outside at around 2:15 AM. I told them I was exhausted and going to bed. Megan had packed many things in her car and had rented an apartment. Megan and her Dad then left. The next morning when we all woke up, I fed the children breakfast and took them to school. I drove to Charlotte for work. When I got home from work, Megan and her Dad were in the kitchen.

5. Megan and I tried to talk in private in Addison's room. Megan told me "you're going to regret this." Her Dad butted in aggressively talking about Megan's "rights." Megan and her Dad went upstairs and collected the children. I saw them walking downstairs and I repeatedly asked Mike (her Dad) to leave. I told the children to go to the bathroom and stay there. I held my daughter's hand and picked up my son and walked them to the bathroom. I was then able to get Megan and her Dad out of the house peacefully. Megan then started banging on the door asking to say goodbye to the children. I told her she could come in, but Mike could not as he was behaving aggressively.

6. Our door was damaged from me trying to shut it and dead bolt it and her father forcing his way in (Exhibit C). Mike then grabbed me by the shoulders, tore my shirt and kicked me in the groin (Exhibit D). I took a step back, closed the door and locked it. Megan said goodbye to the children and left. The only physical touch that occurred that night by me was picking my son up and bringing him to the bathroom to remove the children from the situation. Mike is typically a passive person but when he becomes angry it is like a stick of dynamite. After Megan and Mike left, my brother, a vascular surgeon, and my Mother suggested I call the police to document all of this. As I was I calling 911, Megan and her Dad returned. I watched out the window until the police came. I told the police exactly what happened and showed the officer my torn shirt. I was shocked when I was arrested for CDV 2nd. A condition of my bond is not to

contact Megan (Exhibit E). I have followed this restriction. Since February 1st I have not seen my children even though that is *not* a condition of my bond. *Megan has made no attempt to have the children visit with me at all.*

7. It is important to me that this Court know that I am a man of God, and I pursued Megan with the intent to marry her. We began dating, and never fought, argued, or disagreed on anything until one night, where I saw that she was messaging another man on Facebook. This led to a discussion about trust and fidelity, and I thought that we moved passed it. I did not realize that this was a sign of events to come. We married on July 23, 2011 at Rosehill Presbyterian church.

8. Our daughter, A.C., was born in March 2014. A.C.'s birth changed everything, and I began to give myself completely to taking care of her and Megan. A.C. had trouble sleeping, so I would be up at all hours of the night rocking her and taking her on car rides so that she would go to sleep. I am under the impression that at the time, Megan was suffering from post-partum depression, and she discussed her symptoms with my brother and sister-in-law, who are physicians. Our son, L.C. was born in July of 2017. After his birth, Megan suffered from postpartum depression again. She had "episodes" with her back that led to a deeper depression. There were moments when I found her crying on the closet floor. In order to help and alleviate her stress, I took on the entire workload. I took care of the kids, dropping them at daycare and picking them up, cooking, cleaning, and taking care of my wife. I did everything that I could to run the household, something that I have continued to do to this day.

9. I have serious concerns about Megan's mental health, as she has a history of depression, which has at times gone untreated. While I thought things were better following her experience with postpartum depression after L.C.'s birth, things slowly began to change. Over time she began to become cynical and angry. I often times would find myself wondering what she

was even mad or upset about. I also began to worry about her depression and what might be going on in her thoughts, as it seemed like she put the children and me on the back burner. She began to isolate herself in our room or in the bathroom at night when we would all get home. I would ask her for help with getting the kids bathed, fed, and put to bed at night, and it would usually turn into an argument about how I must be thinking she “doesn’t do anything.” She has previously texted me before messages such as “something is seriously wrong with me. I can’t go right now”, “Literally F* my life, I can’t answer”, “I’m struggling emotionally”, and “something is wrong with me”¹ Three of these are also examples where she pushed off her responsibilities to our family, such as picking up the children from afterschool care, due to her mental health issues.

10. I have always been the primary caregiver of our children. I registered both of the children for school this year.² I also have been the primary contact for their teachers over the years and am typically the one to respond to them. This has ranged from notifying teachers of the children being absent due to illness or appointments, instructions regarding L.C.’s palate expander, coordinating parent-teacher conferences, and responding to updates regarding our children’s education.³ The children’s teachers know that they will get a response from me, so much so that L.C.’s teacher reached out to me after Megan and I separated, regarding L.C. returning to school without his school iPad being charged.⁴ I hate that L.C. has been going to school unprepared since Megan and I’s separation, so of course I agreed to take a charger to the school.

11. I often have to inform or remind Megan of our children’s educational and school events. An example of this is that I had to remind her of L.C.’s end of the year celebration for his

¹ Exhibit F, text messages between the parties on September 7, 2022, September 19, 2022. November 15, 2022, and December 10, 2022.

² Exhibit G, Lexington One Registration Forms of A.C. and L.C., e-signed by William Cronin.

³ Exhibit H, Four Correspondences between William Cronin and New Providence Teachers, dated January 12, 2023, January 20, 2023, October 7, 2022, and March 10, 2022.

⁴ Exhibit I, email addressed to William Cronin, dated February 22, 2023.

finished 4-year-old Kindergarten.⁵ I am often the only one present at our children's events, and often have to send Megan photos from these events. An example of this is when I sent her photos from the children's fun run (which she was unable to attend).⁶

12. I am also the primary parent for doctor's and dentist's appointments. I am typically the one to call the office and set up the appointment. Further, I am almost always in attendance of these appointments, especially in the last couple of years since Megan opened the business. For example, I am listed as having taken the children to their appointment at Columbia Children's Dentistry P.A. for their 2021 appointments and 2022 appointment.⁷ It is extremely important to me to be involved in this aspect of the children's care.

13. I coordinate A.C.'s gymnastics, a sport that she absolutely loves and one that I love watching her participate in. I was the one to enroll her in gymnastics originally in 2018, and then again in 2019.⁸ I am a staple at practice, as it is usually myself and the mothers of other students in attendance. I have attended every competition A.C. has had, and I have also been the primary contact for her gymnastics coach. I have had to remind Megan of competition details, times, and locations numerous times.⁹ Additionally, I have been the parent that coordinates the children's birthday parties each year. I always book the location of the party, send invitations, and make sure the cake is ordered. I am concerned to see that Megan didn't take Addison to her competition on February 8th. She is already abandoning this responsibility (see attached email).

14. The children and I have an entire afterschool routine. Our routine is that I pick them up from after school care and take them from Publix. At Publix, we pick out the ingredients for

⁵ Exhibit J, text exchange between the parties, dated May 19, 2022.

⁶ Exhibit J, text exchange between the parties, dated November 17, 2022.

⁷ Exhibit K, Patient notes from 2022 and 2021 of A.C. and L.C. from Columbia Children's Dentistry P.A.

⁸ Exhibit L, email registration from PAC to William Cronin, dated September 17, 2018 and August 24, 2019.

⁹ Exhibit J, text exchanges between the parties, dated April 18, 2022, May 6, 2022, and January 5, 2023.


the meal that we plan to make and then return home. A.C. has gotten really involved in the kitchen, which has been a delight to me, as I grew up cooking with my mom. L.C. is still at the age where he mostly loves to play with his toys while A.C. and I cook, and then comes to enjoy the meal. Lately, I have taken extra steps to put healthy twists on the kids, especially L.C.'s, favorite meals, such as pizza. I typically will have to cook two or three meals. The first one is for our kids, the second one for me. Depending on Megan's taste or diet, I will make a third meal for Megan. After dinner, I get the kids ready for bed with a bath, and then get them to their beds.

15. In the beginning of 2019, I encouraged Megan to branch off and start her own business. I had experience running several other businesses throughout my career, so I told her that I would help her run the behind the scenes of the business, so that she could simply do therapy. We planned to reinvest everything into the business as I believed that was the best way to successfully help it to grow. It grew quickly. We reinvested into the business and kept the debt at zero, purchasing anything necessary and supporting payroll for the new people she hired. In the Summer of 2020, we put in an offer on our building on Main Street in downtown Lexington (and finalized the purchase in February 2021) to assist with the need for more space. Until recently, I continued to assist with finances of the business, such as help administer payroll and ordering checks for the business. I helped Megan secure a business license and renew this for her each year. I also work as the handyman of the business and do odd jobs around the building in order to save on expenses. Since our separation, I have continued to ensure that the mortgage on the building is paid, despite no longer having access to the business' funds. I would like Megan to take over this expense.

16. I am asking the Court to appoint a Guardian *ad Litem* and allow Megan and I to share the children during an initial investigation. The children have not been in their home in a

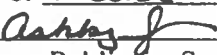
month (where they have lived since 2016). The children's rooms are ready for their return.¹⁰ While I commute to Charlotte for work, my work has never inhibited my parenting duties. In fact, I took my current job so that I could spend more time with our family and purposefully arrange my work schedule around the schedules of our children. Also, while I was on a business trip on the date of our separation, this only occurs about twice a year and is in the form of a weeklong trip. During this time, my mother, step-father, and family will be more than happy to help out, as they have routinely in the past. I am also asking this Court to order Megan to assist with the out of pocket healthcare expenses of the children. Further, I am asking this Court to order that Megan assist with the after-school care expenses and extracurricular expenses of the children.

17. I am asking this Court to restrain Megan from incurring debts in my name, or on credit and debit cards where I am the primary user. Megan has bought hundreds of dollars' worth of furniture on a credit card in which she is an authorized user, but not helping to pay off. She also has taken me off of an account that we previously shared. I am asking this Court to restrain her from incurring further debts that can be tied to me. I am asking this Court for a forensic imaging and analysis of Megan's devices. I am asking that a Guardian *ad Litem* be appointed at Megan's expense and for attorney's fees, as both of these are only necessary due to Megan's actions.



William Cronin

Sworn to before me this 2
day of March 2023.



Notary Public for South Carolina

Ashby Jones

Printed Name

3.27.26

Commission Expiration Date

¹⁰ Exhibit M, photos of the children's rooms as of February 20, 2023.