

COPY

ATTORNEY FEE AND COST AGREEMENT

OF

HELEN SIMONS PIERCE

RECEIVED

May 16 2024

SC Court of Appeals

I, **HELEN SIMONS PIERCE**, hereby agree to retain R. Scott Sprouse and the firm of Stoudemire & Sprouse, P. A., Attorneys at Law, to represent me in a domestic case against Doyle E. Pierce

1. Upon receipt of a payment of the retainer of \$1,000.00, plus costs in the amount of \$150.00, R. Scott Sprouse agrees to represent **HELEN SIMONS PIERCE** in connection with this matter. *Such retainer shall constitute a minimum, non-refundable fee in this case, and all fees and costs will be billed at the conclusion of the case, and any fees and costs in excess of the retainer, if any, shall be billed at the hourly rate set forth in paragraph 2 herein, and will include a detailed description of the activities that result in the hourly fees billed. Those fees and costs shall be due and payable ten (10) days after such billing. In the event that the fees are not paid within ten (10) days after such billing, a service charge of 1 ½ % per month may be added as a service charge.*

2. R. Scott Sprouse will bill **HELEN SIMONS PIERCE** on a time expended basis at the rate of \$200.00 per hour for all time spent. Periods less than one (1) hour will be billed at intervals of 1/10 of an hour. All fees shall first be applied to the retainer.

Time expended by the Paralegal will be billed at the rate of \$100.00 per hour for all time spent. Periods less than one (1) hour will be billed at intervals of 1/10 of an hour.

\*\*\*Phone calls made to the home of R. Scott Sprouse will be billed at intervals no less than 1/2 hour.\*\*\*

3. **HELEN SIMONS PIERCE** agrees to assume and pay for all out-of-pocket expenses and costs incurred in connection with this matter (e.g. service of process fees and costs, investigative expenses

authorized, copying at \$.10 per page, long distance telephone charges, extraordinary postage and other incidental expenses including FAXes). HELEN SIMONS PIERCE agrees to provide R. Scott Sprouse with updated telephone numbers and addresses in the event they change in any form or fashion. HELEN SIMONS PIERCE certifies that the information provided to R. Scott Sprouse is accurate to the best of the client's knowledge.

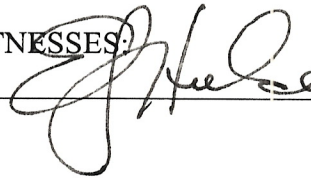
4. The fees and costs charged by R. Scott Sprouse do not guarantee any result in the matter of his representation. **No retainer fees paid are subject to refund.** Any unused prepaid costs are subject to refund or application to fees in excess of the retainer.


5. HELEN SIMONS PIERCE acknowledges that R. Scott Sprouse cannot and does not promise any result in any case and that there are NO GUARANTEES. Due to Court schedules, hearing time is critical, and there are NO GUARANTEES as to hearing times and/or schedules.

6. This contract covers only the case in the Oconee County Family Court. If and when an appeal becomes necessary, a new fee agreement must be executed.

10-31-05  
DATE

WITNESSES:



  
HELEN SIMONS PIERCE

I, R. Scott Sprouse, accept the representation of **HELEN SIMONS PIERCE** and will represent her throughout the matter as set forth herein at the rates expressed herein.

10-31-05  
DATE

  
R. Scott Sprouse

COPY

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF OCONEE

IN THE [ ] COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
[X] FAMILY COURT

**HELEN BRANNEN PIERCE**  
[ ] Plaintiff

**CASE NUMBER: 2005-DR-37-842**

**DOYLE E. PIERCE**  
[X] Defendant

**MOTION INFORMATION FORM  
AND COVER SHEET**

CHECK BOX ABOVE INDICATING SUBMITTING PARTY

Plaintiff's Attorney

Defendant's Attorney

Guardian ad Litem

R. SCOTT SPROUSE  
Stoudemire & Sprouse, PA  
PO Box 99, Seneca, SC 29679  
Phone: (864) 882-1480  
Fax: (864) 882-2000

PRO SE

- MOTION HEARING REQUESTED [attach written motion and complete SECTIONS I & II]
- FORM MOTION, NO HEARING REQUESTED [complete SECTIONS II and III]
- PROPOSED ORDER/CONSENT ORDER [complete SECTIONS II and III]

SECTION I: Hearing Information

Nature of Motion: \*  
Estimated Time Needed: \* Minutes Court Reporter Needed Yes

SECTION II: Motion Type

- Written motion attached
- Form Motion -

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

R. Scott Sprouse January 30, 2006  
Signature of Attorney for [ X ] Plaintiff [ ] Defendant Date Submitted

SECTION III: Motion Fee

- PAID - AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_
- EXEMPT:
  - Rule to Show Cause in Child or Spousal Support
  - Domestic Abuse or Abuse and Neglect
  - Indigent Status  State Agency v. Indigent Party
  - Sexually Violent Predator Act  Post-Conviction Relief
  - Motion for Stay in Bankruptcy
  - Motion for Publication  Motion for Execution [Rule 69, SCRPC]
  - Proposed order submitted at request of the court; or, reduced to writing
    - From motion made in open court per judge's instructions
    - Name of Court Reporter: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other

JUDGE'S SECTION

- Motion Fee to be paid upon filing of the attached order.
- Other:

/s/ BARRY W. KNOBEL

JUDGE

Code:

Date: 2-7-06

CLERK'S VERIFICATION

Collected by: \_\_\_\_\_  
[print name]

Date Filed

- MOTION FEE COLLECTED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- CONTESTED - AMOUNT DUE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2006 FEB -3 P 2:38  
LILLIE C. SMITH  
CLERK OF COURT  
ED OCONEE, SC

COPY

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF OCONEE

IN THE FAMILY COURT  
Case No. 2005-DR-37-842

HELEN BRANNEN PIERCE,

Plaintiff,

versus

DOYLE E. PIERCE,

Defendant.

**ANNULMENT ORDER**

PRESIDING JUDGE:	BARRY W. KNOBEL
DATE OF HEARING:	JANUARY 20, 2006
PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY:	BLAIR R. SCOTT SPROUSE
DEFENDANT'S ATTORNEY:	PRO SE
COURT REPORTER:	MARY S. MANN

FILED OCONEE, SC  
SALLIE C. SMITH  
CLERK OF COURT  
2006 FEB -3 P 2:38

This matter was before the Court pursuant to the Plaintiff's request for a Final Hearing. The issues annulment and the Plaintiff's request to return to her former name. The Defendant appeared pro se after proper notice of the hearing. He does not contest the relief sought by the Plaintiff.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Court, considering the pleadings, testimony, financial declaration of the Plaintiff, and statements of the attorneys finds from a clear preponderance of the evidence, the following salient facts:

1. That the Plaintiff and the Defendant are residents and citizens of Oconee County, South Carolina; that they are now and for three (3) months prior to the institution of this action residents of the State of South Carolina.
2. That the Plaintiff and the Defendant were married in a ceremony on October 28, 2005, in Oconee County, South Carolina.
3. That the parties never maintained a residence together and never consummated the marriage.
4. That the Plaintiff is entitled to an Order of this Court annulling the marriage.

5. That the Plaintiff requests to return to her former name of Brannen. I find that this request is not being made to secrete herself from creditors or law enforcement or for any other unlawful purpose.

6. That the parties have accumulated no jointly-held property.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The Court concludes as a matter of law that this Court has the authority to annul a marriage and grant a name change.

Based upon the Findings of Fact and the applicable law,

NOW, THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the Plaintiff's request for an annulment is granted.
2. That the Plaintiff is allowed to resume the use of her maiden name of Brannen.

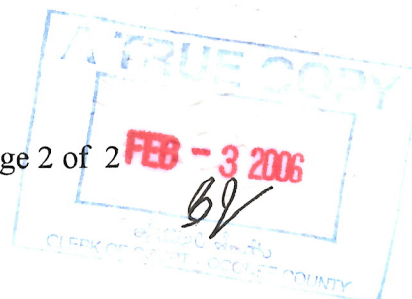
AND IT IS SO ORDERED!

Anderson, South Carolina  
February 1, 2006

/s/ BARRY W. KNOBEL  
**Barry W. Knobel**, Judge  
The Family Court  
Tenth Judicial Circuit

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FILED DOOR  
SALLIE C. SMITH  
CLERK OF COURT



382934

CASH RECEIPT

Date 10/31/05  
Received From Helen Pierce

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars \$ 1150<sup>00</sup>-

For Attorney Referral Fee

ACCOUNT	HOW PAID		
	CASH	CHECK	MONEY ORDER CREDIT CARD
AMT. OF ACCOUNT <u>1150 -</u>		<u>1150<sup>00</sup></u>	
AMT. PAID <u>1150 -</u>			
BALANCE DUE <u>0</u>			

By [Signature]

STUDEBAKER & STROUSE  
Professional Association  
Attorneys At Law  
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SENECA, S.C. 29679-0099