

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF NEWBERRY)

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

JEFFERSON DAVIS, JR.)
)
Plaintiff/Appellant)
)
vs.)
)
CHAD CONNELLY, et.al.)
)
Defendants/Respondents))
_____)

ORDER
AS TO FIRST EXPEDITED HEARING
2020-CP-36-00382 and 384
Appellate Case No. 2024-002049

On October 11, 2024, the Court held, in person, a contempt hearing. At this hearing the Plaintiff submitted the below Declaration without any medical records. This Court issued an Order of Civil Contempt against the Plaintiff in both cases on November 25, 2024. The Plaintiff filed an appeal of this Order and later filed an Emergency Writ of Supersedeas seeking to stay enforcement of the contempt Order during the pendency of the appeal. By Declaration of October 11, 2024, the Plaintiff claims:

1. He is unable to pay the court-ordered fees;
2. He has had colon cancer, had surgery on March 18, 2024 and has undergone chemotherapy through July 5, 2024;



3. Because of the substantial financial costs incurred because of his Health/cancer issues, he is currently unable to pay the court-ordered fees;
4. That he currently has substantial medical fees not covered by insurance.

Subsequent thereto, the South Carolina Court of Appeals issued an Order on December 20, 2024 ordering:

1. A temporary stay of the contempt Order;
2. A remand to this Circuit Court to hold an expedited hearing on the Petition for Supersedeas;
3. Appellant to provide sufficient medical records to support the health conditions attested to in his Affidavit (Declaration);
4. Appellant to provide the Court of Appeals status updates every thirty days.

Subsequent thereto, the Defendants filed a Joint Motion for Expedited Discovery seeking production of asset records, financial records, tax records, and medical records in order to respond to the Writ of Supersedeas.

This Court conducted what this Court believes to be a **First** Expedited Hearing on January 8, 2025 via virtual courtroom. Present on behalf of the

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10/3/25

Defendants were Attorneys Justin Novak and Geoffrey Chambers. The Plaintiff was also in attendance. Counsel for the Defendants made their argument concerning their joint Motion for Expedited Discovery. The Plaintiff responded by wanting additional time to respond to the joint Motion and the Court gave him five days. He responded with a written Memorandum in Response to the Joint Motion for Expedited Discovery.

At present, this Order will only deal with the Plaintiff's medical records and this Court will reserve ruling on the Defendants' other requests in the future depending upon what the medical records show. Before the following ruling is made, the Court wants to make several observations in support of its ruling.

First of all, the South Carolina Court of Appeals made it very clear that the Plaintiff must provide sufficient medical records to support his health claims.

Secondly, the Plaintiff maintains that he has already provided the Court with medical records post the October contempt hearing. He also maintains that he provided a one-page medical diagnosis with these materials. First of all, this one page was not provided. What was provided were the following:

1. A very general and basic two-page My Chart Health Summary not in narrative form;

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2. A two-page spreadsheet (1/1/24-10/11/2024) of medical expenses showing provider, total charge, claim status, patient liability, and amount insurance paid. It is unclear who prepared and generated this two-page spreadsheet;

3. Approximately 75 pages of copies of Blue Cross/Blue Shield claim reports with many of these pages containing standard "boiler-plate" form language and many pages were not in English;

Thirdly, what the Court of Appeals wants and what this Court wants are medical records and information from doctors, hospitals, etc. that will specifically address and support the claims made by the Plaintiff in connection with his position concerning inability to pay the contempt fees. Records and information concerning future medical condition and prognosis would be in order as well.

Fourthly, the Plaintiff only wants to provide the medical records, *in camera*, to the Court and not to the Defendants. The Court will not do this. The Plaintiff has every right to prosecute his Writ of Supersedeas and his request to stay the contempt. However, the Defendants have every right as well to defend against the Writ and request to Stay. It would be unfair to the Defendants to deprive them of very critical information that the Plaintiff is basing his case on.

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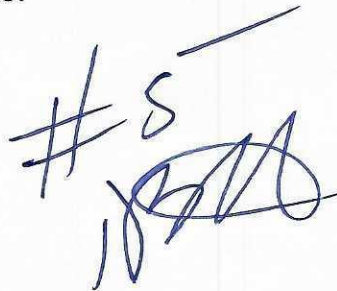
Based upon the above, it is

HEREBY ORDERED:

1. That within thirty (30) days from the date of this Order, the Plaintiff shall provide to this Court and Attorneys Novak and Chambers all necessary medical records and information to support his claims.

2. That due to the personal and confidential nature of these medical records, the attorneys for the Defendants are to use these records and information that the Plaintiff provides in this case only. The attorneys have the right to discuss with their clients the general nature of the documents without allowing the Defendants to view the same. Everyone on the Defendants' side are enjoined and restrained from disclosing these records and information contained therein to anyone outside of this case in any manner whatsoever. Furthermore, the attorneys for the Defendants and the Defendants shall make no contact with any of the Plaintiff's medical providers and medical insurance companies as the Plaintiff has expressed concern that they would.

3. That the issue of discovery as to any other matters requested by the Defendants is held in abeyance at this time.

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SO ORDERED.



DONALD B. HOCKER
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

Laurens, South Carolina
Date: 1-23-25

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