

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
In The Court of Appeals

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**SC Court of Appeals**

APPEAL FROM KERSHAW COUNTY  
Court of Common Pleas

Hon. Jocelyn Newman, Court of Common Pleas Judge

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Case No. 2025-000253  
Trial Case No. 2024CP2800851

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Shelby Troublefield,

Respondent,

v.

Freda Stevens,

Appellant.

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RECORD ON APPEAL

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF Kershaw

Freda Stevens  
Plaintiff(s)

vs.

Shelby Troublefield  
Defendant(s)

Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

2024CP 2800851

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

CIVIL ACTION COVERSHEET

-CP- - - -

FILED FOR RECORDED  
 2024 OCT 23 9:33 AM  
 JANE C. HARTY  
 CLERK OF COURT  
 KERSHAW COUNTY

SC Bar #: \_\_\_\_\_  
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NOTE: The coversheet and information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law. This form is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of docketing cases that are NOT E-Filed. It must be filled out completely, signed, and dated. A copy of this coversheet must be served on the defendant(s) along with the Summons and Complaint. This form is NOT required to be filed in E-Filed Cases.

**DOCKETING INFORMATION (Check all that apply)**

*\*If Action is Judgment/Settlement do not complete*

- JURY TRIAL demanded in complaint.  NON-JURY TRIAL demanded in complaint.
- This case is subject to ARBITRATION pursuant to the Court Annexed Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules.
- This case is subject to MEDIATION pursuant to the Court Annexed Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules.
- This case is exempt from ADR. (Certificate Attached)

**NATURE OF ACTION (Check One Box Below)**

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- Special/Complex /Other**
- Environmental (600)
  - Automobile Arb. (610)
  - Medical (620)
  - Other (699)
  - Sexual Predator (510)
  - Permanent Restraining Order (680)
  - Interpleader (690)
  - Pharmaceuticals (630)
  - Unfair Trade Practices (640)
  - Out-of State Depositions (650)
  - Motion to Quash Subpoena in an Out-of-County Action (660)
  - Pre-Suit Discovery (670)

Submitting Party Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 10/23/2024

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2024 OCT 23 PM 3:17

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF KERSHAW

JANET D. HASTY  
CLERK OF COURT  
KERSHAW COUNTY, S.C.

COMMON PLEAS CASE NUMBER

MAGISTRATE CIVIL CASE NUMBER

Freda Stevens

APPELLANT(S)

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

VS.

NOTICE OF CIVIL APPEAL

Shelby Troublefield

RESPONDENT(S)

The plaintiff/defendant (circle one), Freda Stevens hereby gives notice of appeal from the judgment of the Magistrate's court in the above action, to the Circuit Court of Common Pleas, in the county of Kershaw.


This notice of appeal is made subsequent to personal notice of the judgment which was received on the 21 day of October, 2024.

The appellant's exceptions to the judgment of the Magistrate are set forth as follows:

See attached Notice of Intent to Appeal  
Restraining Order

Case No. 2024OR2810100011

Dated: October 23, 2024

  
Appellant (or his attorney)

mailing  
Address:

10120 Two Notch Rd  
Ste 2 Unit 344  
Columbia, SC 29223

78

Freda Stevens

803-961-9361  
stevensfreda@ymail.com

October 23, 2024

Clerk of Court  
Kershaw County Magistrate Court  
1121 Broad St,  
Camden, SC 29020  
Re: Notice of Intent to Appeal  
Case Number: 2024OR2810100071  
Petitioner: Shelby Troublefield  
Respondent: Freda Stevens

FILED FOR RECORD  
2024 OCT 23 PM 3:17  
JANET C. HASTY  
CLERK OF COURT  
KERSHAW COUNTY S.C.

Dear Clerk of Court,

I, Freda Stevens, the Respondent in the above-referenced case, hereby submit this Notice of Intent to Appeal the Restraining Order issued on October 21, 2024, by Magistrate Roderick M. Todd.

**Grounds for Appeal:**

**1. Error in Applying the Law**

- a. **Procedural Errors:** The appeal argues that Attorney Derek Shoemake, representing the Petitioner, failed to comply with procedural requirements by not properly noticing his appearance and obtaining consent from the Respondent. This oversight may have deprived the Respondent of due process, as proper legal representation and notification are fundamental rights within judicial proceedings. The failure to adhere to Rule 17 undermines the legitimacy of the Petitioner's case.
- b. **Equal Protection and Self-Defense:** The appeal highlights constitutional protections for the Respondent, asserting that her actions, which were deemed harassment, are in fact protected under both state and federal laws. The Respondent's legal actions against the Petitioner and the School District should not be interpreted as harassment but rather as an exercise of her rights. The Restraining Order (RO) and Trespass Notice from the school are positioned as retaliatory actions, designed to impede the Respondent's access to legal recourse and should therefore be reconsidered.

- c. **Harassment Elements Not Met:** The appeal contends that the evidence presented does not satisfy the legal definition of harassment. For a claim of harassment to be valid, there must be a demonstrable pattern of intentional, substantial, and unreasonable intrusion into the privacy of the complaining party. The interactions cited—routine communications about the child's education—fail to meet these criteria. They are characterized as ordinary and necessary for the educational process, thereby lacking the severity required for harassment claims.
- d. **Lack of Evidence:** The appeal stresses that the evidence provided does not support claims of harassment. The described communications between the teacher and the parent were standard and pertinent solely to the child's welfare and education. Instances such as discussing the child's head injury or requesting forms for school enrollment are not invasive or harassing; rather, they reflect the responsibilities inherent in a teacher-parent relationship. The absence of any communications outside of official channels further substantiates the argument that there was no harassment.
- e. **Deficient Complaint:** The complaint against the Respondent fails to meet essential legal standards, particularly in failing to clearly articulate the time, place, and manner of the alleged harassment. Without specific details, the allegations lack the necessary substantiation to hold legal weight, making the complaint legally deficient.
- f. **Violation of Other Constitutional Rights:** The appeal also raises concerns about the infringement of the Respondent's and her minor children's constitutional rights. The restraining order interferes not only with the Respondent's right to access education for her children but also disrupts their ability to be transported to and from school according to parental discretion. This restriction potentially violates their rights to education and parental involvement, fundamental rights recognized under both state and federal constitutions. Three of the Respondent's children have a disability and are receiving education under the IDEA law. The fourth child is believed to also have a disability and a request for an evaluation of the fourth child was requested prior to the RO.

## Analysis for the Appeal

### A. Procedural Errors: Conflict of Interest and Procedural Missteps

#### 1. Conflict of Interest

- o Attorney Derek Shoemake is married to Laina Shoemake, a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Doby's Mills Elementary School. Laina Shoemake is the Respondent's oldest daughter's teacher. The relationship between Attorney Derek Shoemake and Laina Shoemake creates a significant conflict of interest that undermines the integrity of the representation. Attorney Shoemake's involvement in the case against the Respondent, while being married to a teacher who has shared sensitive information about the Respondent's family, raises ethical concerns about impartiality and the potential for bias. This dual role complicates the legal proceedings and questions the validity of the Petitioner's claims.

## **2.Procedural Violations**

- As previously mentioned, Attorney Shoemake's failure to properly notice his appearance and obtain the Respondent's consent is a serious procedural error. Such oversights can deprive the Respondent of her right to due process, as she was not made aware of the legal representation opposing her interests in a timely manner. The Petitioner initially filed the RO Complaint pro se. This violation of Rule 17 diminishes the Petitioner's standing in the case.

## **3.Sensitive Information Sharing**

- The nature of the relationship between Ms. Shoemake and the Respondent, particularly their discussions regarding sensitive topics such as trauma, abuse, and medical issues, which highlights the Respondent's role in protecting her children, creates additional layers of ethical concern. The shared personal information is a breach of trust, as it was utilized in legal proceedings against the Respondent. The bond formed over their children's complex needs should not be leveraged in a legal context, highlighting the potential for misuse of confidential information.

## **4.Involvement in School Activities**

- Attorney Shoemake's participation in the Dads Read Event just hours before the restraining order hearing raises further questions about his motives and the appropriateness of his actions. His engagement with students, including the Respondent's daughter, indicate a level of familiarity and involvement that complicates his role as an attorney in the case. By not notifying the Respondent or obtaining her consent before representing the Petitioner, he disregards the ethical obligation to ensure transparency and fairness.

## **5.Impact on the Respondent's Rights**

- The combination of these factors not only reflects procedural errors but also highlights a potential pattern of retaliatory behavior against the Respondent. By leveraging personal relationships and sensitive information, the actions of Attorney Shoemake and his wife may contribute to an environment that undermines the Respondent's rights as a parent to advocate for her children.

In summary, the appeal emphasizes the serious conflict of interest posed by Attorney Shoemake's representation of the Petitioner, given his marital connection to Ms. Shoemake and the sensitive information shared between them and the Respondent. The procedural violations, including the failure to provide notice and seek consent, along with the ethical implications of their relationship, strongly support the argument that the Petitioner's case lacks legitimacy. These elements collectively underscore the need to overturn the restraining order and reassess the proceedings to ensure fairness and due process for the Respondent.

## **Analysis for the Appeal**

### **B. Equal Protection and Self-Defense:**

#### **Constitutional Protections and Contextual Understanding**

##### **1. First Amendment Protections**

- The appeal emphasizes that the Respondent's comments, particularly those made during heightened emotional states, are protected under the First Amendment. The Respondent's statements regarding the protection of herself and her children, even if perceived as threatening, stem from a legitimate concern for safety. The context—discussions about potential threats in the community and a potential threat from the Petitioner—underscores that these expressions were not intended as direct threats but rather as an articulation of fear for her family's safety.

##### **2. Contextual Misinterpretation**

- It is critical to note that the alleged comments made on September 10, 2024, were not directed at the Petitioner or related to the Petitioner in anyway. The alleged comments were not even related to Respondent's child that was formerly in the Petitioner's class. The comments made were in reference to a different child, who is in a different teacher's class during an IEP meeting concerning his safety issues, specifically relating to known risks in the community. A different teacher offered bus transportation for the Respondent's son who is autistic and an elopement risk. The Respondent declined due to the child's speech issues, past elopement history, and safety issues in the community. The presence of witnesses who confirmed that the comments were not related to the Petitioner and the fact that the Petitioner was not even present during the meeting, further solidifies the argument that the Respondent's statements were taken out of context or mischaracterized. The appeal argues the Petitioner intentionally mischaracterized the Sept 10 comments to mislead the Court.

##### **3. Absence of Relevant Allegations**

- The appeal points out that the specific statement from September 10 was not included in the original restraining order complaint. This omission suggests that the claims of harassment lack foundational support, as the court should not consider evidence or comments not formally presented within the confines of the complaint.

##### **4. Self-Defense and Emotional Context**

- The discussion of self-defense rights further reinforces the Respondent's position. If an individual perceives a threat, expressing feelings of fear or potential defensive actions should be recognized as an exercise of free speech rather than as a direct threat. The Kershaw County Sheriff's conclusion that no criminal charges were warranted indicates that authorities recognized the context and legitimacy of the Respondent's concerns, further supporting her argument.

5. Equal Protection Clause Considerations

- The Equal Protection Clause asserts that all individuals must be treated equally under the law. The appeal argues that if the Respondent is being treated differently based on her speech—specifically in relation to the restraining order—this could constitute a violation of her rights. The comments made by the Respondent were not directed at the Petitioner with the intent to harm, nor were they made in a context that would reasonably justify the Petitioner’s claims of harassment.

6. Details of the Incident on September 25

- The appeal highlights the events that transpired on September 25, where the Respondent was approached by the Petitioner while in her car with her children present. The Respondent’s response to being confronted, stating that the Petitioner was “being unprofessional,” reflects her attempt to de-escalate a situation initiated by the Petitioner. This interaction further demonstrates that the Respondent was not the aggressor but rather someone responding to an unwarranted confrontation.

In summary, the appeal posits that the Respondent’s actions and statements are protected under both the First Amendment and the Equal Protection Clause, asserting that her comments should be interpreted within the appropriate context of self-defense and concern for her family’s safety. The misinterpretation of these comments, coupled with the lack of evidence supporting the harassment claims, undermines the legitimacy of the restraining order. The appeal should call for a reconsideration of the order based on these constitutional protections, emphasizing the need for fairness and the acknowledgment of the complexities surrounding issues of safety, emotional response, and lawful advocacy.

### **Contextual Analysis of Witness Testimony**

#### **Understanding the Statement in Context**

1. Heightened Emotional State

- The statement made by the Respondent, “If I felt like she was going to harm me or my child, I would blow her brains out!” must be viewed through the lens of the emotional environment in which it was expressed. The Respondent was invited to a meeting on Sept 30 by the school principal to discuss her request to have her child removed from the Petitioner’s class and the reasons for the request. This remark was made in response to the school principal’s statements about the Sept 25 incident, when the Petitioner approached the Respondent’s vehicle in a potentially threatening manner. The Respondent’s daughter was frightened by the Petitioner’s unprofessional conduct. Emotional intensity of the situation influenced the Respondent’s choice of words.

2. Response to Perceived Threat

- The Respondent's comment reflects a protective instinct common among parents, particularly in response to perceived threats to their children. The phrase suggests a hypothetical scenario rather than an actual intent to harm, indicating that the Respondent was articulating her concerns rather than making a direct threat. This distinction is critical in understanding the nature of the statement.

3. Witness Testimony

- Witnesses present during the incident unwillingly provided context that supports the interpretation of the Respondent's statement. Their testimonies under oath confirmed the comment was made amid a confrontation and was not directed at the Petitioner in a threatening manner. This context helps establish that the statement was a reaction to a specific situation rather than a premeditated threat.

4. Distinguishing Between Expression of Fear and Threats

- Legally, it is essential to differentiate between an expression of fear and a genuine threat. The Respondent's statement should be seen as an emotional expression related to her concerns for her safety and her children's safety, particularly given the circumstances of the confrontation. Courts often consider the intent behind such statements, and in this case, it indicates a defensive rather than aggressive posture.

5. Implications for Legal Interpretation

- Given the context and emotional dynamics of the situation, the appeal argues that the Respondent's statement does not meet the legal definition of harassment or a true threat. Instead, it highlights the instinctual nature of parental protection in response to perceived danger. This understanding is crucial in assessing the appropriateness of any restraining orders or legal actions taken against the Respondent.

In summary, the Respondent's statement, made in a moment of heightened emotion and concern for her family's safety, should be interpreted within its proper context. Witness testimony supports the idea that the comment was not intended as a direct threat but rather as an expression of fear. This perspective is vital for the appeal, arguing that the statement does not constitute harassment and should not serve as a basis for any restraining order. The focus should be on understanding the emotional context and the instinctual protective responses of a parent in challenging situations.

**Analysis for the Appeal: Legal Definition of Harassment**

**C. Harassment Elements Not Met:**

1. Overview of Legal Standards for Harassment

- The appeal argues that the evidence presented in the original complaint fails to meet the legal definition of harassment. For harassment to be substantiated, it typically requires a clear demonstration of intentional, substantial, and unreasonable intrusion into the privacy or personal space of the complaining party. The threshold for harassment is designed to protect individuals from genuine threats and unwarranted intrusions while allowing for normal, necessary interactions in daily life.

## 2. Nature of the Interactions

- The interactions cited in the complaint primarily involve routine communications related to the child's education. These communications—such as discussing school policies, addressing educational needs, or providing updates on the child's progress—are standard practice between teachers and parents. They are essential for fostering a cooperative educational environment and do not constitute the type of invasive behavior that the harassment standard seeks to address.

## 3. Lack of Intentionality

- For a claim of harassment to hold, there must be evidence of intentionality behind the actions that allegedly constitute harassment. The evidence should demonstrate that the Respondent acted with the purpose of intruding on the Petitioner's privacy or creating a hostile environment. In this case, the interactions described do not reflect such intent. Rather, they represent necessary communications focused on the child's educational welfare, which is a shared responsibility between parents and educators.

## 4. Absence of Substantial Intrusion

- The requirement for "substantial" intrusion further underscores the inadequacy of the evidence presented. Substantial intrusion typically involves actions that are invasive, threatening, or harmful to an individual's peace of mind. The routine nature of the communications—conducted in a professional context regarding the education of a child—does not rise to the level of substantial intrusion. Instead, these interactions should be viewed as an integral part of the educational process, devoid of any malicious or intrusive intent. A parent reporting a teacher because she intentionally violated her child's privacy rights by posting her picture on social media, which holds both criminal and civil penalties does not rise to substantial intrusion. It is the parent's instinct to protect the child.

## 5. Reasonableness of the Actions

- Additionally, the actions and communications in question must be evaluated for reasonableness. The interactions described as harassment should be assessed against societal norms and expectations within the context of education. Given the supportive and cooperative nature of parent-teacher interactions, it is unreasonable to categorize these necessary communications as harassment. Further, the appeal argues that demanding the Petitioner remove an unauthorized photo of her child from the school's website and social media page, is reasonable especially when the parent declined consent in writing and verbally.

In summary, the appeal asserts that the evidence fails to establish the essential elements required for a harassment claim. The interactions cited are routine, professional, and necessary for the child's education, lacking the intentionality, substantiality, and unreasonableness that characterize genuine harassment. This analysis should guide the court in recognizing that the original claims do not meet the legal threshold for harassment, thereby supporting the argument for overturning the restraining order and dismissing the harassment allegations.

### **Analysis for the Appeal:**

#### **D. Evidence and Harassment Claims**

##### **1. Examination of Evidence Presented**

- The appeal emphasizes that the evidence provided in the original complaint fails to substantiate the claims of harassment. The specific instances cited—routine communications about the child's welfare and education—do not align with the legal definition of harassment. For a claim to be valid, it must demonstrate that the interactions were not only intrusive but also unreasonable and intentional.

##### **2. Nature of the Communications**

- The communications between the teacher and the parent centered around standard educational responsibilities. Discussions regarding the child's head injury or requests for necessary enrollment forms are quintessential examples of the interactions expected in a teacher-parent dynamic. These exchanges are not only appropriate but also critical for ensuring the child's well-being and educational success.

##### **3. Lack of Invasive Behavior**

- Harassment typically involves actions that intrude upon an individual's privacy in a significant way. The instances mentioned in the appeal reflect professional, necessary communications rather than invasive behaviors. The focus on the child's educational needs indicates a collaborative effort between the parent and teacher, rather than any intent to harass or intrude upon personal boundaries.

##### **4. Absence of Communications Outside Official Channels**

- The appeal further supports the argument that there was no harassment by highlighting the absence of any communications outside of official channels. The lack of contact through personal messages, phone calls, or other informal means reinforces the idea that all interactions were appropriate and conducted in a professional context. The parties have never seen each other at any location besides the school. This lack of informal communication diminishes the claim that the interactions were harassing or invasive.

##### **5. Context of the Teacher-Parent Relationship**

- It is crucial to consider the context of the teacher-parent relationship, which is built on collaboration and communication to support the child's education. The actions taken by the teacher were part of her professional duties and aligned with the expectations for parental involvement in a child's schooling. The actions taken by the Respondent were

part of her parental responsibilities and aligned with the expectations for parental involvement in a child's schooling. The normalcy of these interactions stands in stark contrast to the claims of harassment, which require a much higher threshold of intrusion.

- The appeal notes there has been no communication between the Petitioner and the Respondent since on/about September 26, 2024, and the child is no longer in her class.

In summary, the appeal argues that the evidence presented does not support the claims of harassment as defined by law. The communications described are standard, relevant to the child's welfare, and devoid of any invasive intent. The absence of any off-the-record communications further underscores the argument that these interactions were appropriate and necessary. Therefore, the appeal calls for the dismissal of harassment allegations, reinforcing the notion that the original claims lack legal merit.

### **Analysis for the Appeal:**

#### **E. Deficient Complaint**

##### **1. Overview of Legal Standards for Complaints**

- The appeal asserts that the complaint against the Respondent fails to meet essential legal standards. Specifically, a valid harassment claim must provide a clear and detailed account of the alleged behavior, including the time, place, and manner of the incidents. These specifics are crucial for establishing the basis of the allegations and ensuring that the Respondent has a fair opportunity to respond.

##### **2. Lack of Specificity**

- The complaint's failure to articulate specific details regarding the alleged harassment significantly undermines its validity. Vague or generalized claims do not provide a clear picture of the supposed actions, making it difficult to determine whether they meet the legal definition of harassment. Without precise information, the Respondent is left without adequate context to prepare an effective defense.

##### **3. Importance of Time, Place, and Manner**

- Legal standards require that complaints outline the time, place, and manner of the alleged harassment to substantiate the claims. This information is necessary for the court to assess the validity of the allegations and determine if the Respondent's actions fall within the scope of harassment as defined by law. The absence of these critical details renders the complaint insufficient and legally deficient.

##### **4. Impact on Legal Proceedings**

- The lack of specificity in the complaint not only weakens the allegations but also complicates the legal proceedings. Courts rely on detailed complaints to evaluate the merits of a case and to ensure that both parties could present their arguments fairly. A deficient complaint can lead to unjust legal outcomes and may ultimately infringe upon the Respondent's rights.

### 5. Necessity for Substantiation

- To hold legal weight, allegations of harassment must be substantiated with concrete evidence and specific details. The appeal argues that the failure to provide such details indicates a lack of foundation for the claims, undermining their credibility. A complaint that does not clearly delineate the alleged actions cannot reasonably support a legal finding of harassment.

In summary, the appeal contends that the complaint against the Respondent is legally deficient due to its failure to meet essential standards. The lack of specificity regarding the time, place, and manner of the alleged harassment significantly undermines the credibility of the claims and deprives the Respondent of the opportunity to mount an adequate defense. As such, the appeal calls for the dismissal of the harassment allegations based on the inadequacy of the complaint.

### Analysis for the Appeal

#### F. Violation of Other Constitutional Rights:

##### Context of Disabilities and IDEA Compliance

Considering the information regarding the Respondent's children, the appeal can further emphasize the implications of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and the protections afforded to children with disabilities in educational settings.

##### 1. Educational Rights Under IDEA

- The Respondent's three children are entitled to educational services and protections under IDEA, which mandates that children with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE) tailored to their individual needs. The pending evaluation for the fourth child indicates an ongoing commitment to ensuring that all children receive necessary support. The restraining order could hinder the Respondent's ability to advocate effectively for her children's educational rights, potentially violating their rights under IDEA.

##### 2. Impact of the Restraining Order

- The restraining order may restrict the Respondent's ability to engage with school personnel regarding her children's needs and rights, including necessary discussions about their education plans and accommodations. This interference could be viewed as not only a personal detriment to the Respondent but also as a violation of her children's rights to appropriate educational services and supports.

##### 3. Constitutional Rights to Education

- The appeal raises the constitutional argument that the Respondent and her children have a right to access education without undue barriers. The restrictions imposed by the restraining order may be interpreted as a violation of these rights, particularly given that the children are already receiving special education services. This argument aligns with both state and federal laws designed to protect the educational rights of children with disabilities.

4. Retaliation for Advocacy

- o The appeal asserts that the actions taken against the Respondent, including the issuance of the restraining order, may be retaliatory in nature. If the Respondent's requests for evaluations and advocacy for her children's needs led to the Petitioner's actions, this could further substantiate claims of wrongful retaliation, particularly in a context where the Respondent is exercising her rights to secure appropriate educational services for her children.

5. Summary

- o In summary, assessing the context of the Respondent's children's disabilities into the appeal demonstrates the significant legal protections and rights afforded under IDEA. The appeal argues that the restraining order not only infringes upon the Respondent's rights but also poses a direct threat to the educational rights of her special needs children. The appeal asserts that the Court must consider these factors and the overarching need to protect the rights of children with disabilities in educational settings, ultimately seeking to overturn the restraining order based on these crucial considerations.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the appeal presents a multi-faceted argument emphasizing procedural errors, a misapplication of harassment standards, lack of supporting evidence, and violations of constitutional rights. These grounds collectively assert that the original ruling should be overturned, as the legal foundations of the complaint are insufficient and do not adhere to established legal standards. The Respondent's actions, rather than constituting harassment, reflect her rights and responsibilities as a parent and member of the school community. The appeal seeks not only to challenge the restraining order but also to affirm the Respondent's rights and the importance of due process in legal proceedings.

Given these points, I respectfully request that the court reconsider the restraining order issued against me, as it is unsupported by the facts and law. I believe that the errors made during the initial proceedings warrant a reversal of the order.

I respectfully request that a copy of this Notice be served to the Petitioner, Shelby Troublefield, at their last known address, or her counsel of record, if applicable.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Freda Stevens



# KERSHAW COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

SHERIFF LEE BOAN

COMMON PLEAS COURT

Return # 44545  
Process # C2024-04143  
Docket # 2024CP2800851  
Catalog Number

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF KERSHAW

FREDA STEVENS

Plaintiff,

- vs -

SHELBY TROUBLEFIELD

Defendant

}  
}  
}  
}  
}  
}  
}  
}  
}  
}

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

PERSONALLY comes the undersigned, who says on oath that on the 29th day of October, 2024, at 10:00 AM he/she served the Civil Action Coversheet; Notice of Civil Appeal on SHELBY TROUBLEFIELD by delivering unto SHELBY TROUBLEFIELD at Met at 1964 FORT JACKSON RD, LUGOFF, SC 29078 personally copy(ies) thereof. Service of process was made in accordance with applicable statutes and the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedures in effect at the time of service.

Comments

Date Returned 10/29/24

Signed

*Joshua J. Chavis*  
Deputy Joshua Chavis  
Kershaw County Sheriff's Office  
821 Ridgeway Road  
Lugoff, SC 29078  
Phone: (803) 425-1512  
Fax: (803) 425-6021

Date

*10-29-24*

JANET C. HASTY  
CLERK OF COURT  
KERSHAW COUNTY, S.C.

2024 NOV - 7 PM 4: 25

FILED FOR RECORD

NOTARY STATEMENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me, on this 29th day of October, 2024.

Signed

*Laura Garcia*

Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission Expires: *6/22/2032*

2024-CP-28-00851

IN THE SUMMARY COURT

CASE NO. 2024-OR-2810100071

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
 COUNTY OF KERSHAW )  
 )  
 Shelby T. Troublefield, )  
 )  
 Plaintiff, )  
 )  
 vs. )  
 )  
 Freda Stevens, )  
 )  
 Defendant. )

FILED FOR RECORD  
 2024 DEC 18 AM 11:43  
 JANET C. HASTY  
 CLERK OF COURT  
 KERSHAW COUNTY, S.C.  
 RETURN

This matter, a Complaint and Motion for a Restraining Order, came before the Court on October 21, 2024. It was continued to that date from an original hearing date of October 14, 2024, at the request of Defendant's attorney, Alissa Wilson.

Present at the hearing was the Plaintiff represented by Derek A. Shoemake. The Defendant was present with her attorney, Alissa Wilson.

After the hearing concluded, and a ruling on the record was made, the Court learned that the hearing was not recorded due to a malfunction of the recording system, or human error. Thus, this return is based on the notes commensurately taken by the undersigned, the exhibits offered and testimony taken and recounted and summarized herein, and the complete Court file, attached hereto.

Plaintiff is a school teacher, employed at Doby's Mill Elementary School. Defendant is the mother of a minor child attending that school in Plaintiff's class.

Plaintiff alleges conduct by Defendant constituting Harassment, second degree, pursuant to § 16-3-1700(B) of the South Carolina Code of Laws (1976, as amended).

Plaintiff alleged in her Motion, and testimony and evidence offered centered around several comments, actions or circumstances involving Ms. Stevens, her child, and Ms. Troublefield.

RJ

1. A September 10, 2024 comment by Ms. Stevens uttering the words “I have too many guns.” The context for this comment was a meeting at the school regarding child transportation. The comment was testified to by Ms. Heights and Ms. Cappozziello, school employees and witnesses for Plaintiff. The comment was communicated to Plaintiff.

2. A September 23, 2024 email claim between Ms. Troublefield and Ms. Stevens regarding missing forms. (See Plaintiff exhibit #2)

3. A September 25, 2024 incident involving Ms. Troublefield and Ms. Stevens in a car pick up line at the school in which Ms. Stevens got into a verbal altercation with Ms. Troublefield. Witnesses for Plaintiff Ms. Mosely and Ms. Lewis (the Principal) testified of yelling and irate conduct by Ms. Stevens and Ms. Stevens accusing Ms. Troublefield of unprofessional conduct.

4. A September 26, 2024 email exchange between Ms. Stevens, Ms. Lewis, and Ms. Troublefield regarding a social media post involving the child, with Ms. Stevens addressing Ms. Troublefield as “Ms. Trashfield.” (See Plaintiff exhibit #1)

5. A September 30, 2024 incident and conversation involving Ms. Stevens and Ms. Lewis overheard by Ms. Beckley. This meeting occurred at the behest of Ms. Stevens and occurred at the school, for the purpose of allaying concerns by Ms. Stevens regarding placement of her child in Ms. Troublefield’s class and to de-escalate a deteriorating parent-teacher relationship. Testimony by Ms. Lewis says Ms. Stevens made comments about “destroying” Ms. Troublefield’s career and “turning her career and the school upside down.” Also, a comment by Ms. Stevens that “If I think she (Troublefield) will hurt me or my child, I will blow her brains out.” Ms. Lewis testified the comments as aforesaid were relayed to Ms. Troublefield. Either Ms. Lewis or Ms. Beckley testified the blowing brains out comment was repeated twice by Ms. Stevens.

Plaintiff testified that the aforesaid chain of events, and comments, caused her emotional distress and caused her to fear for her personnel safety. Plaintiff testified of changing her personal habits by reason of this chain of events. Witnesses supported this statement alluding to Ms. Troublefield's change in behavior.

Defendant's cross-examination of these incidents focused on the fact that no face-to-face direct threats were made by Ms. Stevens to Ms. Troublefield, and that any comments made were not threats, and to the extent that comments were made they were not serious comments or were joking comments not to be taken literally. Defendant did introduce a text chain between her and Ms. Troublefield concerning a variety of normal back and forth conversations between a parent and teacher. The item introduced was for the purpose of showing just that, a normal back and forth regarding the welfare and education of the child.

With regards to the September 25, 2024 incident, and the email communications, cross focused on the fact that no threats were made in the car pick up line, none were heard by witnesses and no physical alteration took place.

Ms. Stevens did not testify. Defendant's counsel in final statements reiterated that no direct threats were made by Defendant to Plaintiff, that if made it was protected speech, and that actions by Ms. Stevens were taken by her only in furtherance of the best interests of her child. A no-trespass notice was served on Ms. Stevens by law enforcement on behalf of the School District as a product of these occurrences.

The Court issued a Restraining Order in favor of Plaintiff, as against the Defendant.

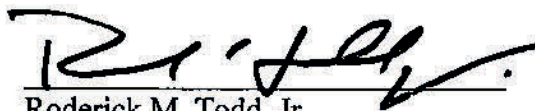
Taking all the testimony together, the Court was of the opinion that a pattern of unreasonable and intrusive conduct had been initiated by Ms. Stevens, and the cumulative effect of this conduct had caused Plaintiff mental or emotional distress.

Particularly, the Court expressed severe concern over the September 10<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> comments, alluding to guns or firearm violence, both comments being made on school grounds to school personnel, and both communicated to Plaintiff. The Court considers these comments to be unreasonable intrusions into the life of Plaintiff, per se.

The Court wondered out loud what a proper context would actually be for comments such as that, involving allusions to firearms on school grounds. The Court felt that even if these comments were made outside of the presence of Plaintiff, but were communicated to her, a pattern of harassment was established nonetheless. A pattern was established which taken as a whole caused the Court great concern. The Court believed that the stated reactions and fears expressed by Plaintiff were reasonable under the circumstances then and there prevailing.

The Restraining Order was issued by the Court with the appeal being perfected in Circuit Court. No motion to alter or amend the Order and judgment was made by Defendant.

Respectfully submitted,



Roderick M. Todd, Jr.  
Magistrate, Kershaw County

December 17, 2024

Attachment  
Court File including Exhibits



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF KERSHAW

Shelby T. Troublefield  
Name & Phone# )  
1716 Stuckley Town Rd  
Address )  
Romert SC 29128  
City State Zip )

PLAINTIFF(S)

CIVIL CASE NUMBER  
IN THE MAGISTRATES COURT

COMPLAINT AND MOTION  
FOR RESTRAINING ORDER  
(Harassment and Stalking)

VS.

Freda Stevens  
Name & Phone# )  
227 Carrington Drive  
Address )  
Elgin SC 29045  
City State Zip )

DEFENDANT(S)

The Plaintiff alleges:

1. The Plaintiff lives in <sup>Lee</sup> Kershaw County.
2. The Defendant lives at 227 Carrington Dr., Elgin, SC 29045, which is in Kershaw County.
3. The Harassment First or Second Degree or Stalking occurred in Kershaw County.
4. Plaintiff further alleges that the following conduct occurred by the defendant on the times, dates, and places listed below, and such conduct falls within the definition of:
  - HARASSMENT, FIRST DEGREE (Sec. 16-3-1700 (A), or
  - HARASSMENT, SECOND DEGREE (Sec. 16-3-1700 (B), or
  - STALKING (Sec. 16-3-1700 (C).
5. On 9-30-24 at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, A.M./P.M (circle one), at (location) Doby Mill Elementary, which is in Kershaw County, South Carolina, the conduct complained of occurred when the defendant:

I am a 4k teacher at Doby's Mill Elementary School. On September 30, 2024 Ms. Stevens was at the school for a meeting regarding the placement of her child Amara. Ms. Stevens told the Principal and Vice Principal that she would "blow my brains out." She repeated this statement a second time. She also stated that she would destroy my career and turn the building and county upside down if needed. I have had previous conversations where Mrs. Stevens has gotten angry and called me "Miss Trashfield." multiple times and degraded me and harassed me. She has gone out of her way to yell and cuss at me in the car rider line. She is irrational and I am scared that she will follow through with the threats against me and the school.

Case Number 2024-0665 has been opened with the Kershaw County Sheriff's Department.

MV29  
SCCA/749 (Amended 12/2015)

Plaintiff requests: (Check one or more)

- a. That the Defendant be enjoined from abusing, threatening to abuse, or molesting the plaintiff or members of the plaintiff's family.
- b. That the Defendant be enjoined from entering or attempting to enter the plaintiff's place of residence, employment, education, or other location.
- c. That the Defendant be enjoined from communicating or attempting to communicate with the plaintiff in a way that would violate Article 17, Chapter 16 of the 1976 South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended.

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME: Anne S. Conder this 1st day of October 2024



Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission expires: 4-27-31

Shelly Hill Rice  
Signature of Plaintiff or Person filing  
on behalf of Plaintiff

**NOTICE: THE NON-PREVAILING PARTY IN THIS ACTION IS ASSESSED A FILING FEE OF FIFTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$55.00). THE COURT MAY HOLD A PERSON IN CONTEMPT OF COURT FOR FAILURE TO PAY THIS FILING FEE. §16-03-170(D).**

**NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO EMPLOY COUNSEL TO REPRESENT YOU.**

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

2024OR2810100071  
CIVIL CASE NUMBER

COUNTY OF KERSHAW

IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT

**SUMMONS  
(RESTRAINING ORDER)  
(Harassment and Stalking)**

Shelby T Troublefield  
1716 Stuckey Town Road  
Rembert, SC 29128

PLAINTIFF(S)

VS.

Freda Stevens  
227 Carrington Drive  
Elgin, SC 29045

DEFENDANT(S)

TO: Shelby Troublefield :

The above named Plaintiff having filed a Petition for Restraining Order, copy attached:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR before the:

Kershaw County Magistrate Court  
1121 Broad Street  
Camden, SC

on October 14, 2024 at 3:00 PM to show cause why the Restraining Order prayed for by the Petitioner should not be granted.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR, the relief prayed for by the Plaintiff may be granted.

NOTICE: THE NON-PREVAILING PARTY IN THIS ACTION IS ASSESSED A FILING FEE OF FIFTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$55.00). THE COURT MAY HOLD A PERSON IN CONTEMPT OF COURT FOR FAILURE TO PAY THIS FILING FEE. §16-03-1750(D).

October 1, 2024

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(MAGISTRATE)

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

2024OR2810100071  
CIVIL CASE NUMBER

COUNTY OF KERSHAW

IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT

**SUMMONS  
(RESTRAINING ORDER)  
(Harassment and Stalking)**

Shelby T Troublefield  
1716 Stuckey Town Road  
Rembert, SC 29128

PLAINTIFF(S)

VS.

Freda Stevens  
227 Carrington Drive  
Elgin, SC 29045

DEFENDANT(S)

TO: Freda Stevens :

The above named Plaintiff having filed a Petition for Restraining Order, copy attached:

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR** before the:

**Kershaw County Magistrate Court  
1121 Broad Street  
Camden, SC**

on **October 14, 2024 at 3:00 PM** to show cause why the Restraining Order prayed for by the Petitioner should not be granted.

**IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR, the relief prayed for by the Plaintiff may be granted.**

**NOTICE: THE NON-PREVAILING PARTY IN THIS ACTION IS ASSESSED A FILING FEE OF FIFTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$55.00). THE COURT MAY HOLD A PERSON IN CONTEMPT OF COURT FOR FAILURE TO PAY THIS FILING FEE. §16-03-1750(D).**

October 1, 2024

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(MAGISTRATE)

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**COUNTY OF KERSHAW**

Freda Stevens  
227 Carrington Drive  
Elgin, SC 29045

**MAGISTRATE SUMMONS**

You are hereby summoned to be and appear personally in the

**Kershaw County Magistrate Court**  
**1121 Broad Street**  
**Camden, SC**

on **October 14, 2024 at 3:00 PM** to serve as a party in a Bench Trial in the case of:

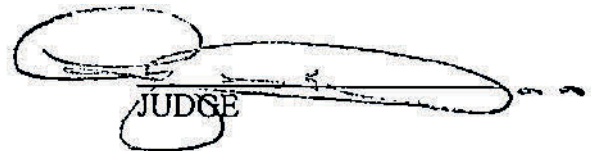
**RE: Shelby T Troublefield Vs Freda Stevens**

\_\_\_\_\_  
PLAINTIFF(S)

\_\_\_\_\_  
DEFENDANT(S)

Civil Case Number: **2024OR2810100071, Restraining Order.**

**HEREIN FAIL NOT, ON PAIN OF FORFEITING THE LAWFUL PENALTY IN  
SUCH CASE MADE AND PROVIDED.**

  
JUDGE

**Kershaw County Magistrate Court**  
**1121 Broad Street**  
**Camden, SC 29020**  
**Phone: (803) 425-7226**  
**Fax: (803) 425-6044**

**October 1, 2024**

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF KERSHAW**

Shelby Troublefield  
1716 Stuckey Town Road  
Rembert, SC 29128

**MAGISTRATE SUMMONS**

You are hereby summoned to be and appear personally in the

**Kershaw County Magistrate Court  
1121 Broad Street  
Camden, SC**

on **October 14, 2024 at 3:00 PM** to serve as a party in a Bench Trial in the case of:

**RE: Shelby T Troublefield Vs Freda Stevens**

\_\_\_\_\_  
PLAINTIFF(S)

\_\_\_\_\_  
DEFENDANT(S)

Civil Case Number: **2024OR2810100071, Restraining Order.**

**HEREIN FAIL NOT, ON PAIN OF FORFEITING THE LAWFUL PENALTY IN  
SUCH CASE MADE AND PROVIDED.**



**Kershaw County Magistrate Court  
1121 Broad Street  
Camden, SC 29020  
Phone: (803) 425-7226  
Fax: (803) 425-6044**

**October 1, 2024**



# KERSHAW COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

SHERIFF LEE BOAN

MAGISTRATE COURT

Return # 44076  
Process # C2024-03668  
Docket # 2024OR2810100071  
Catalog Number

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF KERSHAW

SHELBY TROUBLEFIELD

Plaintiff,

- vs -

FREDA NICHOLE SHERMAN-STEVENSON

Defendant

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

PERSONALLY comes the undersigned, who says on oath that on the 3rd day of October, 2024, at 8:04 AM he/she served the Summons-HEARING NOTICE: Restraining Order on FREDA NICHOLE SHERMAN-STEVENSON by delivering unto FREDA NICHOLE SHERMAN-STEVENSON at 227 CARRINGTON DR, LUGOFF, SC 29078 personally copy(ies) thereof. Service of process was made in accordance with applicable statutes and the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedures in effect at the time of service.

Comments

Date Returned 10/3/24

Signed Matthew Clark  
Deputy Matthew Clark  
Kershaw County Sheriff's Office  
821 Ridgeway Road  
Lugoff, SC 29078  
Phone: (803) 425-1512  
Fax: (803) 425-6021

Date 10/3/24

NOTARY STATEMENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me, on this 3rd day of October, 2024.

Signed Laura Garcia  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission Expires: 6/22/2032

# TOUMA LAW GROUP

Alissa Wilson, Esquire

1820 Bull Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

(803) 836-9422  
[alissa@toulmalawgroup.com](mailto:alissa@toulmalawgroup.com)

October 9, 2024

*Via Email: [susan.hughes@kershaw.sc.gov](mailto:susan.hughes@kershaw.sc.gov)*

Kershaw County Magistrate Court  
1121 Broad Street  
Camden, South Carolina 29020

**Re: Shelby T. Troublefield v. Freda Stevens**  
**Case No.: 2024OR2810100071**

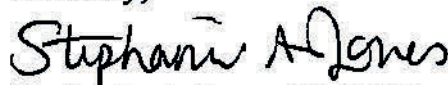
Dear Sir or Madam,

Please be advised that Alissa Wilson has been retained to represent Ms. Stevens in the above referenced matter. Also, please accept this correspondence as a written request for a continuance regarding the above referenced matter scheduled for a restraining order hearing on October 14, 2024. This request is being made as Ms. Wilson will not be able to interview witnesses before the scheduled hearing.

Ms. Wilson has been in touch with the Kershaw County School District attorney, Connie Jackson, requesting to speak with the parties. We have just learned that the witnesses are all on school break this week and on Monday will be out for Columbus Day. As both sides cannot conduct witness interviews prior to the hearing, it would be greatly appreciated if you would reschedule this matter for a later date and time and notify our offices so that I may ensure Ms. Wilson can appear on behalf of her client.

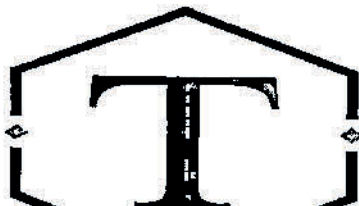
Should you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please feel free to contact our office at (803) 836-9422. Thank you in advance for your attention and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Stephanie A. Jones, PP, SCCP  
Paralegal to Alissa Wilson

/sj



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF KERSHAW

Shelby T. Troublefield,

v.

Freda Stevens,

Defendant.

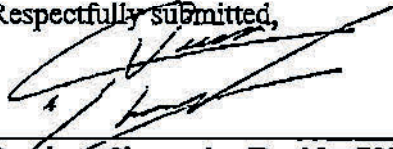
IN THE MAGISTRATES COURT

Case Number: 2024OR2810100071

**NOTICE OF APPEARANCE**

Please take notice that Derek A. Shoemake, of the Connell Law Firm, hereby enters his appearance as counsel for Plaintiff SHELBY T. TROUBLEFIELD. I certify that I am admitted and authorized to practice in this Court.

Respectfully submitted,



Derek A. Shoemake (Bar No. 78398)  
Connell Law Firm  
20 Townlee Ln Suite A  
Lugoff SC 29078  
Office: (803) 408-8500  
Cell: (803) 427-4929  
Email: Derek@lawconnell.com

Dated: October 21, 2024

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

SUMMARY COURT  
KERSHAW COUNTY  
2024 OCT 21 AM 8:40

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

2024OR2810100071  
CIVIL CASE NUMBER

COUNTY OF KERSHAW

**ORDER OF  
DISPOSITION**

Shelby T Troublefield  
1716 Stuckey Town Road  
Rembert, SC 29128  
(803) 429-6690

PLAINTIFF(S)

Vs

Freda Stevens  
227 Carrington Drive  
Elgin, SC 29045

DEFENDANT(S)

**IT IS ORDERED that the above referenced civil case shall reflect a disposition of:**

- Restraining Order: Continued
- Dismissed
- Default Judgment
- Find for the Plaintiff for Summons and Complaint (Transcript of Judgment will be issued ten (10) days from the court date.)
- Find for the Plaintiff for Claim and Delivery (Pick Up Order issued the day of court.)
- Find for Defendant
- Transferred to another Court

\* On, October 14, 2024, A no adverse contact order (NACO) is a court order that prohibits adverse contact between two people.

*Continued til 10/21/24 @ 3 pm*

**IT SO ORDERED**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
H. Clay Carruth III  
Magistrate, Kershaw County Summary Court

Kershaw County Magistrate Court  
1121 Broad Street  
Camden, SC 29020  
Phone: (803) 425-7226  
Fax: (803) 425-6044

October 14, 2024

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF KERSHAW**

Alissa Wilson  
1820 Bull Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

**MAGISTRATE SUMMONS**

You are hereby summoned to be and appear personally in the

**Kershaw County Magistrate Court  
1121 Broad Street  
Camden, SC**

on **October 21, 2024 at 3:00 PM** to serve as a party in a Bench Trial in the case of:

**RE: Shelby T Troublefield Vs Freda Stevens**

\_\_\_\_\_  
PLAINTIFF(S)

\_\_\_\_\_  
DEFENDANT(S)

Civil Case Number: **2024OR2810100071, Restraining Order.**

**HEREIN FAIL NOT, ON PAIN OF FORFEITING THE LAWFUL PENALTY IN  
SUCH CASE MADE AND PROVIDED.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JUDGE

**Kershaw County Magistrate Court  
1121 Broad Street  
Camden, SC 29020  
Phone: (803) 425-7226  
Fax: (803) 425-6044**

**October 14, 2024**

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF KERSHAW**

Freda Stevens  
227 Carrington Drive  
Elgin, SC 29045

**MAGISTRATE SUMMONS**

You are hereby summoned to be and appear personally in the

**Kershaw County Magistrate Court  
1121 Broad Street  
Camden, SC**

on **October 21, 2024 at 3:00 PM** to serve as a party in a Bench Trial in the case of:

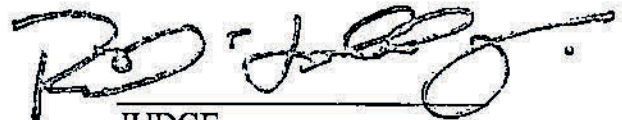
**RE: Shelby T Troublefield Vs Freda Stevens**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**PLAINTIFF(S)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DEFENDANT(S)**

**Civil Case Number: 2024OR2810100071, Restraining Order.**

**HEREIN FAIL NOT, ON PAIN OF FORFEITING THE LAWFUL PENALTY IN  
SUCH CASE MADE AND PROVIDED.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**JUDGE**

**Kershaw County Magistrate Court  
1121 Broad Street  
Camden, SC 29020  
Phone: (803) 425-7226  
Fax: (803) 425-6044**

**October 14, 2024**

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF KERSHAW**

Shelby Troublefield  
1716 Stuckey Town Road  
Rembert, SC 29128

**MAGISTRATE SUMMONS**

You are hereby summoned to be and appear personally in the

**Kershaw County Magistrate Court  
1121 Broad Street  
Camden, SC**

on **October 21, 2024** at **3:00 PM** to serve as a party in a Bench Trial in the case of:

**RE: Shelby T Troublefield**

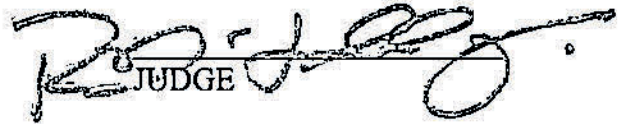
**Vs Freda Stevens**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**PLAINTIFF(S)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DEFENDANT(S)**

Civil Case Number: **2024OR2810100071, Restraining Order.**

**HEREIN FAIL NOT, ON PAIN OF FORFEITING THE LAWFUL PENALTY IN  
SUCH CASE MADE AND PROVIDED.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**JUDGE**

**Kershaw County Magistrate Court  
1121 Broad Street  
Camden, SC 29020  
Phone: (803) 425-7226  
Fax: (803) 425-6044**

**October 14, 2024**



Shelby Troublefield <shelby.troublefiel@kcsdschools.net>

---

## Amara's photo

1 message

---

Freda Stevens <stevensfreda@ymail.com>

Thu, Sep 26, 2024 at 5:37 AM

To: Sharon Lewis <sharon.lewis@kcsdschools.net>

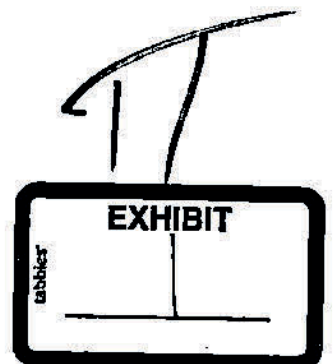
Cc: "shelby.troublefiel@kcsdschools.net" <shelby.troublefiel@kcsdschools.net>

Ms.Trashfield,

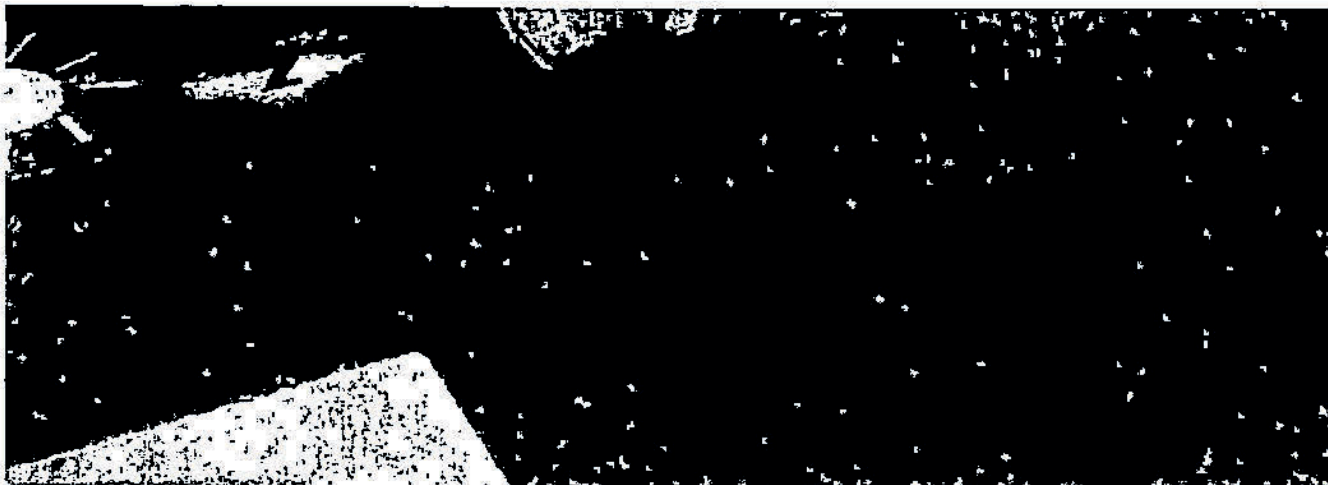
I previously told you that you did not have permission to post Amara's pictures on social media. Photos in ClassDojo are acceptable. However, I specifically stated verbally and in writing that posting Amara's picture on social media including the school website is not permitted.

I found out that you or someone posted Amara on DME's Facebook page

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Freda Stevens".







Take it down! She is still recognizable to people who search for her.

Freda

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone



Take it down! She is still recognizable to people who search for her.

Freda

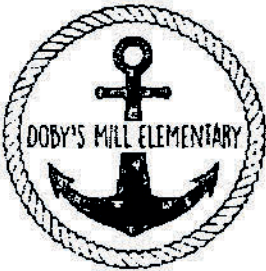
Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Sharon Lewis <sharon.lewis@kcsdschools.net>  
To: Freda Stevens <stevensfreda@ymail.com>  
Cc: "shelby.troublefiel@kcsdschools.net" <shelby.troublefiel@kcsdschools.net>

Thu, Sep 26, 2024 at 8:31 AM

Mrs. Stevens,  
We understand your request to not have your child's picture posted. Even though the picture was taken from behind her, Mrs. Troublefield did put a heart over the back of her head, so that her head is not visible in the picture, and it shows a part of her back. However, we will remove the picture.

Thank you,  
Sharon Lewis



**Sharon Lewis**  
Principal  
sharon.lewis@kcsdschools.net  
**Doby's Mill Elementary**  
1964 Ft. Jackson Rd.  
Lugoff, SC 29078  
(803) 438-4055 (Ext. 8401)  
www.kcsdschools.net/sharon.lewis

Kershaw County School District's mission is to educate all students for success in our globally dynamic society.

On Thu, Sep 26, 2024 at 5:37 AM Freda Stevens <stevensfreda@ymail.com> wrote:  
Ms.Trashfield,

I previously told you that you did not have permission to post Amara's pictures on social media. Photos in ClassDojo are acceptable. However, I specifically stated verbally and in writing that posting Amara's picture on social media including the school website is not permitted.

I found out that you or someone posted Amara on DME's Facebook page.



Take it down! She is still recognizable to people who search for her.

Freda

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone



Sharon Lewis Sep 26

Mrs. Stevens, We understand your request to not have yo...



Freda Stevens Sep 26

to Sharon, me



Yes ma'am. Thank you for respecting my written and verbal permissions regarding my child! This is another example of why I believe the students in the 4K program need a professional teacher that respects what parents say. It's not just the fact that I told Ms. Trashfield not to put my child on social media. That's one issue. The bigger issue is she subjected my child to possible harm with complete disregard for her safety. The people looking for my kids want to do them harm.

...

Reply

Reply all

Forward

Available add-ons:





Amara S's Parent (Freda)

Freda Stevens >



Oh pipe down. I know it's not true!

Watch this video.



1 Video  
share.icloud.com

*Handwritten scribbles*

September 23, 2024

We need all the papers signed and sent back out of Amara's folder. They are very important. Thank you!

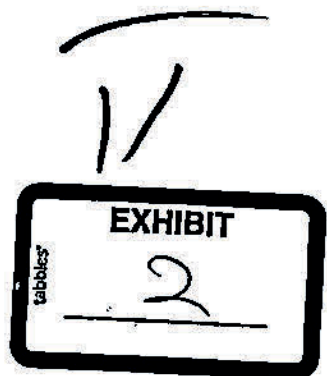
I thought it was signed the first day of school.

No ma'am. These are CERDEPT papers that must be in her file. Her folder needs to be checked and emptied every day. Thank you.

I don't have any idea what you're talking about. What papers?

You mean the one that's supposed to be signed by the principal and parent- I think?

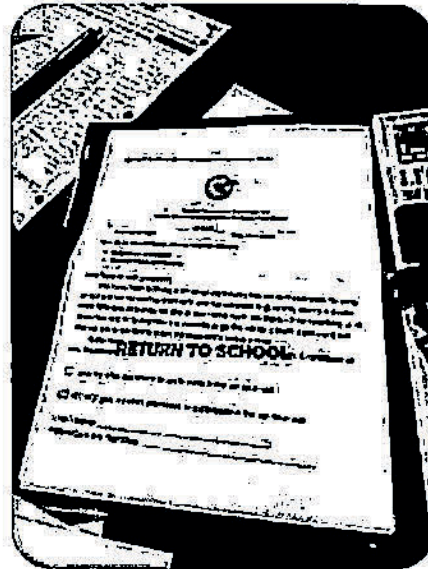
Type a message...





Amara S's Parent (Freda)

Freda Stevens >



I never received that paper.

There are 3 different ones. They are required for her to stay in the program. They have been in her folder. Please send them back tomorrow so I can check her off. Thank you.

Send it home today please

This is an actual picture of her folder

Nothing has been emptied or checked in over a week. It will be in her folder again today.

✓ 4 days ago

K I didn't receive it. I check her folder

daily. She must have received it

Type a message...



**Amara S's Parent (Freda)**

Freda Stevens &gt;



over a week. It will be in her folder again today.

✓ 4 days ago

K I didn't receive it. I check her folder daily. She must have moved it.

I will pick her up at 3 pm

I just picked up Amara. First of all this was not in her folder beforehand. Secondly if it was that important then you should have distributed it to parents the first day of school! Your Attitude is not demure. Try again tomorrow. Good night!

Third you did not sign the form as her teacher!

Fourth now I remember signing these forms as I look through the pages, so you must have lost the original signed forms. I kept wonder why your signature was missing.

September 26, 2024

Take my child's picture off facebook. I told you verbally and in writing that you didn't have permission to post her picture on social media.

Type a message...



ThreadId: 66a3c904b437c13044b82966

Current participants: Shelby Troublefield, Freda Stevens

All participants: Shelby Troublefield, Freda Stevens

[sent on 2024/09/23 at 15:19:30]

Freda Stevens:

Fourth now I remember signing these forms as I look through the pages, so you must have lost the original signed forms. I kept wonder why your signature was missing.

[sent on 2024/09/23 at 15:18:41]

Freda Stevens:

Third you did not sign the form as her teacher!

[sent on 2024/09/23 at 15:13:48]

Freda Stevens:

I just picked up Amara. First of all this was not in her folder beforehand. Secondly if it was that important then you should have distributed it to parents the first day of school! Your Attitude is not demure. Try again tomorrow. Good night!

[sent on 2024/09/23 at 14:33:38]

Freda Stevens:

I will pick her up at 3 pm

[sent on 2024/09/23 at 08:49:38]

Freda Stevens:

K I didn't receive it. I check her folder daily. She must have moved it.

[sent on 2024/09/23 at 08:48:23]

Shelby Troublefield:

Nothing has been emptied or checked in over a week. It will be in her folder again today.

[sent on 2024/09/23 at 08:47:54]

Shelby Troublefield:

This is an actual picture of her folder

[sent on 2024/09/23 at 08:47:53]

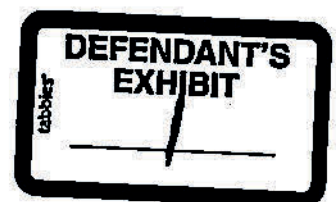
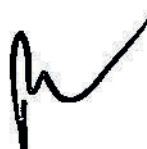
Freda Stevens:

Send it home today please

[sent on 2024/09/23 at 08:47:46]

Shelby Troublefield:

There are 3 different ones. They are required for her to stay in the program. They have been in her folder. Please send them back tomorrow so I can check her off. Thank you.



[sent on 2024/09/23 at 08:47:37]

Freda Stevens:

I never received that paper.

[sent on 2024/09/23 at 08:47:08]

Shelby Troublefield:

[photo attachment: attachments/  
attachment-66f1634b8aabe24d7e72b415.jpg]

[sent on 2024/09/23 at 08:46:26]

Freda Stevens:

You mean the one that's supposed to be signed by the principal and parent- I think?

[sent on 2024/09/23 at 08:46:03]

Freda Stevens:

I don't have any idea what you're talking about. What papers?

[sent on 2024/09/23 at 08:44:26]

Shelby Troublefield:

No ma'am. These are CERDEPT papers that must be in her file. Her folder needs to be checked and emptied every day. Thank you.

[sent on 2024/09/23 at 08:42:18]

Freda Stevens:

I thought it was signed the first day of school.

[sent on 2024/09/23 at 08:41:35]

Shelby Troublefield:

We need all the papers signed and sent back out of Amara's folder. They are very important. Thank you!

[sent on 2024/09/17 at 15:58:47]

Freda Stevens:

<https://share.icloud.com/photos/033im9e6pd0qgUkhIJGm07CYQ>

[sent on 2024/09/17 at 15:46:11]

Freda Stevens:

Watch this video.

[sent on 2024/09/17 at 15:44:36]

Freda Stevens:

Oh pipe down. I know it's not true!

[sent on 2024/09/17 at 15:44:15]

Freda Stevens:

Oh my stars she just bust out laughing when I asked her why she said that...

[sent on 2024/09/17 at 15:44:05]

Shelby Troublefield:

I have never and will never tell a child to not eat their food. If you would like to call Mrs. Lewis or or Mrs. Beckley to discuss this any further please feel free

[sent on 2024/09/17 at 15:43:43]

Freda Stevens:

👉👉👉 There's just no way my baby is not telling the truth! I cannot.

[sent on 2024/09/17 at 15:43:18]

Freda Stevens:

YES!

[sent on 2024/09/17 at 15:43:07]

Shelby Troublefield:

Do you seriously believe that?

[sent on 2024/09/17 at 15:42:51]

Freda Stevens:

Amara just said that you told her not to eat her food?!

[sent on 2024/09/16 at 16:09:13]

Shelby Troublefield:

Hey. I can not speak on another child, but nobody put cupcake in her hair (on purpose) or she would have been the first to come tell me. If somebody did that I wouldn't be alerted. She is not shy to tell on her friends if they are doing wrong. Now 4 year olds and cupcakes are messy, so I have no doubt she may have come in contact with icing and may have touched her hair? Or maybe laid in the carpet

[sent on 2024/09/16 at 15:06:08]

Freda Stevens:

Why is she telling me that Willow put cupcakes in her hair?

[sent on 2024/09/16 at 14:55:35]

Freda Stevens:

What is this blue stuff on her hair?

[sent on 2024/09/12 at 18:06:18]

Freda Stevens:

Smearing

[sent on 2024/09/12 at 12:01:40]

Freda Stevens:

Thank you!

[sent on 2024/09/12 at 11:58:33]

Shelby Troublefield:

I appreciate your kind words.

I will keep this information in the back of my head and let you know if I start seeing any of these behaviors consistently at school. We have not seen the hitting but we have seen snatching and the lying. Snatching is developmentally appropriate to a certain point, but we have taught her the skills and given her the tools to use her words and take turns now. She is a very sweet child overall and we love her.

[sent on 2024/09/12 at 11:58:17]

Freda Stevens:

She's starting to show you Frederica! She's Amara or Mari when she acts right.

[sent on 2024/09/12 at 11:55:53]

Freda Stevens:

Sometimes she dances inappropriately too. Allayah taught her how to twerk!

[sent on 2024/09/12 at 11:55:26]

Freda Stevens:

At home she's very sweet and can be helpful. However, as sweet and cute as she is: she can look you straight in the face and lie, she hits, she plays with toothpaste in the bathroom and likes spearing it all over the walls, hides toys from kids, and sometimes doesn't like to share.

[sent on 2024/09/12 at 11:53:57]

Freda Stevens:

Yes ma'am I really appreciate that because I know it's coming from a genuine place. I saw from the beginning how Kenny loved you and when you met Amara she loved you too. That means a lot as a mom.

[sent on 2024/09/12 at 11:46:31]

Shelby Troublefield:

Thank you for your apology. I take pride in how well I take care for and love on my children. Because when they are here, they are mine and I take that very seriously.

If you want, (you don't have to) you can let me know what behaviors you are seeing at home and I can let you know if and when they occur if they become consistent. A lot of the time what you see at home can transfer to school as well, especially once they are settled into school and comfortable but not always.

I told her you were very unhappy with her and I as well about her lying and trying to get others in trouble when she is afraid of getting a consequence. I had her put the ziploc baggy with the hair inside of it into her backpack to take home today.

[sent on 2024/09/12 at 11:41:11]

Freda Stevens:

Amara has behaviors at home. But, I didn't think she would exhibit them at school too. Dad and I will get on her about lying on top of playing with her hair when she gets home.

[sent on 2024/09/12 at 11:40:13]

Freda Stevens:

Wow. I actually went totally off that day because she said some girl who Allayah initially thought was in 5th grade was messing with her hair. I am so sorry! I really went off on you that day.

[sent on 2024/09/12 at 11:35:33]

Shelby Troublefield:

Not another child

[sent on 2024/09/12 at 11:35:29]

Shelby Troublefield:

Yes ma'am. That knot was from her

[sent on 2024/09/12 at 11:35:18]

Shelby Troublefield:

No ma'am she is telling you stories. Nobody is messing her hair up except for her. We watched her pull it down today and she constantly twist and pulls on it

[sent on 2024/09/12 at 11:34:49]

Freda Stevens:

Is that what actually happened that day she had a knot in her hair?

[sent on 2024/09/12 at 11:34:14]

Freda Stevens:

Allayah told me that she did that one day as soon as she was dropped off to school! That's wild. She told me that Willow was braiding and unbraiding her hair.

[sent on 2024/09/12 at 11:33:01]

Shelby Troublefield:

A pink piece will be in a ziploc bag and in her backpack for you

[sent on 2024/09/12 at 11:32:04]

Shelby Troublefield:

We will remind her not to play with her hair, but we do not physically punish students at school. I have reminded her multiple times that we leave our hair how our parents send us to school, and she is always unbraiding her own braid and messing with it.

[sent on 2024/09/12 at 11:28:43]

Freda Stevens:

tell her I said to stop it! I am NOT doing her hair again until September 30th

[sent on 2024/09/12 at 11:28:07]

Freda Stevens:  
pop her hand for me. she knows better!

[sent on 2024/09/12 at 11:27:52]

Freda Stevens:  
what!!!!

[sent on 2024/09/12 at 11:27:20]

Shelby Troublefield:  
Just letting you know Amara took her own hair down today and now it's falling out. Whatever falls out will be put in her backpack. Have a great day.  
[photo attachment: attachments/attachment-66e30857b5d83948e8376b62.jpg]

[sent on 2024/09/10 at 11:28:22]

Shelby Troublefield:  
Either myself or Ms. Gillis will walk her down

[sent on 2024/09/10 at 11:25:09]

Freda Stevens:  
I'm so used to daycare drop off and pick up. :-)

[sent on 2024/09/10 at 11:24:41]

Freda Stevens:  
But how will she get to the office though??? Does she know how to walk to the office by herself?

[sent on 2024/09/10 at 11:24:09]

Freda Stevens:  
Yes ma'am. I will do that.

[sent on 2024/09/10 at 11:23:39]

Shelby Troublefield:  
If you are wanting to sign Amara out you have to do so from the front office. Not by coming to the classroom. Thank you!

[sent on 2024/09/10 at 11:23:13]

Shelby Troublefield:  
?

[sent on 2024/09/10 at 11:17:01]

Freda Stevens:  
Coming to the classroom at 1 pm today

[sent on 2024/09/09 at 18:24:28]

Shelby Troublefield:  
All after school activities are optional. Have a great evening.

[sent on 2024/09/09 at 18:15:46]

Freda Stevens:

Welp guess you know our answer- hard pass! Firm NO

[sent on 2024/09/09 at 16:56:59]

Shelby Troublefield:

The dance is for K-2 only. Siblings will not be allowed. There will be a 3rd-5th grade dance at a later date. No parents, teachers will be there to chaperone and supervise.

[sent on 2024/09/09 at 15:14:05]

Freda Stevens:

In terms of the dance, is it for prek - 2nd students only? Can her siblings attend? What about parents?

[sent on 2024/09/09 at 12:16:50]

Freda Stevens:

Hey Ms. Troublefield, Kenny's having cupcakes on Friday for his birthday. I'd like for Amara to come over and help sing happy birthday to him. It would be just for a few minutes.

[sent on 2024/09/09 at 11:41:22]

Freda Stevens:

butt dialed

[sent on 2024/09/06 at 16:42:59]

Shelby Troublefield:

Have a great weekend!

[sent on 2024/09/06 at 16:26:51]

Freda Stevens:

Gotta run. Have a good weekend!

[sent on 2024/09/06 at 16:26:32]

Freda Stevens:

🥰🥰🥰 my sweet Amara! I love ❤️ the fact that they're all in the same school. They like matching each other's clothes. They always tell us when they see each other throughout the day. It's good for them! But the older sibs defensive arguments failed 🤔🤔🤔🤔🤔. She thought she was off the hook- nope!

[sent on 2024/09/06 at 16:08:18]

Shelby Troublefield:

She was like a deer caught in the headlights when I called her name. She basically shuffled over to me because she knew she was in trouble.

🤔🤔 she said "I not do it again, I promise!"

They had to clean up the mess and sit for a minute and then she had a great rest of her day. Her siblings asked what the note was for and

she made sure not to make eye contact so I wouldn't tell them 🙄

[sent on 2024/09/06 at 15:42:19]

Freda Stevens:

BTW she plays with toothpaste at home so dad and I already know it's true! It's cute 🥰 to watch them defend her though.

[sent on 2024/09/06 at 15:41:03]

Freda Stevens:

They have provided every defense known to mankind! I cannot.

[sent on 2024/09/06 at 15:40:40]

Freda Stevens:

🥰🥰🥰🥰 they are tryna to keep baby girl from getting spanked!!!

[sent on 2024/09/06 at 15:37:43]

Shelby Troublefield:

I have never yelled at that youngin. 🙄

[sent on 2024/09/06 at 15:20:17]

Freda Stevens:

My stars .. you should hear these little attorneys defending their client. 🥰🥰🥰🥰

[sent on 2024/09/06 at 15:18:42]

Freda Stevens:

I promise you she won't. I don't play these kinda games! OAN her sibs are tryna defend her by saying you yelled at her and told her to get her butt back in line! 🥰🥰🥰 Little scoundrels I owe them too!

[sent on 2024/09/06 at 15:16:50]

Shelby Troublefield:

Hey! Her and two other friends decided to get the soap container and dump it on the floor by the bathrooms and play in it. She was honest when we asked and she told me she will not do it again.

[sent on 2024/09/06 at 15:13:44]

Freda Stevens:

Oh no what my baby do???

[sent on 2024/09/06 at 08:14:42]

Freda Stevens:

Yw.

[sent on 2024/09/06 at 06:44:14]

Shelby Troublefield:

Good morning. Thank you for letting me know.

[sent on 2024/09/05 at 21:26:40]

Freda Stevens:

Good night. Amara will be late to school tomorrow. She's having labs done first thing in the morning but will arrive shortly afterwards.

[sent on 2024/09/03 at 10:22:45]

Shelby Troublefield:

Okay thank you

[sent on 2024/09/03 at 09:46:10]

Freda Stevens:

Good morning. Amara is lunchbox until further notice.

[sent on 2024/08/29 at 07:00:35]

Freda Stevens:

She is to keep her mask.

[sent on 2024/08/29 at 06:59:20]

Freda Stevens:

GM Amara has lunchbox today! She is not to eat school lunch.

[sent on 2024/08/27 at 12:16:26]

Freda Stevens:

Yes ma'am ty

[sent on 2024/08/27 at 12:05:30]

Shelby Troublefield:

I have no idea. We were told to encourage to go with a slightly larger size so they have growing room since this will always be what house they are in. I will put her down for a small if that is okay with you.

[sent on 2024/08/27 at 12:03:43]

Freda Stevens:

Which size better fits a 4T? I trust your judgment.

[sent on 2024/08/27 at 12:03:00]

Shelby Troublefield:

Would you like a youth xsmall for Amara's tshirt or a youth small?

[sent on 2024/08/27 at 10:12:49]

Shelby Troublefield:

Thank you for letting me know.

[sent on 2024/08/27 at 09:20:28]

Freda Stevens:

Good morning. I'm picking Amara up at 10:30 AM for an appointment.

[sent on 2024/08/26 at 12:58:42]

Freda Stevens:

She said that Willow is older than her. Allayah said that Willow maybe

in 5th grade. Either way, I don't want that child 4 year old or 12 year old, touching Amara's hair. It's pissing me off. I had to detangle a knot out of Amara's hair.

[sent on 2024/08/26 at 12:57:33]

Freda Stevens:

4T

[sent on 2024/08/26 at 12:12:22]

Shelby Troublefield:

What size tshirt would you like for Amara?

[sent on 2024/08/26 at 12:11:57]

Shelby Troublefield:

We are not with 5th graders.

[sent on 2024/08/26 at 07:53:43]

Freda Stevens:

Why is a 5th grader around a K4 anyways?

[sent on 2024/08/26 at 07:20:42]

Shelby Troublefield:

Okay, I will keep an eye on it.

[sent on 2024/08/24 at 20:13:39]

Freda Stevens:

Mari said that Willow keeps being mean to her. She also tangled her hair.

[sent on 2024/08/20 at 13:09:46]

Freda Stevens:

Ty.

[sent on 2024/08/20 at 12:10:28]

Shelby Troublefield:

Oh poor baby. Please tell her we love her and hope she feels better.

[sent on 2024/08/20 at 12:08:16]

Freda Stevens:

Amara will be back in school on August 22nd.

[sent on 2024/08/20 at 11:15:54]

Freda Stevens:

Amara has strep throat.

[sent on 2024/08/20 at 09:10:46]

Freda Stevens:

How's she feeling right now?

[sent on 2024/08/20 at 09:10:36]

Freda Stevens:

Yes she wasn't feeling well this morning. Two of her siblings also have a cough.

[sent on 2024/08/20 at 07:24:28]

Shelby Troublefield:

Has she been unwell?

[sent on 2024/08/20 at 07:22:42]

Freda Stevens:

Let me know if she appears to not feel well. Watch for fevers. They tend to spike quickly.

[sent on 2024/08/20 at 07:21:24]

Freda Stevens:

Good morning mask has to stay on unless you are blowing her nose

[sent on 2024/08/13 at 11:44:21]

Shelby Troublefield:

We will drop her off in the library to you. Thank you for letting me know.

[sent on 2024/08/13 at 11:02:49]

Freda Stevens:

I will be at the PTA meeting afterschool. Amara's older sibs will pick her up and take her to the library. Ty.

[sent on 2024/08/12 at 16:52:46]

Shelby Troublefield:

I am not at the school. We will look for it tomorrow. I'm sure she just took it out her backpack and forgot to put it back

[sent on 2024/08/12 at 16:45:07]

Freda Stevens:

Hey did Amara leave her snack box?

[sent on 2024/08/08 at 13:08:50]

Freda Stevens:

Now I have to open up a brand new pack of hair just to put one braid in my baby's hair

[sent on 2024/08/08 at 13:08:26]

Freda Stevens:

I have to explain the code to you!!! 🤔🤔🤔 don't tell a dark skinned girl to throw her hair in the garbage!!! Issa against the code

🤔

[sent on 2024/08/06 at 16:09:34]

Shelby Troublefield:

Well she's my sidekick and takes just as good of care as her so I need

them to know 🙏

[sent on 2024/08/06 at 16:08:55]

Freda Stevens:

Yes I heard about that...im was screaming! 🙏🙏🙏 if protect your baby brother and sister were a person! These kids were not having none of Ms Gillis.

[sent on 2024/08/06 at 15:57:15]

Shelby Troublefield:

Tell that baby I love her so much!

[sent on 2024/08/06 at 15:57:06]

Shelby Troublefield:

They can have her at home but I'm gonna take care of and make sure my girl is well taken care of at school!

Please tell your older babies that Ms. Gillis is also her teacher and can take her inside to me too. They told her only her teacher could have her.. we told her she in fact is her teacher too🙏

[sent on 2024/08/06 at 15:56:13]

Freda Stevens:

Oh my gosh she just said, " I actually love my teacher!"

[sent on 2024/08/06 at 15:55:27]

Freda Stevens:

Ooohhhh my stars🙏🙏🙏 not yall fighting over my baby! I cannot take it. People are always falling in love 🙏 with Kenny and Amara.

[sent on 2024/08/06 at 15:53:54]

Shelby Troublefield:

We are building independence! She is a big girl! Once she hits those doors and gives a hug and a wave we got her. In the afternoon it is purely safety precautions. I hold each students hand and put them in the car. I know they love her and take great care of her but when she's at school she's my baby to love and protect 🙏

[sent on 2024/08/06 at 15:45:53]

Freda Stevens:

Let my babies walk her to class... 🙏🙏

[sent on 2024/08/06 at 15:45:34]

Freda Stevens:

My kids said that you won't let them hold Mari's hand 🙏 🙏🙏 what am I going to do with you!

[sent on 2024/08/06 at 15:28:04]  
Shelby Troublefield:  
Okay thank you!

[sent on 2024/08/06 at 15:26:53]  
Freda Stevens:  
Yes ma'am I found it.

[sent on 2024/08/06 at 15:15:16]  
Shelby Troublefield:  
Just to check her folder. We need the parent handbook signed page returned please and her information sheet.

[sent on 2024/08/06 at 15:08:46]  
Freda Stevens:  
Found it

[sent on 2024/08/06 at 15:06:50]  
Freda Stevens:  
Hey Mari said you wanted me to read something?

[sent on 2024/08/05 at 08:26:10]  
Shelby Troublefield:  
We were meant to be together!

[sent on 2024/08/05 at 07:58:06]  
Freda Stevens:  
I don't know what it is that you are doing with my baby!!!! When she goes everyone else in the world, it takes people awhile to get her to speak to them. Even when she tested for 3k they had a hard time getting her to talk to them.

[sent on 2024/08/05 at 07:57:12]  
Freda Stevens:  
aaawww you are making me cry! She is really a sweet baby.

[sent on 2024/08/05 at 07:31:33]  
Shelby Troublefield:  
Amara walked in, jumped up for a hug and said "I waited so many days to see you again!!!" 😊

[sent on 2024/08/04 at 15:51:15]  
Freda Stevens:  
See

[sent on 2024/08/04 at 15:51:09]  
Freda Stevens:  
Yes ma'am. She'll you tomorrow.

[sent on 2024/08/04 at 15:50:40]

Shelby Troublefield:

Aw thank you! I love that sweet girl so much already! We were meant to be together. We are going to have an amazing year!


[sent on 2024/08/04 at 15:48:43]

Freda Stevens:

She loves you! She said, "Mommy, I like Ms. Troublefield!" You are really a baby whisperer. Amara is normally shy when she first meets someone. It usually takes her awhile to warm up and talk to people.






[sent on 2024/08/04 at 15:46:46]

Shelby Troublefield:

Aw! We learned a song that goes with the book Pete the Cat rocking in my school shoes.  - it's a class favorite!!

[sent on 2024/08/04 at 15:12:33]

Freda Stevens:

My baby said that she learned this song in school!!!     

[video attachment: attachments/  
attachment-66afd2a1d859225726880009.mp4]

[sent on 2024/08/02 at 15:23:54]

Freda Stevens:

Aaawww ty. Okay. She will have a towel or blankie next week.

[sent on 2024/08/02 at 15:21:07]

Shelby Troublefield:

We provide a brand new mat at the beginning of the year but she needs a beach towel to cover up with. We ask for towels because the space we have to store nap stuff is a small cubby. The handbook that is in her folder has everything in it about things she needs and how 4k works. If you have any questions just let me know! We love that sweet girl so much already!

[sent on 2024/08/02 at 15:11:58]

Freda Stevens:

Does she need a mat and a blanket? She said that she took a nap. z<sup>z</sup>

[sent on 2024/08/02 at 12:57:12]

Freda Stevens:

K np ty

[sent on 2024/08/02 at 12:56:39]

Shelby Troublefield:

No ma'am. We keep an extra set for each child just in case we ever need them.

[sent on 2024/08/02 at 12:46:39]

Freda Stevens:

Did she have an accident today?

[sent on 2024/08/02 at 12:46:13]

Freda Stevens:

Sure.

[sent on 2024/08/02 at 12:45:51]

Shelby Troublefield:

We noticed Amara did not bring in a spare change of clothes in case. Will you please send those in on Monday so we have them in case of spills or potty accidents? Thank you!

[sent on 2024/08/02 at 11:47:56]

Freda Stevens:

Ty

[sticker attachment: attachments/attachment-mojo-Mojo-Dance.png]

[sent on 2024/08/02 at 11:47:09]

Shelby Troublefield:

I give them the choice of both each day. We encourage them to try new things and sometimes when they see their friends try new things they tend to try too. She ate some of the school lunch and some things you packed. She seemed happy with the combination.

I have her allergy listed and Ms. Gillis is also aware. We will take good care of your baby! She is loving school!

[sent on 2024/08/02 at 11:44:34]

Freda Stevens:

Amara has may eat the school lunch. She has a snack in her backpack just in case she refuses to eat the school lunch. She can be a picky eater at times. Remember she is allergic to chocolate 🍫.

# TOUMA LAW GROUP

Alissa Wilson, Esquire

1820 Bull Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

(803) 836-9422  
[alissa@toumalawgroup.com](mailto:alissa@toumalawgroup.com)

November 3, 2024

*Via Email: [susan.hughes@kershaw.sc.gov](mailto:susan.hughes@kershaw.sc.gov)*

Kershaw County Magistrate Court  
1121 Broad Street  
Camden, South Carolina 29020

**Re: Shelby T. Troublefield v. Freda Stevens**  
**Case No.: 2024OR2810100071**

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please accept this letter as notification that Touma Law Group and/or Alissa Wilson is no longer representing Ms. Stevens regarding the above referenced matter that is currently on the docket for a motion hearing. This correspondence is being sent at the request of Ms. Stevens who is copied via email. Should you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please feel free to contact our office at (803) 836-9422.

Thank you in advance for your attention and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

*Stephanie A. Jones*

Stephanie A. Jones, PP, SCCP  
Paralegal to Alissa Wilson

/sj

*Stevensfreda@ymail.com*





Susan Hughes <susan.hughes@kershaw.sc.gov>

### Troublefield v. Stevens

1 message

Stephanie Jones <sjones@toumalawgroup.com>  
To: Susan Hughes <susan.hughes@kershaw.sc.gov>  
Cc: Alissa Wilson <alissa@toumalawgroup.com>

Mon, Nov 4, 2024 at 10:24 AM

Good morning,

Please find attached a letter indicating that Ms. Wilson is no longer representing Ms. Stevens with regard to her appellate pursuit. This would also include the motion hearing scheduled in this matter. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks,  
Stephanie



**A:** 1820 Bull St, Columbia, SC 29201

**P:** (803) 836-9422

**E:** sjones@toumalawgroup.com

**W:** www.toumalawgroup.com

**STEPHANIE JONES**

PP, SCCP



*The content of this email is confidential and intended for the recipient specified in message only. It is strictly forbidden to share any part of this message with any third party, without a written consent of the sender. If you received this message by mistake, please reply to this message and follow with its deletion, so that we can ensure such a mistake does not occur in the future.*

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1181K



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF KERSHAW

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT

Shelby T Troublefield

PLAINTIFF(S)

RESTRAINING ORDER

Vs

2024OR2810100071  
CIVIL CASE NUMBER

Freda Stevens

DEFENDANT(S)

And/or on behalf of minor family member(s) or other protected persons: (List name)

DEFENDANT IDENTIFIERS				
SEX *	RACE *	DOB*	STATE	WEIGHT
Female	Black	08/28/1972	FLorida	230
EYES	HAJR	HEIGHT		
Brn	Black	5' 6'		

Relationship to Plaintiff:

Parent of a Student

Defendant's Address 227 Carrington Drive Lugoff 29078

\*Indicates required information for entry into NCIC

CAUTION:

Weapon Involved

Weapon Present on Defendant's Property

Access to weapons

THE COURT HEREBY FINDS:

That it has jurisdiction over the parties and subject matter,  
Defendant has been provided with reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard.  
Additional findings of this order are as set forth below.

THE COURT HEREBY ORDERS:

- That the above named Defendant be restrained from committing further acts of abuse or threats of abuse.
- That the above named Defendant be restrained from any contact with the Protected Person as set forth on the attached pages.

The terms of the this order shall be effective until

October 21,

2025

WARNINGS TO DEFENDANT:

This order shall be enforced in any county of South Carolina and by the courts of any state, District of Columbia, any U. S. Territory, and may be enforced by Tribal Lands (18 U.S.C. Section 2265). Crossing state, territorial, or tribal boundaries to violate this order may result in federal imprisonment (18 U.S.C. Section 2262).

State and federal law provides penalties for possessing, transporting, shipping, or receiving any firearm or ammunition (18 U.S.C. Section 922).

Only the Court can change this order.

**For Additional Information Call:**

803-425-1512  
Sheriff Phone Number

803-425-7226  
Clerk of Court Phone Number

After the filing of a complaint and motion for a Restraining Order on October 1, 2024 the Court held a hearing on October 21, 2024 at 3:00 PM. After hearing the evidence, and examining the affidavits and verified pleadings, the Court has determined that the plaintiff  has/  has not proved by a preponderance of evidence the need for issuance of a Restraining Order.

**The Court makes the following findings of fact: (Check all that apply)**

- 1. The Plaintiff lives in Kershaw County, SC.
- 2. The Defendant lives at 227 Carrington Drive which is in Kershaw County, SC.
- 3. The Defendant is employed at Amen Always Church, which is located at Lugoff.
- 4. The Defendant : Freda Stevens
  - is a current or former spouse of the victim
  - is a current or former intimate partner of the minor child's parent (minor child is protected person)
  - is a parent of the victim
  - cohabits or previously cohabited with the victim
  - has a child who attends Doby Mill Elementary
  - is a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim.
  - other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. The Defendant is a nonresident of this state or cannot be found.
- 6. The Harassment or Stalking, as described herein, occurred in Kershaw County, South Carolina.
- 7. The Defendant has committed the following acts which constitute Harassment in the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree or Stalking: Comments and actions occurring on September 10 and September 30, 2024, and other actions in between, referring to possession of guns by subject and subject stating that " she would blow the moving party's brains out" made to supervisor of moving party and thereafter communicated to moving party. A pattern of conduct has occurred causing moving party emotional distress, the Court finds as being reasonable.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT (Check all that apply):**

- A. The Defendant is restrained, prohibited and forbidden from abusing, threatening to abuse, or molesting the Plaintiff or members of Plaintiff's family, to include:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- B. The Defendant is restrained, prohibited and forbidden from entering or attempting to enter the Plaintiff's place of residence, employment, education, or the following locations:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- C. The Defendant is restrained, prohibited and forbidden from communicating or attempting to communicate with the Plaintiff in any way, to include:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- D. Federal Firearms Prohibition, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 922
  - 1. Does the Order protect an intimate partner, a child of an intimate partner or a child of the defendant?  YES  NO
  - 2. Did the person restrained have actual notice and an opportunity to participate in the hearing?  YES  NO
  - 3. Does the Order find the restrained person a credible threat or explicitly prohibit the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force?  YES  NO
- E. A copy of this Order shall be served on the following law enforcement agencies:  
Kershaw County Sheriff Department

The terms of this Order remain in effect until ,October 21, 2025 , (a period of at least one year) and may be extended by this Court for good cause shown. If the defendant has been or is during the duration of this Order charged with the crime of Harassment in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> degree or Stalking, the terms of this Order remain in effect until the conclusion of the defendant's trial.

**AND IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Entered at 4:45 \_\_\_\_\_  a.m. /  p.m. on October 21, 2024

  
MAGISTRATE 5074

**VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE PUNISHABLE BY THIRTY DAYS IN JAIL, A FINE OF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS, OR BOTH, AND IS IN ADDITION TO OTHER CRIMINAL PENALTIES WHICH MAY RESULT FROM SUCH ACTION.**

**PURSUANT TO SECTION 16-25-125 OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS, IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH OR CONVICTED OF CRIMINAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR CRIMINAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OF A HIGH AND AGGRAVATED NATURE, WHO IS SUBJECT TO AN ORDER OF PROTECTION, OR WHO IS SUBJECT TO A RESTRAINING ORDER, TO ENTER OR REMAIN UPON THE GROUNDS OR STRUCTURE OF A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER IN WHICH THE PERSON'S HOUSEHOLD MEMBER RESIDES OR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER'S ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES. A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS PROVISION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND, UPON CONVICTION, MUST BE FINED NOT MORE THAN THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS OR IMPRISONED FOR NOT MORE THAN THREE YEARS, OR BOTH. IF THE PERSON IS IN POSSESSION OF A DANGEROUS WEAPON AT THE TIME OF THE VIOLATION, THE PERSON IS GUILTY OF A FELONY AND, UPON CONVICTION, MUST BE FINED NOT MORE THAN FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS OR IMPRISONED FOR NOT MORE THAN FIVE YEARS, OR BOTH.**

**TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS:**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the terms of this Order are enforceable throughout this State. S.C. Code Ann. § 16-3-1750(F). Any person who violates a provision of this Order is subject to a fine of \$500 or imprisonment not to exceed thirty days, or both. S.C. Code Ann. § 16-3-1770(C). Law enforcement officers shall arrest a defendant who acts in violation of this Order after service and notice of the Order have been provided. An arrest warrant is not required. S.C. Code Ann. § 16-3- 1800.

COPY GIVEN TO PLAINTIFF BY \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)

COPY GIVEN TO DEFENDANT BY \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)

**Freda Stevens**  
227 Carrington Drive  
Lugoff, South Carolina 29078  
Phone: 803-961-9361  
Email: [stevensfreda@ymail.com](mailto:stevensfreda@ymail.com)

FILED FOR RECORD  
KERSHAW COUNTY  
2025 JAN 13 PM 4: 07  
GINGER M. FARMER  
CLERK OF COURT  
KERSHAW COUNTY, SC  
2025 JAN --8 AM 8: 52

January 7, 2025

**Magistrate Judge Roderick Todd**  
Kershaw County Magistrate Court  
1121 Broad Street, Room 202  
Camden, SC 29020

**Re: Return on Appeal of Restraining Order Issued October 21, 2024, | Hearing Scheduled for January 16, 2025**

Dear Honorable Judge Todd,

I am writing to address material and prejudicial errors in the Court's Return on my appeal of the restraining order issued on October 21, 2024. These errors misrepresent critical facts, exclude key details, and significantly prejudice my ability to receive a fair appellate review. The record is incomplete and contains inaccuracies that undermine the integrity of the proceedings.

**Material and Prejudicial Errors**

**1. Erroneous Statement by Ms. Sharon Lewis**

The Return inaccurately reflects Ms. Sharon Lewis's testimony in reference to the **September 30** comment. Ms. Lewis explicitly stated, 'If I felt like she was going to hurt me or my child, I would blow her brains out.' This statement, which aligns with her written and verbal reports to the Kershaw County Sheriff, is omitted or misrepresented in the record. This constitutes a **material error** because it impacts Ms. Lewis's credibility and the overall context of her testimony. While I acknowledge making this statement, I have consistently asserted that it was made as a protective and instinctual parental response to Ms. Lewis's initial statement regarding her investigation into my complaint against Ms. Troublefield's behavior on September 25, when she approached my car and began yelling at me in the presence of my children. Furthermore, I did not say, nor did Ms. Lewis state, 'If I think she will hurt me or my child, I will blow her brains out' which would represent a plan to "blow her brains out" in the future, and that was not my statement or Ms. Lewis testimony. The context of the comment was in reference to my complaint about Ms. Troublefield's behavior on September 25 and the way she approached me in the car rider line, yelling at me in the presence of my children. This

incident traumatized my oldest daughter, who suffers from anxiety, TBI, and PTSD. The misrepresentation in the Return is grossly prejudicial to my appeal.

2. **Mischaracterization of Meeting Initiation**

The Return incorrectly states that the Sept 30<sup>th</sup> meeting was held at my behest with Ms. Lewis to discuss my daughter's removal from Ms. Shelby Troublefield's class. In fact, Ms. Lewis requested the meeting via email, which she acknowledged during the hearing. This factual inaccuracy is a **prejudicial error**, as it unfairly shifts the narrative to portray me as unnecessarily confrontational, which is not the facts in this case. Ms. Lewis requested to speak to me when I dropped my daughter off. During the meeting, Ms. Lewis, initiated the conversation and brought up Ms. Troublefield's name, when she said that she investigated my complaint regarding her unprofessional behavior. Ms. Lewis stated, 'She (Ms. Troublefield) was not going to get into your car and harm you or your children!' It was in response to this statement that I made my comment. The failure to include this key fact is grossly prejudicial, as it alters the narrative and misrepresents me as the one who initiated the meeting and dialogue, which is not accurate.

3. **Incomplete and Misrepresented Record**

The return is incomplete and misrepresents key details regarding the events of September 10 and September 25:

- A. **September 10 Incident:** It has been testified that the statement attributed to me on this date referred to a person in the neighborhood, not Ms. Troublefield or anyone involved in the school. This individual had been observed near the school, and I reported this concern to the school principal prior to my son's IEP meeting. When asked if I wanted bus transportation for my son, I declined, citing the presence of sexual predators in the community and the fact that he is an elopement risk, which has been well established. A copy of the email I sent to the principal on September 10, which was provided to the court, corroborates this testimony. This context is critical to understanding the circumstances and should have been accurately reflected in the record. It should also be noted that my attorney objected to inclusion of this incident into the case because it was totally unrelated to Ms. Troublefield.
- B. **September 25 Incident:** I reported that Ms. Troublefield yelled at me and behaved unprofessionally. At no point was I yelling at her. Following this incident, I filed a formal complaint with the South Carolina Department of Education, citing her unprofessional conduct because of how she was yelling at me when she approached my car. I also reported her to FERPA for posting my daughter's picture online against my direct instructions not to do so.
- C. **Complaint against Ms. Troublefield:** Additionally, I made a complaint to Sharon Lewis, the principal, against Ms. Troublefield with the following requests:
  - a. Ms. Troublefield not approach my car again.
  - b. My daughter be removed from her class.
  - c. Ms. Troublefield not interact with my other children at the school.
  - d. Ms. Troublefield not touch or hug my daughter, who was in her class at the time.

**D. Ms. Troublefield's Unprofessional Conduct (Yelling at Me in Front of my Children):** I also informed Sharon Lewis about how Ms. Troublefield's unprofessional behavior, specifically yelling at me, affected my oldest daughter, who was in Ms. Shoemake's class (wife of Derek Shoemake). I have provided a copy of the email in which I notified Ms. Lewis that my oldest daughter, who suffers from PTSD, anxiety, a traumatic brain injury (TBI), and a sensory processing disorder, was unable to sleep in her own bed that night. She was traumatized by Ms. Troublefield's unprofessional behavior and yelling in her presence.

**4. Violation of My Child's Privacy and Safety Concerns**

Ms. Troublefield's actions regarding the posting of my child's personal information on social media and the school website were a direct violation of my child's right to privacy and raised significant safety concerns. Ms. Troublefield was fully aware of the safety risks to my child, including the potential for someone from her past to discover what school she attends. Despite this knowledge, she posted my child's picture in a manner that seemed designed to annoy me, showing a complete disregard for my child's safety. When I requested, multiple times, that the photo be removed, Ms. Troublefield blatantly refused to do so. It was only after I filed a FERPA complaint that any action was taken to address the issue. This disregard for my child's privacy and safety, coupled with her refusal to act on my legitimate concerns, demonstrates a total lack of respect for both my parental authority and my child's well-being.

These details were either excluded or mischaracterized in the Return, resulting in significant material and prejudicial errors.

**5. Reliance on Notes and Memory Instead of a Transcript**

The absence of a transcript for the original hearing has led to reliance on notes and memory, which has resulted in an incomplete and biased record. This reliance fails to ensure the fundamental fairness required in appellate proceedings. As the U.S. Supreme Court held in *Griffin v. Illinois*, 351 U.S. 12 (1956), access to an accurate transcript is essential for meaningful appellate review. Without a complete and impartial record, I am unable to effectively challenge the Court's findings, violating my right to due process. The lack of an accurate record undermines my ability to effectively challenge the factual and legal conclusions in the case.

This lack of an official record opens the door for the respondent and her attorney to further misrepresent the facts during the hearing, creating a scenario where the truth is easily distorted. The opposing party has no incentive to present the facts honestly, particularly given their previous actions in twisting my original complaint about Ms. Troublefield's behavior into a restraining order against me for the very same conduct she exhibited. These circumstances place me at an extreme disadvantage and raise significant concerns about the fairness and impartiality of the appeal process.

This issue implicates my constitutional right to due process under the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments, which guarantee the right to a fair and impartial hearing. As the Supreme Court established in *Griffin v. Illinois*, 351 U.S. 12 (1956), and reaffirmed in *Mayer v. City of Chicago*,

404 U.S. 189 (1971), the absence of an adequate record can effectively deny a party their ability to present a meaningful appeal, rendering the process fundamentally unfair. Furthermore, *Gideon v. Wainwright*, 372 U.S. 335 (1963), underscores the broader principle that all individuals must have access to the tools necessary to defend themselves in a fair judicial process, which includes an accurate and complete record of the proceedings.

- 6. Advocacy for My Children with Special Needs:** It is critical to note that the Return omits a significant context: I have filed lawsuits and formal complaints against the school district due to their repeated failures to ensure my children's safety and provide for their educational needs as mandated under federal law. My advocacy on behalf of my children, who are students with disabilities, has been met with ongoing retaliation by the district, including the accusations forming the basis of this case. Such actions are not only baseless but also constitute a violation of my constitutional rights, particularly my First Amendment right to petition the government for redress of grievances.

The retaliatory nature of these accusations underscores the importance of ensuring a fair and impartial review of this matter. These actions by the district serve to intimidate and silence me in my efforts to secure appropriate protections and education for my children, directly contradicting the principles of equity and justice that our legal system is built upon.

- 7. Retaliation:** It is essential to address a critical fact that was discussed during the original hearing but is notably absent from the Return: Ms. Troublefield's restraining order complaint was filed only after I submitted multiple formal complaints to the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDOE), the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) office, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) for violations of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), and Principal Sharon Lewis. This sequence of events and the retaliatory nature of Ms. Troublefield's actions were brought to the court's attention during the hearing, yet these facts have been entirely omitted from the record.

The omission of this critical context constitutes a material error in the Return, as it misrepresents the nature of Ms. Troublefield's complaint and deprives the appellate process of an accurate account of the proceedings. This omission is not only prejudicial but also facilitates the respondent's ability to further misrepresent the facts during the appeal, undermining my ability to have a fair and impartial hearing.

The retaliatory timing of Ms. Troublefield's actions underscores a broader issue of using legal mechanisms to silence legitimate advocacy. Such actions violate my constitutional right to petition the government for redress of grievances under the First Amendment and serve to intimidate me as a parent advocating for my children's rights. The court must consider the omitted context, as its exclusion erodes the integrity of the judicial process and my ability to present a meaningful appeal.

**Legal Basis for Relief**

Under **Chapman v. California**, 386 U.S. 18 (1967), appellate courts must reverse decisions when prejudicial errors are identified, unless the errors are proven harmless beyond a reasonable doubt. The material and prejudicial errors in the Return, coupled with the incomplete record, compromise the fairness of my appeal. Furthermore, **Coppedge v. United States**, 369 U.S. 438 (1962), underscores the necessity of a complete and accurate record for appellate review.

**Request for Relief**

Considering these errors and the incomplete record, I respectfully request that the Court:

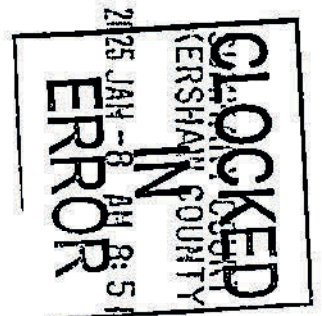
1. Correct the factual inaccuracies and omissions in the Return to reflect the evidence and testimony presented during the original hearing accurately.
2. Acknowledge the prejudicial impact of these errors and the absence of a transcript on my ability to receive a fair appellate review.
3. Take any necessary steps to ensure adherence to principles of fairness and justice as articulated in Supreme Court precedent.
4. If you are unwilling to amend the return to address the prejudicial and material errors, I request that my concerns and objections be attached to the return for further consideration.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. I am prepared to provide further documentation or clarification, including the referenced email and supporting evidence, to ensure the record accurately reflects the proceedings.

Sincerely,



Freda Stevens, Appellant/Respondent



Freda Stevens  
PLAINTIFF(S)

Shelby Troublefield  
DEFENDANT(S)

**DISPOSITION TYPE (CHECK ONE)**

- JURY VERDICT.** This action came before the court for a trial by jury. The issues have been tried and a verdict rendered.
- DECISION BY THE COURT.** This action came to trial or hearing before the court. The issues have been tried or heard and a decision rendered.
- ACTION DISMISSED (CHECK REASON):**  Rule 12(b), SCRPC;  Rule 41(a), SCRPC (Vol. Nonsuit);  Rule 43(k), SCRPC (Settled);  
 Other
- ACTION STRICKEN (CHECK REASON):**  Rule 40(j), SCRPC;  Bankruptcy;  
 Binding arbitration, subject to right to restore to confirm, vacate or modify arbitration award;  
 Other
- STAYED DUE TO BANKRUPTCY**
- DISPOSITION OF APPEAL TO THE CIRCUIT COURT (CHECK APPLICABLE BOX):**  
 Affirmed;  Reversed;  Remanded;  
 Other

NOTE: ATTORNEYS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR NOTIFYING LOWER COURT, TRIBUNAL, OR ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY OF THE CIRCUIT COURT RULING IN THIS APPEAL.

**IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED:**  See attached order (formal order to follow)  Statement of Judgment by the Court:

Appeal was heard on January 16, 2025. Appellant appeared pro se, while Respondent was represented by counsel. Having fully heard the parties' arguments, the Court finds no errors of law occurred. Therefore, the decision of the lower court is affirmed.

**ORDER INFORMATION**

This order  ends  does not end the case.  See Page 2 for additional information.

**For Clerk of Court Office Use Only**

This judgment was electronically entered by the Clerk of Court as reflected on the Electronic Time Stamp, and a copy mailed first class to any party not proceeding in the Electronic Filing System on 01/16/2025 .

Freda Stevens for Freda Stevens  
Freda Stevens for Freda Stevens

**NAMES OF TRADITIONAL FILERS SERVED BY MAIL**

**Court Reporter:**

**E-Filing Note:** The date of Entry of Judgment is the same date as reflected on the Electronic File Stamp and the clerk's entering of the date of judgment above is not required in those counties. The clerk will mail a copy of the judgment to parties who are not E-Filers or who are appearing pro se. See Rule 77(d), SCRCP.

---



Kershaw Common Pleas

**Case Caption:** Freda Stevens VS Shelby Troublefield

**Case Number:** 2024CP2800851

**Type:** Order/Electronic Form 4

So Ordered

Jocelyn Newman

Electronically signed on 2025-01-16 15:08:00 page 3 of 3

**IN THE COURT OF APPEALS  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Freda Stevens,** )  
 )  
Appellant, )  
 )  
v. )  
 )  
**Shelby Troublefield,** )  
 )  
Respondent. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Lower Court Case NO: 2024CP2800851

FILED FOR RECORD  
2025 FEB 11 PM 4:35  
GINGER H. FARRHER  
CLERK OF COURT  
HERSHAW COUNTY, SC

**NOTICE OF APPEAL**

**TO: SHELBY TROUBLEFIELD AND HER ATTORNEY OF RECORD DEREK SHOEMAKE**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Appellant, Freda Stevens, hereby appeals to the South Carolina Court of Appeals from the order/judgment of the Circuit Court of the Fifth Judicial Circuit, issued by the Honorable Jocelyn Newman, in Kershaw, South Carolina, on January 16, 2025.

The appeal is taken from the following:

1. The order/judgment entered on January 16, 2025 granted a restraining order against the Appellant.

**INFORMATION REQUIRED BY RULE 203(e):**

1. **Court, Judge, and County:** The appeal is taken from the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit presided over by the Honorable Jocelyn Newman in Kershaw, South Carolina.
2. **Docket Number:** The docket number of the case in the lower court is 2024CP2800851.
3. **Date of Order/Judgment:** The order/judgment being appealed was entered on January 16, 2025.
4. **Appellant's Name:** The party taking the appeal is Freda Stevens.
5. **Attorneys and Parties:**
  - o Appellant's Attorney: Aaron Wallace, 1416 Laurel Street, STE B, Columbia, SC 29201. 803-351-6634.
  - o Respondent's Attorney: Derek Shoemake, 20 Townlee Lane, Suite A, Lugoff, SC 29078. 803-408-8500.
  - o Respondent: Shelby Troublefield, 1716 Stuckytown Road, Rembert, SC 29128
  - o Appellant: Freda Stevens, 10120 Two Notch Rd, STE 2, Unit 344, Columbia, SC 29223

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

The undersigned certifies that a copy of this Notice of Appeal has been served on all respondents and their attorneys of record as required by Rule 203 of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules.

**FILING FEE**

The required filing fee of \$250 is submitted herewith, as set by the South Carolina Supreme Court.

**DATED this 11 day of February, 2025.**

**RESPECTFULLY BY:**

s/Aaron V. Wallace  
Aaron V. Wallace (11469)  
Wallace Law Firm  
1416 Laurel Street, STE B  
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1 STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA \* COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
 \*  
 2 COUNTY OF KERSHAW \* TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD  
 \*  
 3 -----X  
 FREDA STEVENS, \*  
 4 \*  
 Plaintiff, \*  
 5 \*  
 vs. \* Case No. 2024-CP-28-00851  
 6 \*  
 SHELBY TROUBLEFIELD, \*  
 7 \*  
 Defendant. \*  
 8 -----X

January 16, 2025

B E F O R E:

The Honorable Jocelyn Newman, Presiding Judge

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

Freda Stevens, Pro Se Plaintiff

Derek Shoemake, Esq.  
Attorney for the Defendant

Recorded by: DCRP Court Monitor

Court Transcriber: Bobbi Fisher, RPR  
SC Official Court Reporter III

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E X H I B I T S

(None.)

COURT REPORTER LEGEND

- Dash (--) Indicates an interruption in speech
- Ellipses (...) Indicates trailing off in speech
- (ph) Indicates phonetic word
- [Verbatim] Indicates the word is said as written
- (Indiscernible)[Transcription] Indicates word(s) is not known due to audio recording quality

## P R O C E E D I N G S

(The following proceedings started at 12:57 p.m.):

THE COURT: Next is Freda Stevens versus Shelby Troublefield. That's 2024-CP-28-00851.

Mr. Shoemake, I show you're the respondent and not the appellant, but let me hear from you first.

MR. SHOEMAKE: I understand, Your Honor.

Your Honor, this is a pro se appeal from Magistrate's Court. Just very, very briefly, Your Honor. In the Magistrate's Court downstairs here a few weeks back, Judge Roderick Todd issued a Restraining Order against Ms. Stevens.

At that particular hearing, as is noted in the Return, there were six or seven witnesses who testified. At that hearing, Ms. Stevens did have counsel. Those witnesses testified to a series of occurrences where Ms. Stevens had threatened and/or got very aggressive with Ms. Troublefield, who is an elementary school teacher at Doby's Mill.

The culminating factor was a meeting with the principal where Ms. Stevens threatened to ruin Ms. Troublefield's career, she threatened to shoot Ms. Troublefield, and then when the principal asked her to clarify if she was just kidding, she reiterated that she was going to shoot her in the head if she felt any threat to her kids.

Based on that, Judge Todd did issue a Restraining Order, and Ms. Stevens has appealed. She wrote a Notice of Appeal

1 that had some pro se arguments in it, and then I think, last  
2 week, a second document was filed in the case with some  
3 additional pro se arguments. Given that that was last week, I  
4 didn't respond to those; however, I would just say that the  
5 Return states pretty succinctly what the Magistrate Judge  
6 found.

7 Obviously, the Court knows the appellate standard. We're  
8 here in an appellate capacity. I certainly don't think the  
9 judge abused his discretion. He heard the credibility of the  
10 witnesses, made a credibility call that these things did, in  
11 fact, occur and that they caused my client severe emotional  
12 distress.

13 And, Your Honor, that's sort of the sum of it, and I can  
14 answer any questions that you have.

15 THE COURT: I don't have any.

16 Ms. Stevens, this is your appeal. So, let's see, would  
17 you go or someone go push this microphone closer to  
18 Ms. Stevens?

19 Wonderful.

20 Ms. Stevens?

21 MS. STEVENS: Yes, ma'am. Good afternoon. I apol---

22 THE COURT: No, that's good right there. Okay. So this  
23 is -- you're appealing a Restraining Order that was issued by  
24 Judge Todd in October.

25 MS. STEVENS: Yes, ma'am. I apologize for not standing;

1 I just got a little sick earlier.

2 THE COURT: Understood. No need to apologize.

3 MS. STEVENS: Yes. First, Mr. Shoemake's recount of the  
4 facts it's not actual. I filed my appeal on the basis that  
5 this was an error in applying the law -- the Harassment II  
6 law.

7 For one, procedural errors were not followed and then,  
8 two, constitutional rights. You know, my constitutional  
9 rights were violated in this particular case.

10 Before I can even get to that, in terms of the facts that  
11 he has laid out, that's not close to what was discussed at the  
12 original hearing. One of the things that is very prejudicial  
13 to me in my appeal -- and not just the original hearing but in  
14 my appeal -- is that there's no transcript.

15 I requested the transcript, you know, in furtherance of  
16 my appeal and was told they did not have one. So what ended  
17 up happening is that the judge had to write a Return.

18 Now, I found in the Return that there was a lot of  
19 inaccuracies that were in the Return. Even the statements  
20 that the judge remembered or put in his Return that he  
21 remembered are not accurate.

22 So now I have the bias of an inaccurate record that  
23 doesn't have the actual word-for-word transcript so that I can  
24 go off of that and show how the law was misapplied. I now  
25 have the position of being against a judge's word. Nobody

1 should be in that position. That raises the level of  
2 prejudice and bias towards me before I even start. So to --

3 THE COURT: I will just tell you, as to that point, it's  
4 not uncommon. It's actually really common for this Court,  
5 sitting as the appellate court, to have only the Magistrate's  
6 Return and no transcript.

7 I hear your point in your specific case that you believe  
8 that there are some inaccuracies, but I would say a good 95%  
9 of the time, this is how it's done, right, wrong, or  
10 indifferent. I see that he notes that there was a malfunction  
11 of the recording system and that just is what it is, but also,  
12 the summary courts, which include Magistrate's Court, are not  
13 courts of record. So they're not required -- they don't have  
14 a court reporter sitting in there. It's just, by law, it's  
15 not a court of record. So that recording would be helpful or  
16 transcript would be helpful, but it doesn't determine  
17 necessarily what this Court does.

18 Like I said, about 95% of the time, these are done --  
19 maybe even 99% of the time these are done without a transcript  
20 from Magistrate's Court. So I just wanted to address that.

21 But let's go on to your other points.

22 MS. STEVENS: Yes, ma'am. So I wanted to point out that  
23 I raised procedural errors of Mr. Shoemake's involvement in  
24 this case because of his conflict of interest, his close  
25 proximity to my children and their issues that they've had --

1 ongoing issues they've had with the School District.

2 All four of my kids are special needs, and I have had to  
3 file State complaints against the School District. I have had  
4 to file FERPA complaints, unfortunately. I've had to file  
5 Office of Civil Rights' complaints because of violations --  
6 and this is all documented and everything -- of violations  
7 that teachers, the administrators, and the School District has  
8 done in failing to meet my kids' needs. You know, the 504  
9 plans, their IEP plans, and then their safety. There have  
10 been a lot of safety issues involving my kids that I have had  
11 to file complaints on behalf of.

12 So I am not surprised that they would take measures to  
13 try to, you know, target or retaliate against me.

14 Now, the extent to which they have done in this  
15 particular case has caused me a lot of physical and emotional  
16 distress. So what actually took place in this matter is that,  
17 on September 25th, the teacher in this case, Mr. Troublefield,  
18 approached my car when I was there pick up three children --  
19 three of my four children. She approached my car. She  
20 started yelling at me. My four-year-old daughter -- she was  
21 four at the time -- she had another head injury in her class.  
22 She starts yelling at me about the head injury. You know,  
23 "Did you hear from the nurse?" so on and so forth about the  
24 head injury.

25 And I actually happened to be on the phone with someone

1 from the State of Florida. This was a State official I was  
2 talking to in the State of Florida. I was on the phone. And  
3 then, immediately after that, she storms off. The principal  
4 comes over. And I told the principal, "I don't want my child  
5 in her class ever again. I don't want her to ever come up to  
6 my car. I don't want her to have contact with my other kids."  
7 Because she made one of my other kids so afraid that she  
8 couldn't even sleep in her own bed that night.

9 I made a complaint to the Department of Education. I  
10 also found out the very next day that she put my daughter --  
11 all four of my kids are adopted. She put my daughter on the  
12 school website, which I signed a note saying they can't do  
13 that at the beginning of the school year. No other teacher  
14 has done that but this one teacher. No other teacher.

15 THE COURT: Let me interrupt you just so that you're  
16 clear as to what I need to hear to -- you know, to give you  
17 what you're looking for, if that's what I decide.

18 MS. STEVENS: Yes, ma'am.

19 THE COURT: I'm not here to, like, retry the case.

20 MS. STEVENS: Right.

21 THE COURT: You've got to tell me from a legal  
22 perspective what the magistrate did wrong, what laws the  
23 magistrate didn't adhere to.

24 MS. STEVENS: Yes, ma'am. Okay. So speaking to that, I  
25 respect that because I just wanted to clear -- because, see,

1 what he said was not true.

2 THE COURT: Yes, sir -- yes, ma'am.

3 MS. STEVENS: So for my legal argument on the procedural  
4 errors, the first thing is the procedural errors.

5 The second thing is my constitutional rights. So -- and  
6 the procedural errors, Mr. Shoemake did not get my permission  
7 before he represented the teacher because he -- of his  
8 position with USC School of Law. My kids were represented by  
9 the CHAMPS program in '22-'23 and in the beginning of '23-'24  
10 school year, against the School District about some of their  
11 issues and -- because of his influence there.

12 Plus he is married to the oldest daughter's 4th grade  
13 teacher. She just transferred in December, but she's married  
14 to him. So because of his relationship and his personal  
15 knowledge, he did not notify me that he was going to be  
16 representing Ms. Troublefield in an adverse position against  
17 me.

18 Originally when Ms. Troublefield filed this case, she did  
19 not have an attorney, and the case was, like, pushed to  
20 another date -- continued, I think -- to another day. And  
21 then, the next day, he just showed up. Had no idea he was  
22 there. So I raised that as a concern for the procedural  
23 issues.

24 THE COURT: Well, tell me why you believe that he has to  
25 get your permission.

1 MS. STEVENS: Well, two of the issues that I raised was  
2 that he -- his position with the law school and its close  
3 proximity to the CHAMPS program -- the CHAMPS program is a  
4 program for people who just, like, need assistance in  
5 different places. And so we got assistance through that  
6 program for my kids and some of the issues they were having  
7 with the School District.

8 Like, the School District -- some of my kids have medical  
9 issues. All of them have, like, special needs. Some of them  
10 are medical, some of them are, like, mental health -- excuse  
11 me, like, autism, things like that. And so we got assistance  
12 from that. They were representing us.

13 THE COURT: What is your understanding of his position  
14 with the law school?

15 MS. STEVENS: Well, he's one of the professors. I  
16 believe -- this is my belief -- I believe that he has a  
17 relationship with the lady that was representing us. And he  
18 has oversight, is my understanding. He has oversight in that  
19 matter.

20 Additionally, my second point was that his relationship  
21 to my 4th grade child's wife [sic]. He's married to her. And  
22 she has information about the back and forth that we have had  
23 with the School District over her special needs, i.e., when  
24 they did not -- because I had to file -- I had to file an  
25 Office of Civil Rights against them because they violated her

1 504. And it's been a big deal.

2 We've had a long -- for two years, we've had a back and  
3 forth. And so his relationship and his knowledge of that  
4 makes it totally unfair to me because he has information that  
5 he already is aware of that he's able to use against me. So  
6 that was, as far as the procedural errors, that he did not get  
7 my permission first or notify me. I had no idea until he  
8 walked in the door.

9 THE COURT: Okay. Pause there.

10 Yes, sir?

11 MR. SHOEMAKE: I can address that or I can wait until  
12 later. I don't know what Your Honor would prefer.

13 THE COURT: Let's go ahead and address that. I'm just  
14 curious.

15 MR. SHOEMAKE: Sure. So, Your Honor, first off, until  
16 she filed that, I didn't even know what the CHAMPS program is  
17 or was. I'm an adjunct professor. I teach criminal law and  
18 technology in the evenings. I do that every other semester  
19 maybe, you know, two hours a week.

20 I have no supervisory rule over there. I get paid about  
21 \$200 a month. It's basically a public service. As Your Honor  
22 knows, the law school doesn't pay very well for the adjuncts.

23 Your Honor, as to the other conflict issue, my wife is a  
24 4th grade teacher. I don't talk about my business, and she  
25 doesn't talk about hers. But more importantly, I'm also a

1 County Councilman in this county. It's a small county. It's  
2 not surprising that people know each other.

3 I will tell you, without divulging privilege, this case  
4 came to me because a citizen reached out to me and asked, as a  
5 councilmember, if I would talk to this young lady. And then,  
6 in that conversation, she asked if I could also represent her.  
7 My wife had no role in any of this.

8 I mean, I believe the school, in response to this  
9 complaint, as an extra precautionary measure, moved that child  
10 out of my wife's class this past -- this last month. I did  
11 not ask for that. That's something the school did on its own  
12 in light of some of the issues raised here.

13 So, Your Honor, at no point was there any -- and, of  
14 course, those are -- those aren't conflicts. And, certainly,  
15 I have never represented Ms. Stevens nor done anything --  
16 she's not on our conflicts list; we would always check that to  
17 confirm. So there's no -- there's no actual conflict here  
18 that would require a waiver.

19 The last point is, I did file a Notice of Appearance, and  
20 she were represented by counsel. None of these issues were  
21 raised in the Magistrate's Court.

22 So those would be my points on that.

23 THE COURT: Good enough.

24 Okay. Ms. Stevens, go ahead.

25 MS. STEVENS: Okay. Can I -- should I respond to that or

1 just go to my next point?

2 THE COURT: If you're going to repeat what you've already  
3 said, then no need to respond, but if you've got something  
4 new, I'm happy to hear it.

5 MS. STEVENS: Okay. So the next thing is what they have  
6 -- you know, so what I said as far as error in applying the  
7 law, what they have attributed to harassment has been nothing  
8 but my advocacy for my kids for their educational needs and  
9 their safety. That's all I've ever done is advocate for my  
10 kids' educational needs and safety.

11 I have never at any point made a threat to  
12 Ms. Troublefield. And, in fact, the day that she approached  
13 my car and started yelling at me, I did not get out of my car.  
14 I did not make any sort of threats towards her. I just simply  
15 asked that she would -- that my kid would be moved from her  
16 class, basically, and she have no more contact with me.

17 But -- so I put the equal protection -- let me find my  
18 papers.

19 THE COURT: Well, I'm going to find or agree with the  
20 magistrate that comments like "I have too many guns" and  
21 calling the teacher by anything other than her name, such as  
22 Ms. Trashfield and posting these things on social media are a  
23 little bit hostile to the situation; you're not just simply  
24 advocating for your child.

25 MS. STEVENS: Well, I -- I just --

1 THE COURT: I mean, obviously, you disagree, but --

2 MS. STEVENS: No, I was about to get my papers and go to  
3 the law here.

4 THE COURT: Please.

5 MS. STEVENS: I'm sorry. Well, in terms of the freedom  
6 of speech, is what I was about to go to, the First Amendment  
7 protects my right to free speech, including the right to  
8 express concerns to advocate for my children and report  
9 misconduct.

10 In this case, what you're speaking to the September 10th,  
11 that whole conversation had nothing to do with  
12 Ms. Troublefield. She was not in the room and it was not said  
13 about her. That was at an IEP meeting for my son where we  
14 were talking about -- who is an elopement risk, by the way;  
15 he's autistic. And he wears this band from the police. And  
16 that meeting and that comment had to do with the pedophile in  
17 the community that I had just, maybe an hour or two before  
18 that, sent information to the principal about because where I  
19 live is in proximity to the school, and the guy was walking up  
20 and down the street close to the school. So that's what that  
21 comment was about. It had absolutely nothing to do with her.

22 When a person is at a school or wherever, they don't lose  
23 their constitutional rights. I would have had to intend --  
24 first of all, that happened on September 10th. I didn't know  
25 on September 10th that, 15 days later, there would be a

1 conflict with Ms. Troublefield. So there's no way -- if we're  
2 looking at the law, Harassment II, a person has to intend. I  
3 would have had to have known 15 days before an incident that  
4 her and I were going to even have a problem to make that  
5 statement about a pedophile with intent to harass her two  
6 weeks later in a meeting she's not even in.

7 So the context of the conversation -- we all, in  
8 different conversations, have had conversations where we made  
9 statements. But if we take them out of context, they can  
10 sound like something that they're not.

11 That wasn't the context here. There was no conflict with  
12 us on September 10th. And, in fact, she had nothing to do  
13 with -- the child that that IEP meeting was for had nothing to  
14 do with her. He's not in her class. He was never in her  
15 class. He's in 3K. She's a 4K teacher. So they took that  
16 issue and applied it here, and it doesn't apply at all.

17 So it's a part of my free speech, and the intent in that  
18 conversation, because I was asked about whether or not I  
19 wanted transportation for my son -- he's eligible for it  
20 because of his disabilities. I said no. I started talking  
21 about the pedophile in the community, and I made a joke. That  
22 referred to the person in the community. Had nothing to do  
23 with anybody in the room. The intent of that was not to harm  
24 her. I had no idea that, 15 days later, there would even be a  
25 conflict with her.

1 THE COURT: Okay. I heard that. Let's go on to your  
2 next one.

3 MS. STEVENS: Okay. The next part. I'm sorry. That was  
4 page 2. I'm sorry. That was page 3.

5 Okay. So the First Amendment protects my rights. Okay.  
6 The Harassment II law, when it's applied in this case, it bars  
7 me from and punishes me for free exercising of speech. And  
8 so, for that reason, the application of this law applied to  
9 the facts in my case is unconstitutional because it punishes  
10 free speech and it doesn't meet the legal standard for  
11 harassment and it infringes upon my fundamental right to free  
12 expression.

13 Part of my right to free expression is to advocate for my  
14 kids' safety as well as their educational needs. That's all  
15 that I was doing, an IEP meeting talking about their safety  
16 and their educational needs.

17 The second point is that the Harassment II law is overly  
18 broad. And I have case law too, which I can read. But let me  
19 finish these points, and then I'll read the case law.

20 The Harassment II law is overly broad and vague. And so  
21 it potentially puts a person in a position where they could be  
22 held for Harassment II through protected speech, so including  
23 speech that is the First Amendment freedom of expression and  
24 advocacy.

25 You know, as it relates to me and my case, related to my

1 child's education and their safety. In the matter of the  
2 teacher putting my kid on Facebook, she put my child's image  
3 on Facebook against my consent.

4 So my saying "take my child down" and then her ignoring  
5 that and then me getting upset for it is, you know, applying  
6 Harassment II to that. It's unconstitutional. Because, here,  
7 I'm advocating for my kids' safety. All of my kids are  
8 adopted.

9 I signed a form declining putting my child online because  
10 people from their past search for them. So I'm trying to  
11 protect my child. That's the intent of my speech. And my  
12 frustration came from a teacher who is supposed to be a  
13 trusted person violating my consent and putting my child at  
14 risk.

15 Again, intent is to protect my kids, and I feel like  
16 applying Harassment II not only violates free speech, free  
17 expression, and advocacy for the protection of my kids and  
18 their educational rights, but it makes all of our rights null  
19 and void in the rights of only one person that matters.  
20 There's no equal protection in this matter.

21 For example, had I, for no blanket reason, just gotten  
22 upset -- which didn't occur, but just giving an example to  
23 make my point. Had I, for no reason, just started screaming  
24 and carrying on about someone and calling them names, that  
25 would be a different point. I wouldn't be here if that were

1 the case. I would have just accepted the Restraining Order  
2 and moved on. That did not occur.

3 The other part about retaliation for exercising free  
4 speech, the Restraining Order issued against me appears to be  
5 in retaliation for exercising free speech; namely, for  
6 advocacy and reporting of mistreatment involving my children.  
7 The First Amendment prohibits government entities from  
8 punishing individuals for engaging in protected speech;  
9 therefore, using the Harassment II law in this context to  
10 silence my voice or to even punish my voice in my advocacy for  
11 my children is unconstitutional infringement on my rights.

12 In this particular case, you know, as it applies in this  
13 case, I'm trying to protect my kids, and I'm exercising my  
14 right to report a wrong that has taken place to them. So my  
15 report to the Department of Education is in exercising my  
16 First Amendment right because I have the right to address a  
17 grievance. You have now upset my child to the point where she  
18 won't even sleep in her bed. My kids have experienced a lot  
19 of trauma. And so I reported it. And so this is my  
20 punishment for reporting it.

21 I maintain that I've never threatened her. I have no  
22 desire in my heart to try to harm her or anybody else. I've  
23 made that clear. This is an effort to protect my children.

24 My next point on equal protection, Fourteenth Amendment.  
25 The application of the Harassment II law in this case, when

1 compared to similar situations, appears discriminatory.  
2 Similar situations. So I'm being subjected to this  
3 Restraining Order despite my actions being in line with  
4 exercising my rights as a parent and advocate.

5 The law has been applied disproportionately to me because  
6 of my position and my efforts to advocate for my children with  
7 disabilities, which violates the equal protection clause of  
8 the Fourteenth Amendment. So I'm being unfairly treated for  
9 engaging in protected activities while others in similar  
10 situations may not face consequences.

11 Here's my example as it relates to this situation.  
12 Here's the law. Here's my example; that, based on this, after  
13 I made my report, the principal contacted me via email and  
14 invited me to a meeting. The difference here, in applying the  
15 law: Intent. There is no intent. I did not ask for the  
16 meeting. The principal invited me to it.

17 I sent an email, as well as I spoke to the principal on  
18 the exact day, stating I would like my child moved out of this  
19 teacher's class because of her behavior and the way she  
20 frightened my children. That is not confrontational. That is  
21 asking my children to not be harmed by the teacher. That is  
22 the opposite of Harassment II.

23 Harassment II would have been, "Okay, this teacher has  
24 now done this. Let me go do something to her." I did not do  
25 that. I did what I was supposed to do; I checked the box and

1 I made the reports and asked my kids to be brought to a safe  
2 place.

3       Instead of them doing that initially -- they have now  
4 done that, but instead of them doing that initially, the  
5 principal emailed me asking -- and in writing; I have proof --  
6 asked me to come to a meeting.

7       And, then, at that meeting, the principal said to me she  
8 was not going to get -- I had to investigate, you know,  
9 because of my complaint -- she was not going to get in your  
10 car. She was not going to hurt you.

11       My reaction was no. Had I felt like -- because, see,  
12 that's not -- an intent is me saying, no, I'm going to go and  
13 harm this person. I have never uttered those words a day in  
14 my life. And the truth about the matter is, had I said that,  
15 I never would have appealed it. I did not say that. That's  
16 not the context and it's not the intent.

17       I have never had an intent to harm her or even threaten  
18 to harm her. I have never said to her, "I'm going to blow  
19 your brains out." I have never said that, ever.

20       So -- and the next point is discriminatory -- oh,  
21 selective enforcement. The selective enforcement of the  
22 Harassment II law in my case is a violation of the equal  
23 protection clause. So there's others who have engaged in  
24 similar behaviors, such as advocating for their children or  
25 challenging school policies, who have not faced restraining

1 orders or retaliation.

2 THE COURT: Right. But this is not a government action  
3 where you can claim that the Government is not equally  
4 protecting its citizens. This is a private individual who has  
5 filed a complaint seeking a Restraining Order and the Court  
6 hearing that matter. It's not an equal protection situation.

7 I mean, if you were to tell me that there are other  
8 teachers or other -- sorry -- I'm sorry, other parents who  
9 engaged in the exact same activity and she filed complaints or  
10 sought Restraining Orders against all of them and the Court  
11 only granted one against you and not anybody else, that might  
12 be a different case.

13 But this is an individual who was aggrieved by you filing  
14 an action. It's not the Government failing to treat citizens  
15 equally.

16 MS. STEVENS: All right. And so I have a response to  
17 that, but I don't want to offend the Court, so...

18 But -- okay. So I have three more points, and then I  
19 have case law. But...

20 THE COURT: I'm not offended, by the way.

21 MS. STEVENS: Yeah, I don't want to say it and it sounds  
22 wrong.

23 Okay. So my argument with that is that there have been  
24 other people who have filed complaints, and the School  
25 District didn't back them. The reason the School District has

1 backed me is for two different reasons. And I'm not -- I'm  
2 not trying to be offensive, but this is a legitimate answer  
3 here.

4 There has been a lot of discrimination towards me for two  
5 reasons. There has been racial discrimination against me, but  
6 there has been discrimination against me and retaliation  
7 against me because of my advocacy.

8 THE COURT: Well, let me try to help you understand what  
9 I'm saying. Let's put it -- I'm going to use a -- an analogy.  
10 Let's put it in a different context.

11 I sit here and I sentence people to sometimes prison for  
12 shoplifting, for example. I only deal with what's right here  
13 in front of me. The store said you stole something. They  
14 called the police. The police arrested the person and brought  
15 them here, and I'm dealing with that. That's an individual  
16 case.

17 It would be different if the equal protection argument  
18 would be people shoplift from this place all the time and they  
19 call the police all the time and the police only arrested me.

20 That's a different thing than the Court dealing with the  
21 one situation it has in front of it. This person decided to  
22 seek a restraining order, and if you believe that the school  
23 is improperly backing this teacher and not others or taking  
24 the parents' sides or whatever it is, you have a separate  
25 issue with the school.

1 MS. STEVENS: Yes, I do.

2 THE COURT: That doesn't have anything to do with this  
3 Restraining Order.

4 MS. STEVENS: Yes, I do. I very much do.

5 THE COURT: So that's a separate matter altogether. If  
6 you believe they retaliated against you, that's a separate  
7 matter altogether.

8 I'm trying to figure out what the magistrate did wrong  
9 with the two people he had standing in front of him -- you,  
10 Ms. Stevens, and Ms. Troublefield, yeah. What did the  
11 magistrate do wrong?

12 MS. STEVENS: So he applied the law, the Harassment II to  
13 this case, and none of my speech (indiscernible).

14 We have the issue -- the procedural issue with the  
15 transcript. We also -- that just hinders my ability to even  
16 have a fair case because you can't rely on what actually was  
17 said so that I can respond to it because of that. But also --

18 THE COURT: It is not a court of record. They're not  
19 required to have a transcript.

20 MS. STEVENS: Right.

21 THE COURT: That's the way Magistrate's Courts are set  
22 up. If you want to ensure that you have a recording and a  
23 transcript, you've got to come up to a court of record, which  
24 is Circuit Court, Family Court, you know, some other courts.

25 MS. STEVENS: Yes. Well, I just argue that it's

1 misapplied. The procedures haven't been followed. I do have  
2 some case law. I don't know if -- but I do have some case  
3 law.

4 There was no comment made to her at all -- at all that  
5 was a threat to her. There was a conversation between the  
6 principal and I that she invited me to -- that a principal,  
7 not Troublefield but a principal invited me to.

8 None of that is Harassment II. All of it is protection  
9 of my children and it is free speech. There was never an  
10 intent ever to threaten her, to, like somebody is going to go  
11 do something to you.

12 And then the words that Mr. Troublefield -- Mr. Shoemake  
13 is over there is not even factual or accurate. They weren't  
14 even stated at the hearing, let alone are they factual. So I  
15 think relying on it --

16 THE COURT: But harassment doesn't require a threat of  
17 physical violence. That's not harassment. You could harass  
18 somebody all day but never threaten them.

19 MS. STEVENS: Yeah, but I've never done that. The only  
20 conversation her and I have ever had would have been about my  
21 child. And the other conversation that even -- and even  
22 anybody could say, "Well, why did she say that?", would be  
23 when she put my child on the internet, knowing that it makes  
24 my child unsafe, potentially, and I asked multiple times for  
25 the child to be removed. That's one dialogue. And that is

1 after she approached my car and was yelling at me.

2 The way that the police viewed was as a mutual parent and  
3 teacher conflict that should have been resolved simply by them  
4 moving my child. So there was no threat to her. There is no  
5 threat to her. There is no imminent threat to her and there  
6 never, ever was.

7 THE COURT: There doesn't have to be, is what I'm telling  
8 you.

9 MS. STEVENS: I never did anything with intent to harass  
10 her. I never contacted her on a personal level. I never  
11 intervened in her personal life. I don't even know anything  
12 about her personal life.

13 THE COURT: Okay.

14 MS. STEVENS: There was never an intent to do that.

15 THE COURT: Okay.

16 MS. STEVENS: I only intended to protect my kids. That's  
17 it.

18 THE COURT: Understood. Anything else?

19 MS. STEVENS: I do have some case law. This is -- I  
20 mean, I'm not an attorney. I went to the library to pull all  
21 this case law, but -- so hopefully some of it helps me, but...

22 Okay. Here I have -- I don't know if I'm pronouncing it  
23 right, but Elonise (ph) vs. United States. The Supreme Court  
24 ruled that -- well, you said it doesn't have to be a threat,  
25 so...

1           Okay. NAACP vs. Claiborne Hardware. Vigorous advocacy,  
2 even if it's forceful or controversial, remains protected  
3 under the First Amendment.

4           Oh, okay. Watts vs. United States. Courts have  
5 consistently held that hyperbolic or emotional responses to  
6 issues of public concern, including safety, are protected.  
7 And in this matter, a teacher -- you know, given the history  
8 with the School District -- I know we can't try the case, but  
9 there has to be -- in order to explain this, there has to be  
10 some understanding of the things that have taken place -- the  
11 context.

12           So the history with the District, you know, there being  
13 safety issues before with the District, i.e., them losing my  
14 child on the bus, who has a traumatic brain injury and has  
15 PTSD and anxiety and has been through all kind of trauma;  
16 teachers threatening my kids to the point where they had to be  
17 put in diapers, you know, for a week and were afraid to come  
18 back to school; kids threatening to kill my kids and me;  
19 another child threatening to stab my child; one child  
20 threatening to shoot my child.

21           Given the context -- and then a teacher approaching and  
22 frightening my kids so badly -- because she was on their side,  
23 not on my side of the car; she was on their side -- for  
24 frightening my kids so badly, one of them couldn't even sleep  
25 at night, had to come --

1           The context is what I'm trying to point to because it  
2 matches, to an extent, the case law. The context of that.  
3 And then all I said was, "Take my child away from them,"  
4 basically, in essence.

5           And then the principal invited me there. And then making  
6 the statement, she was not going to do this, my response that  
7 I actually made was in protection of my kids. I never before  
8 that threatened her. We never had fisticuffs or any of that  
9 situation. I have never written emails to her about personal  
10 matters. Nothing we have ever discussed was about anything  
11 other than my child that was in her class. And most of those  
12 dialogues were initiated by her.

13           Again, Harassment II, you have to intend to. There has  
14 to be a pattern of behavior where you're intending to harass  
15 someone. And I have never done that. Never. There has never  
16 been a pattern of behavior. There's no conversation that they  
17 can point to where it's been about anything in her private  
18 life.

19           Many of the conversations, she initiated. I mean, I  
20 didn't go out of my way and just reach out to her and there's  
21 no reason. And even according to the case law, basically,  
22 even a discussion -- which, in this case, is protected  
23 speech -- even an emotional response to someone else about her  
24 and her actions towards me and my kids, my argument is that's  
25 protected speech.

1           If you will, Your Honor, if any other parent besides me  
2 had that exact same scenario, I do not believe they would have  
3 a restraining order, not under the same scenario.

4           So that's the reason why I filed it. Believe me, I do a  
5 lot of stuff. I've got a lot of stuff. I've got four kids to  
6 raise. I have several businesses. I have a church. I have a  
7 husband. I've got a lot of things going on for me. I would  
8 not have even come into this courtroom if I didn't believe  
9 that this was misapplied.

10           And according to the law, according to what the Supreme  
11 Court has said, how the Supreme Court has ruled in other  
12 cases, protected speech does not qualify as Harassment II,  
13 even if it's emotionally based and even if, to some cases, it  
14 upsets people. It has to be more than that. I'd have to go  
15 out of my way to harass her. I have never done that.

16           And my child is no longer in her class. Finally, they  
17 moved her. There's been no contact between us.

18           The last time I had contact with her was September 25th,  
19 because I made it a point not to have any more contact with  
20 her. She didn't even get the Restraining Order until  
21 October 21st.

22           THE COURT: Okay. Anything else?

23           MS. STEVENS: Terminiello vs. City of Chicago, First  
24 Amendment protects speech. Even speech that invites dispute  
25 or stirs people to anger, so long as it does not pose a threat

1 to them.

2 And my speech in this case, although it may have made her  
3 feel like she could lose her job because I made reports  
4 against her -- because, in history, when I file complaints,  
5 people got in trouble for the stuff that they did wrong, as  
6 they should have. She may have felt like she was going to  
7 lose her job. That doesn't mean that was my intent for her to  
8 lose her job.

9 My intent was simply to report what she did to my kids.  
10 I have a constitutional right to do that. That's advocating  
11 for my children.

12 And the Harassment II not only silenced me from doing  
13 that but it punishes me from doing stuff that I'm -- my First  
14 Amendment rights protects me from being -- allows me to do.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Shoemake, any response?

16 MR. SHOEMAKE: Very, very briefly, Your Honor.

17 Again, I think that the Magistrate's Return is pretty  
18 clear. I'm hearing, I guess, an as-applied challenge, and to  
19 that, I would just say that the harassment statute builds in  
20 the fact that constitutionally protected speech can't be  
21 harassment. It has to be shown to cause, you know, some type  
22 of, you know, fear of certain actions. And the magistrate  
23 found that that happened. Contextually here, that was found.

24 You don't get to say I'm going to blow someone's brains  
25 out in a school twice and say it's protected speech. That's

1 what the magistrate found, and that, I think, is kind of the  
2 end of it.

3 THE COURT: And I agree with the magistrate. I find  
4 there are no errors of law occurred in this case, and  
5 therefore, I'm going to affirm the decision of the magistrate.

6 All right. Thank you, folks.

7 (The hearing concluded at 1:38 p.m.)  
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# Certificate of Transcriber

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CASE NAME: Freda Stevens v. Shelby Troublefield

DATE OF HEARING: 1/16/2025

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*Bobbi Fisher*

/s/ Bobbi Fisher \_\_\_\_\_

Bobbi Fisher, SC Official Court Reporter III, RPR

Transcript Prepared: 6/14/25

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