

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF LANCASTER )  
 )  
IN THE MATTER OF ESTATE )  
OF CHRIS COMBIS, )  
 )  
Desa Ballard, as Personal Representative )  
Of the Estate of Chris Combis, )  
 )  
Petitioner, )  
 )  
v. )  
 )  
George Combis, Chris A. Combis, )  
Diane Combis, )  
 )  
Respondents. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
Case No. 2014-CP-29-00306

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION  
FOR RECONSIDERATION IN  
PART AND DENYING IN PART**

**RECEIVED**  
JAN 27 2020  
SC Court of Appeals

Respondents George Combis (hereafter “George”) and Chris Combis (hereafter “Chris”) have moved this Court to reconsider its order dated October 31, 2019, in which it found both Respondents to be in civil contempt of court and imposed sanctions.

A hearing was held on the motion of December 18, 2019. After hearing argument from counsel for both sides, the Court grants the motion in part and denies it in part.

All of the factual findings of the order dated October 31, 2019 are sufficiently supported by the record, and the Court is not persuaded that any factual error was made in its original order.

The arguments set forth by George and Chris merely confirms this Court’s conclusion in its order that both “knew they had additional items that were the subject of this Court’s August 9, 2017 order and deliberately withheld the items from Ballard in violation of the Court order.” (Order dated October 21, 2019, page 9 ¶ 9).

**Nature of Contempt**

George and Chris further assert that the nature of the contempt imposed has elements of criminal contempt in it, and the Court agrees.

For that reason, the final two paragraphs of the order of October 21, 2019 are modified to read as follows:

To that end, as a result of George and Chris being held in civil contempt of court, I find and conclude that George and Chris are ordered to pay a sanction in the amount of \$70,000.00 to Desa Ballard, as personal representative of the estate of Chris Combis, no later than December 31, 2019. The amount awarded is awarded as compensatory contempt, and while it is calculated on the basis of the amount of time spent by both Ms. Ballard and MR. Truslow, the award is a sanction. See Miller v. Miller, 357 S. C. 443, 652 S.E.2d 754 (Ct.App. 2007); Poston v. Poston, 331 S.C. 106, 502 S.E.2d 86 (1998).

If not received by Ms. Ballard by December 31, 2019, upon the affidavit of Ballard and Truslow, George and Chris are to report to the Lancaster County Detention Center on or before 01/05/2020 to be held in custody until they purge themselves of the sanction by paying the contempt award to the Estate or for no longer than 90 days, whichever occurs first.

If either fail to purge their contempt as stated above or fail to report to the detention center by 01/05/2020, a bench warrant from this Court shall be issued for their arrest. After issuance of a bench warrant, neither George nor Chris may be released from custody of the Lancaster County Detention Center until further ordered by the Court.

The modification of the order of October 21, 2019 is made to recognize that the nature of the contempt imposed by this order is civil in nature, in that George and Chris hold the keys to the jail cells in their own hands. Clamp v. Hall, 287 S.C. 270, 335 S.E.2d 815 (1985).

In all other instances, the order of October 21, 2019 remains unmodified and is a final order; **AND IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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Brian M. Gibbons  
Presiding Judge

December \_\_\_\_, 2019