

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

JENNIFER ELISE GORDON,
Appellant,
vs.
MATTHEW ROBERT GEIGER,
Respondent.

No. 67955

FILED

NOV 02 2015

TRACIE K. LINDEMAN
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY S. Young
DEPUTY CLERK

ORDER REGARDING PRO BONO COUNSEL

This is an appeal from a district court modifying child custody. Appellant is appearing in pro se pursuant to this court's civil pilot program for parties proceeding without counsel. On September 21, 2015, this court entered an order removing counsel for respondent and directing respondent, within 30 days, to retain new counsel and cause new counsel to file a notice of appearance, or to inform this court within the same time period that he would not be retaining new counsel. Respondent has not responded to our order or communicated with this court. Accordingly we conclude that respondent intends to proceed in this appeal in pro se.

Having considered the record and the civil proper person appeal statement filed by appellant, this court has determined that the appointment of pro bono counsel to represent the parties would assist this court in reviewing this appeal. By this order, the court expresses no opinion as to the merits of this appeal.

Pro bono counsel is an attorney who provides legal services without charge for the benefit of the public good. The appointment of pro bono counsel provides attorneys with an opportunity to volunteer legal services in furtherance of their professional responsibility and, at the same time, allows financially eligible litigants access to quality legal

representation without cost. Counsel will be appointed for purposes of this appeal only and will participate in oral argument. Currently, the Pro Bono Committee of the Appellate Litigation Section of the State Bar of Nevada (Pro Bono Committee), in conjunction with the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, has developed a pro bono appellate program to assist the public and this court. This case is hereby referred to the program established by the Pro Bono Committee to evaluate whether the parties can benefit from the program.

Accordingly, we direct the clerk of this court to transmit a copy of this order and the attached case summary to the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada for financial eligibility screening. If the parties qualify and do not object to pro bono counsel, the Legal Aid Center in cooperation with the Pro Bono Committee shall locate volunteer attorneys from the program to represent appellant and respondent. Once an attorney is located, the attorney shall file a notice of appearance in this court within 60 days from the date of this order. Supplemental briefing and oral argument will be scheduled thereafter. Alternatively, if the parties are not financially eligible or object to pro bono representation, or if a volunteer attorney cannot be located, the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada shall notify this court in writing within 60 days from the date of this order.

It is so ORDERED.

 A.C.J.

cc: Jennifer Elise Gordon
Matthew Robert Geiger
Eighth District Court Clerk
Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Barbara E. Buckley,
Executive Director
Anne R. Traum, Coordinator, Appellate Litigation Section,
Pro Bono Committee, State Bar of Nevada
Kelly Dove

The parties divorced in 2011; there are two children of the marriage. The parties have joint legal custody; appellant has had primary physical custody, and she initiated proceedings to modify the custody and a possible relocation. One of the children suffers from some significant medical issues. In October of 2014, the court entered an order denying appellant's motion for sole legal custody and modifying the custody and visitation arrangements. In particular, the court limited the contact that appellant's fiancé may have with the children. Appellant has sought a stay of enforcement of the district court's order, and this court has suspended briefing on the motion pending the instant referral for counsel.