IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

GRADY EDWARD BYRD) Supreme Court No. 80548
Appellant	Electronically Filed Jul 06 2020 04:04 p.m.
v.	Elizabeth A. Brown Clerk of Supreme Court
CATERINA ANGELA BYRD)
Respondent)))

APPELLANT'S APPENDIX TO OPENING BRIEF - VOLUME VI

Submitted by:

DANIEL W. ANDERSON, ESQ.

Nevada Bar No.: 9955 BYRON L. MILLS, ESQ. Nevada Bar No.: 8191 MILLS & ANDERSON 703 S. 8th Street

Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

(702) 386-0030

attorneys@millsnv.com

Attorneys for Appellant

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on the 6th day of July, 2020, I caused to be served the instant APPELLANT'S APPENDIX TO OPENING BRIEF- VOLUME VI to all interested parties as follows:

BY MAIL: Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I caused a true copy thereof to be placed in the U.S. Mail, enclosed in a sealed envelope, postage fully prepaid thereon, address as follows:

Anita A. Webster, Esq. WEBSTER & ASSOCIATES 6882 Edna Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89146 Attorneys for Respondent

XX BY ELECTRONIC MAIL: Pursuant to EDCR 7.26 and NEFCR Rule 9, I caused a true copy thereof to be served via electronic mail, via Odyssey, to the following e-mail address:

Anita Webster, Esq. - anitawebster@embargmail.com

MILLS & ANDERSON

The index of Appellants Appendix to Opening Brief is as follows:

DOCUMENT	BATES NO.
Decree of Divorce filed on June 5, 2014	AA001-012
Notice of Motion and Motion to Enforce the Decree of Divorce, for an Order to Show Cause, to Divide a Newly Discovered Asset, to Execute QDRO's, and for Attorney's Fees and Costs filed on October 16, 2018	AA013-034
Exhibit Appendix for Motion to Enforce the Decree of Divorce, for an Order to Show Cause, to Divide a Newly Discovered Asset, to Execute QDRO's, and for Attorney's Fees and Costs filed on October 16, 2018	AA035-063
Plaintiff's Errata to Motion to Enforce the Decree of Divorce, for an Order to Show Cause, to Divide a Newly Discovered Asset, to Execute QDRO's, and for Attorney's Fees and Costs filed on October 29, 2018	AA064-068
Order Striking Exhibits filed on November 14, 2018	AA069
Plaintiff's Opposition to Defendant's to Defendant's Ex Parte Motion for a Continuance of Plaintiff's Motion to Enforce the Decree of Divorce, for an Order to Show Cause, to Divide Newly Discovered Asset, to Execute QDRO's and for Attorney's Fees and Costs and Countermotion for Attorney Fees and Costs filed on December 19, 2018	AA070-091
Reply to Opposition and/or Countermotion filed on December 28, 2018	AA092-096
Transcript Re: Motion – January 23, 2019 filed on May 13, 2020	AA097-138
Order From the January 23, 2019 Hearing filed on April 5, 2019	AA139-147
Notice of Entry of Order From the January 23, 2019 Hearing filed on April 5, 2019	AA148-158
Defendant's Motion for Reconsideration filed on April 8, 2019	AA159-177
Appendix to Defendant's Motion for Reconsideration filed on April 8, 2019	AA178-198
Plaintiff's Opposition to Defendant's Motion for Reconsideration and Countermotion filed on April 23, 2019	AA199-237

Transcript Re: Status Check – May 2, 2019 filed on May 13, 2020	AA238-252
Defendant's Reply and Opposition filed on May 14, 2019	AA253-278
Plaintiff's Reply to Defendant's Opposition to Plaintiff's Countermotion filed on May 17, 2019	AA279-308
Transcript Re: All Pending Motions – May 22, 2019 filed on May 13, 2020	AA309-353
Order of the Court filed on June 26, 2019	AA354-359
Notice to Appear Telephonically field on June 27, 2019	AA360-361
Order From the July 18, 2019 Hearing filed on August 9, 2019	AA362-365
Notice of Entry of Order From the July 18, 2019 Hearing filed on August 9, 2019	AA366-371
Transcript Re: All Pending Motions – July 18, 2019 filed on May 13, 2020	AA372-399
Plaintiff's Motion for Reconsideration, Summary Judgment, Joinder and to Continue the Evidentiary Hearing filed on September 30, 2019	AA400-436
Schedule Arrearages for Support filed on October 9, 2019	AA437-440
Request to Appear by Audiovisual Transmission Equipment filed on October 10, 2019	AA441-448
Audiovisual Transmission Equipment Appearance Consent filed on October 10, 2019	AA449-450
Transcript Re: All Pending Motions – October 11, 2019 filed on May 13, 2020	AA451-477
Plaintiff's Objection to Defendant's Notice to Appear by Audiovisual Transmission Equipment at the Trial Scheduled for October 21, 2019 filed on October 14, 2019	AA478-489
Motion on Order Shortening Time to Reconsider Denial of Audiovisual Appearance Request filed on October 15, 2019	AA490-499
Appendix to Defendant's Motion for Order Time to Reconsider Denial of Audiovisual Appearance filed on October 15, 2019	AA500-507
Defendant's Pretrial Memo filed on October 16, 2019	AA508-517
Plaintiff's Opposition to Defendant's Motion on Order Shortening Time to Reconsider Denial of Defendant's Audiovisual Appearance Request and Countermotion for Attorney's Fees and Costs filed on October 16, 2019	AA518-536
Exhibit Appendix filed on October 16, 2019	AA537-541
Plaintiff's Pretrial memorandum filed on October 16, 2019	AA542-562

Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion for Reconsideration and	AA563-578
Countermotion for Fees filed on October 18, 2019	
Plaintiff's Reply to Defendant's Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion for Reconsideration, Summary Judgment, Joinder and to	AA579-603
Continue the Evidentiary Hearing filed on October 20, 2019	
Transcript Re: All Pending Motions – October 21, 2019 filed on May 13, 2020	AA604-785
Defendant's Opposition to Plaintiff's Memorandum of Fees and Costs filed on December 4, 2019	AA786-789
Plaintiff's Reply to Defendant's Opposition to Plaintiff's Second memorandum of Fees and Costs from July 19, 2019 through the Date of the Evidentiary Hearing on October 21, 2019 filed on December 16, 2019	AA790-802
Plaintiff's Motion for Attorney Fees and Costs for the Appeal filed on December 16, 2019	AA803-814
Defendant's Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs for the Appeal filed on January 2, 2020	AA815-821
Plaintiff's Reply to Defendant's Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs During the Appeal filed on January 9, 2020	AA822-832
Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order filed on January 23, 2020	AA833-853
Notice of Entry of Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order filed on January 23, 2020	AA854-876
Judgment for Attorney Fees filed on March 17, 2020	AA877-880
Notice of Entry of Judgment for Attorney Fees filed on March 18, 2020	AA881-886
Order From February 27, 2020 Hearing filed on March 26, 2020	AA887-889
Notice of Entry of Order From the February 27, 2020 Hearing filed on March 27, 2020	AA890-894
Request for Continuance filed on November 16, 2018	AA895-896
Order From the November 27, 2018 Hearing filed on December 17, 2019	AA897-900

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Appendix to Defendant's Motion for Order Time to Reconsider Denial of Audiovisual Appearance filed on October 15, 2019	AA500-507
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Defendant's Pretrial Memo filed on October 16, 2019	AA508-517
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Exhibit Appendix filed on October 16, 2019	AA537-541
Exhibit Appendix for Motion to Enforce the Decree of Divorce, for an Order to Show Cause, to Divide a Newly Discovered Asset, to Execute QDRO's, and for Attorney's Fees and Costs filed on October 16, 2018	AA035-063
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on August 9, 2019	
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Notice to Appear Telephonically field on June 27, 2019	AA360-361
Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion for Reconsideration and	AA563-578
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Plaintiff's Opposition to Defendant's Motion for	AA199-237
Reconsideration and Countermotion filed on April 23, 2019	
Plaintiff's Opposition to Defendant's Motion on Order	AA518-536
Shortening Time to Reconsider Denial of Defendant's	
Audiovisual Appearance Request and Countermotion for	
Attorney's Fees and Costs filed on October 16, 2019	

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Electronically Filed 10/15/2019 2:04 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

CASE NO.: D-18-577701-Z

DEPT. NO.: G

BYRON L. MILLS, ESQ.

State Bar #6745

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MILLS & ANDERSON

703 S. 8th Street

Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

(702) 386-0030

Attorney for Defendant

DISTRICT COURT FAMILY DIVISION CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

CATERINA ANGELA BYRD,

Plaintiff,

vs.

GRADY EDWARD BYRD,

Defendant,

APPENDIX TO DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR ORDER TIME TO RECONSIDER DENIAL OF AUDIOVISUAL APPEARANCE

Defendant, GRADY BYRD, by and through his attorney, BYRON L.

MILLS, ESQ. of MILLS & ANDERSON hereby submits and files his Appendix to the Motion for Reconsideration.

EXHIBIT	BATE NO.	DESCRIPTION
A	237	Medical Certificate from Dr. Arco
В	511	Medical Certificate from Mayden Taulo, Nursing Attendant

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С	490	Medical Certificate from	Dr. Regaldo
		Submitted by:	
		MILLS & ANDERSON	
			11-
		In fills	10/15/19
		BYRON L. MILLS, ESQ. Mevada Bar No. 6745 703 S, 8 TH STREET Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 (702) 386-0030 Attornevs for Defendant	DATEÓ

EXHIBIT "A"

ROY DIAMOND M. ARCO, MD Specialist in Internal Medicine & Kidney Diseases Diplomate, Philippine Society of Nephrology Diplomate, Philippine College Physicians

SILLIMAN MEDICAL, CENTER Rm 101, Medical Arts Building Tel. No. 420-2101	Mon. to Frl. 12:00NN to 5:00 PM Tue, Wed, Thuis, & Sal 12:00NN to 3:00 PM	
Name:	A second	
Address	Age	
	Sex	



MEDICAL CONTIFICATE

This is to certify that Mr. Grady Edward Byrd 62410 sufet curt for an and off barnadel edeens and leg pour ; the lotalined to have rundon epiroder last year and thus ferring.

He is admid not to travel by plane for
prolonged how until fuellow work up to rule outvenn tembons.

tunk y

Vic. No. 103619 PTR No. 2116064 S2 No.
PTR No. 2116064

EXHIBIT "B"

COMMUNITY MEDICAL SERVICES

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify that Mr. Grady E. Byrd, 63 years old, a resident of Purok 2, Cangmating, Sibulan, Negros Oriental, Philippines has been examined and is being treated for Blood Clotting and Pulmonary disorders.

Diagnosis:

Deep Vein Thrombosis with accompanying Pulmonary Embolism Symptoms

Treatment / Medication:

Warfarin 2.5 mg dally

Treatment continues until conditions resolved

Monthly INR test

Recommendations / Restrictions:

- 1. No alcohol due to interference with Warfarin.
- 2. No Flying due to high risk of pulmonary incident.
- 3. Wear compression socks daily to reduce post-thrombotic syndrome.
- 4. Walk 30 minutes daily if possible to assist in reducing overall risk factors.

Follow-up:

Refer to United States Department of Veterans Affairs Appointment 03/16/2020, 1 p.m.

This certificate was issued at request of Grady E. Byrd and may be used for the purposes he determines.

MAYDEN TAGULO NURSING ATTENDANT

09562103541

0111-7-191323-2

SUBSCRIPTO ATS SWORN TO LEPORE ME THIS DAY OF OCT 0 4 2019 AT

DUMAQUETE CITY, PHILIPPINES,

ATTY RAYMUNITUS MERCAND TARY PUBLIC FOR CITY CEDUMACUETE & THE MUN, OF BULAN BACONG, YLCENDA, DAFN ZANSON MUNTA & SIATON UNTIL DE GENETER BU ZOZO

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EXHIBIT "C"

MOM'S MEDICAL CLINIC PERDICES ST., DUMAGUETE CITY MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

To whom it may concern:	•
This is to certify that Mr./Ms./Mrs. GRAY, age/sex 67 yrs. of FIBULTON	
and examined on 10/9/19	and was diagnosed to have
HOPERTENSION; DIAMETES. INT	SULUS: POST ONT.
Therefore recommend CONTIMUE 40.	. /
This certificate is being issued upon the requ	est of GNATIN BUILD
for who	tever purpose it may serve
(excluding legal matters).	
Yours truly,	
MEDICAL CONSULTANT/CLINIC PHYSIC	CIAN (0 (
DR. FE L. BESARIO LIC. No. 42207 PTR No S2 No	DR. PEDRITO E. REGALADO Lic. No. 0050514 PTR No. 6 (85) 2224 S2 No.
	Date: 10/10/19

Electronically Filed 10/16/2019 1:41 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COUR **PMEM** BYRON L. MILLS, ESQ. Nevada Bar #6745 3 MILLS & ANDERSON 703 S. 8th Street Las Vegas NV 89101 (702) 386-0030 6 Attorney for Defendant attorneys@millsnv.com 7 DISTRICT COURT 8 FAMILY DIVISION CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 9 10 11 CATERINA ANGELA BYRD, 12 Plaintiff. 13 VS. CASE NO.: D-18-577701-Z 14 DEPT. NO.: G 15 GRADY EDWARD BYRD, 16 DATE OF HEARING: 10/21/19 Defendant. TIME OF HEARING: 9:00 A.M. 17 18 DEFENDANT'S PRETRIAL MEMO 19 COMES NOW the Defendant, GRADY EDWARD BYRD, by and through 20 his attorney, BYRON L. MILLS, ESQ., of the law firm of MILLS & ANDERSON, 21 and submits his pretrial memo. 22 DATED this day of October, 2019. 23 MILLS & ANDERSON 24 26 BYRON L. MILLS, ESQ. 27 Nevada Bar #6745 28

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703 S. 8th Street Las Vegas NV 89101 Attorney for Defendant

POINTS AND AUTHORITIES I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY AND STATEMENT OF FACTS

GRADY EDWARD BYRD (hereinafter "Grady") and CATERINA ANGELA BYRD (hereinafter "Caterina") were divorced by Decree of Divorce dated June 5, 2014. The Decree of Divorce contained inter alia, an order that Grady pay Caterina 50% of his United States Army Retired Pay as long as he lives. The Decree also contained an order that Grady would continue to pay Caterina \$1500.00 extra per month to assist with her home mortgage. However, the Decree specifically stated that the \$1500.00 is not an alimony payment and it is not required. Additionally, the Decree included an agreement that neither party shall be required to pay spousal support to the other party.

On October 16, 2018, Caterina filed a Motion to Enforce the Decree of Divorce. In her motion Caterina claimed that the \$1500.00 per month was truly spousal support despite the clear waiver in the Decree stating that neither party would pay alimony. Caterina further claimed that it was possible the other half of the \$3000.00 Grady had been depositing was Caterina's 50% share of Grady's United States Army Retired pay.

On January 23, 2019, the matter of Caterina's Motion to Enforce the Decree of Divorce came before the Court. The Court determined that the \$1,500.00 per month voluntary payment was alimony. The Court also agreed with Caterina regarding the additional \$1500.00 that Grady had voluntarily been paying was one half of his military retired pay and ordered him to continue paying it.

Grady then filed a motion to reconsider the Court's decision regarding the alimony and the Court's order that Grady continue to pay \$1,500 as Caterina's share

¹ Decree of Divorce pgs 2-3

² Decree of Divorce pg 3

of Grady's military retired pay. At the hearing on May 22, 2019, the Court determined that the previous ruling regarding the alimony was incorrect and that the first \$1,500 payment was actually part of the property settlement agreement. As to the second issue, the Court set an evidentiary hearing to determine whether there was a contract for Grady to pay \$1,500 per month or whether there was a contract for Caterina to receive 50% of Grady's United States Army Retired Pay.

On July 18, 2019 the Court granted Caterina's request for an order to show cause as to why Grady should not be held in contempt for failing to pay the previously ordered attorney's fees and monthly payments to Caterina. This issue is also set for trial on October 21, along with the determination regarding Grady's retired pay.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES:

1. The Divorce Decree is NOT a contract for Grady to pay Caterina \$1,500 per month indefinitely.

The divorce decree states the following with respect to Grady's military benefits:

 Caterina A. Byrd is entitled to 50% of Grady E. Byrd's United States Army Retired Pay as long as he lives.

Decree of Divorce filed June 5, 2014, page 2, ll. 21 and 22. The foregoing language is preceded by this statement: "I request the following statements be added to the papers:" This statement was made by Caterina. She specifically requested the language unambiguously identifying her as a 50% beneficiary of "Grady E. Byrd's United States Army Retired Pay." This language could not possibly be any clearer.

Grady's U.S. Army Retired Pay shortly after the Decree was entered was only \$128.40 per month. This was the sole divisible retirement asset at the time the Decree was entered. The other payments that Grady was receiving were all from sources of federal retirement disability pay that, under federal law, CANNOT be divided as a community asset under any state law. Below is a table that shows all of Grady's income and whether it was a divisible asset in 2014:

Description	Amount	Divisible/non-divisible								
Net Military Retired Pay (Ex. A)	\$128.40	Divisible under state law and 10 USC § 1408								
Combat Related Special Compensation (Ex. A)	\$3,007.60	Non-divisible pursuant to 38 USC § 5301								
VA Disability Payments (Ex. A and B)	\$2,858.24	Non-divisible pursuant to 10 USC § 1408, 38 USC 5301, Mansell v. Mansell, 490 U.S. 581, 109 S.Ct. 2023, 104 L.Ed.2d 675 (1989) and Howell v. Howell, 137 S.Ct. 1400, 197 L.Ed.2d 781 (2017).								
OPM (Department of Defense) disability (Ex. C)	\$1,057.72	Non-Divisible: 2BDoD 7000.14-R Financial Management Regulation Volume 7B, Chapter 29 * June 2017 29-1 VOLUME 7B, CHAPTER 29: "FORMER SPOUSE PAYMENTS FROM RETIRED PAY"								
Social Security Disability (Ex. D)	\$2,584.56	Non-divisible pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 407								

Because Grady's income was almost entirely sourced from federal disability payments at the time of the divorce, the Court cannot find that Grady owed \$1,500 as one half of his United States Army Retired Pay to Caterina. The only divisible retired pay that Grady has received since the divorce is military retired pay of between \$128.40 (2014) and, as of February 1, 2019, -0-. Under the terms of the decree of divorce, 50% of this amount is all that Caterina is entitled to receive. Indeed, as more fully explained below, 50% of the military retired pay is all that the Court could have ordered then, because the balance of the pay that Grady was receiving was federal disability pay.

That fact remains true today. Below is a chart showing all of Grady's sources of income as they exist today:

Description	Amount	Divisible/non-divisible								
Net Military Retired Pay (Exhibit E)	-0-	Divisible under state law and 10 USC § 1408								
Combat Related Special Compensation (Grady's FDF)	\$3,227.58	Non-divisible pursuant to 38 USC § 5301								
VA Disability Payments (Grady's FDF)	\$2,896.67	Non-divisible pursuant to 10 USC § 1408, 38 USC 5301, Mansell v. Mansell, 490 U.S. 581, 109 S.Ct. 2023, 104 L.Ed.2d 675 (1989) and Howell v. Howell, 137 S.Ct. 1400, 197 L.Ed.2d 781 (2017).								

OPM (Department of Defense) disability (Grady's FDF)	\$1,315.00	Non-divisible pursuant to 2BDoD 7000.14-R Financial Management Regulation Volume 7B, Chapter 29 * June 2017 29-1 VOLUME 7B, CHAPTER 29: "FORMER SPOUSE PAYMENTS FROM RETIRED PAY"
Social Security Disability (Grady's FDF)	\$2,176.00	Non-divisible pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 407

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Again, the only divisible community asset from which Caterina could receive a portion of Grady's benefits is the United States Army Retired Pay, which is currently in the amount of -0-.

The payments that Grady has made to Caterina since the decree of divorce above 50% of -0- have been completely voluntary. United States Army Retired Pay, which is specifically and unambiguously identified, is the sole divisible benefit divided by the Decree. Even more important, there is NO SPECIFIC AMOUNT STATED that Grady would be paying to Caterina. As such, any payments Grady made to Caterina above the 50% threshold were not obligatory in any way.

There is no federal or state authority that would allow this Court to order Grady to pay any portion of his VA/disability benefits to Caterina as part of a community property division unless Grady voluntarily contracted to do so. He did not. The language of the Decree clearly identifies the benefit being divided as 50% of Grady's "United States Army Retired Pay." This language is unambiguous and cannot be interpreted to mean a specific amount.

Caterina will no doubt attempt to introduce evidence of statements by Grady or Caterina outside the four corners of the Decree to show that the unambiguous statement regarding the United States Army Retired Pay means something other than exactly what it says. This is not allowed under Nevada law:

Extrinsic or parol evidence is *not admissible* to contradict or vary the terms of an unambiguous written instrument, "since all prior negotiations and agreements are deemed to have been merged therein." *Kaldi v. Farmers Ins. Exch.*, 117 Nev. 273, 281, 21 P.3d 16, 21 (2001) (quoting Daly v. Del E. Webb Corp., 96 Nev. 359, 361, 609 P.2d 319, 320 (1980)).

Frei v. Goodsell, 305 P.3d 70, 73, 129 Nev. Adv. Op. 43 (Nev. 2013). This clear statement of law regarding the use of parol evidence has been reaffirmed several times by the Nevada Supreme Court. Caterina CANNOT use emails, texts, statements, pictures or anything else to try to create ambiguity as to the meaning of a specific term of a contract (in this case "50% of Grady E. Byrd's United States Army Retired Pay") when the term itself is unambiguous on its face. The reason this is true is because, as stated above, "all prior negotiations and agreements are deemed to have been merged" in the parties' decree of divorce. Therefore, anything that Grady or Caterina did or said prior to signing the Decree is irrelevant to the meaning of the Decree's terms unless it is necessary to resolve an ambiguity. It is NOT admissible to create an ambiguity where none exists.

In this case, the term in question is "50% of Grady E. Byrd's United States Army Retired Pay". There is nothing ambiguous about this statement. It identifies the community asset being divided as "United States Army Retired Pay". The United States Supreme Court has made it clear that retired pay does NOT include disability benefits paid to former services members for their military service.

Mansell v. Mansell, 490 U.S. 581, 109 S. Ct. 2023, 104 L. Ed. 2d 675 (1989).

In Mansell v. Mansell, the U.S. Supreme Court held that military retirement pay that had been waived by the former husband in order to receive veterans' disability benefits was not community property divisible upon divorce. The Court held that federal law completely pre-empts the States from treating waived military retirement pay as divisible community property. Id., at 594-595. The Court acknowledged that Title 10 had the capacity to inflict economic harm on former spouses, but it refused to overlook the legislative history which, read as a whole, indicates the intent by Congress to protect military retirees. Id. Furthermore, even in the absence of legislative history, the plain and precise language of the statute is enough to make the intent of Congress clear.

Under § 1408(c)(1), the term "disposable retired or retainer pay," is used specifically to limit the extent to which state courts may treat military retirement pay as community property. *Id.* at 590. The Court noted that veterans who became disabled as a result of military service are eligible for disability benefits under Title 38, *Id.* at 583, which are explicitly excluded from the definition of disposable retired pay and therefore could not be divided by a state court.

The Mansell Court's holding was recently confirmed in Howell v. Howell, 137 S.Ct. 1400, 197 L.Ed.2d 781 (2017). The Howell decision reaffirms that under the McCarty³ holding, federal retirement benefits are not divisible unless specifically authorized by federal statute. While federal law was amended subsequent to McCarty to allow states to divide military retired pay under 10 USC § 1408, that statute specifically exempted VA pay. This was confirmed in Mansell and again in Howell.

The facts and decision in the *Howell* case are particularly relevant. In *Howell*, the Arizona court attempted to "restore" a portion of the wife's retirement payment by ordering the husband to repay her the amount she was receiving that was reduced after the husband's military retired pay was reduced in lieu of receiving tax free VA pay. The Howell court held that such an order was a violation of federal law, stating the following:

Neither can the State avoid *Mansell* by describing the family court order as an order requiring John to "reimburse" or to "indemnify" Sandra, rather than an order that divides property. The difference is semantic and nothing more. The principal reason the state courts have given for ordering reimbursement or indemnification is that they wish to restore the amount previously awarded as community property, i.e., to restore that portion of retirement pay lost due to the post divorce waiver. And we note that here, the amount of indemnification mirrors the waived retirement pay, dollar for dollar. Regardless of their form, such reimbursement and indemnification orders displace the federal rule and stand as an obstacle to the accomplishment and execution of

³ McCarty v. McCarty, 453 U.S. 210, 211-215, 101 S.Ct. 2728, 69 L.Ed.2d 589 (1981)

the purposes and objectives of Congress. All such orders are thus preempted.

The basic reasons *McCarty* gave for believing that Congress intended to exempt military retirement pay from state community property laws apply a fortiori to disability pay. See 453 U.S., at 232–235, 101 S.Ct. 2728 (describing the federal interests in attracting and retaining military personnel). And those reasons apply with equal force to a veteran's post-divorce waiver to receive disability benefits to which he or she has become entitled.

We recognize, as we recognized in *Mansell*, the hardship that congressional pre-emption can sometimes work on divorcing spouses. See 490 U.S., at 594, 109 S.Ct. 2023. But we note that a family court, when it first determines the value of a family's assets, remains free to take account of the contingency that some military retirement pay might be waived, or, as the petitioner himself recognizes, take account of reductions in value when it calculates or recalculates the need for spousal support. See *Rose v. Rose*, 481 U.S. 619, 630–634, and n. 6, 107 S.Ct. 2029, 95 L.Ed.2d 599 (1987); 10 U.S.C. § 1408(e)(6).

Howell at 137 S.Ct. at 1406. While the Howell case leaves open the possibility that a reduction in retired pay could trigger a review of prospective alimony, that is impossible in this case because, 1) Grady's military retired pay has never substantially changed: it was \$128 in 2014 and is -0- now, and 2) there is no alimony order that can be modified. The decree of divorce specifically states that neither party will receive alimony and that Grady's contributions toward Caterina's mortgage were completely voluntary.

Finally, Nevada's law is also explicit in preventing the Court from awarding any portion of disability pay to Caterina AND prohibiting the assignment of the pay to Caterina after Grady receives it.

NRS 125.165 states the following:

Federal disability benefits awarded to veteran for service-connected disability: Attachment, levy, seizure, assignment and division prohibited.

Unless the action is contrary to a premarital agreement between the parties which is enforceable pursuant to chapter 123A of NRS, in making a disposition of the community property of the parties and any property held in joint tenancy by the parties, and in making an award of alimony, the court shall not:

- 1. Attach, levy or seize by or under any legal or equitable process either before or after receipt by a veteran, any federal disability benefits awarded to a veteran for a service-connected disability pursuant to 38 U.S.C. §§ 1101 to 1151, inclusive.
- 2. Make an assignment or otherwise divide any federal disability benefits awarded to a veteran for a service-connected disability pursuant to 38 U.S.C. §§ 1101 to 1151, inclusive.

NRS 125.165 (emphasis added). Even Nevada law clearly confirms that this Court cannot make any order or assignment affecting Grady's disability pay. The ONLY way that Caterina could receive any portion of Grady's disability pay from any source would be if Grady voluntarily contracted to pay her. As is clearly shown above, he did no such thing. The contract was for 50% of Grady's U.S. Army Retired Pay, nothing more and nothing less. The Court is powerless to change this agreement and should therefore deny Caterina's request to interpret the agreement as anything other than what it says. The Court must therefore deny Caterina's request for an order directing Grady to pay \$1,500 per month as her share of Grady's retired pay.

II. LIST OF WITNESSES

Other than the parties, the Defendant does not intend on calling any witnesses.

III. LIST OF EXHIBITS

A	6-8	Dept. of Army (CRSC) decision letter dated 6/20/11
В	106	CRSC payment history 8/2014-7/2015
C	225	CRSC pay statement April 22, 2019
D	79	VA letter for disability benefits dated 10/16/12

E	236	VA payment history April – May 2019								
F	125-127	OPM letter re: disability application dated November 12, 2010								
G	512	OPM letter dated 4/29/18 regarding FERS disability annuity adjustment								
H	132	OPM Notice of Annuity adjustment 7/2018								
Ī	136	OPM Annuity statement March 2019								
Ĵ	108-113	Social Security Decision dated 9/12/12								
K	120	2014 Social Security Benefit 2014								
L	121	Social Security benefits 2018								
M	237	Medical certificate from Dr. Arco								
N	511	Medical certificate from Nursing Attendant, Mayden Tagulo dated 10/4/19								
O	490	Medical Certificate from Dr. Regalado dated 10/10/19								

Submitted by:

MILLS & ANDERSON

BYRON L. MILLS, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 6745 703 S, 8TH STREET Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 (702) 386-0030 Attornevs for Defendant

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	3	Nevada Bar No. 1221										
	4	JEANNE F. LAMBERTSEN, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 9460										
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WEBSTER & ASSOCIATES 6882 Edua Avenue • Las Vegas, Necada 89146 Telephone (702) 562-2300 • Facsimile (702) 562-2303	15	GRADY EDWARD BYRD,										
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STE Edna Av e (702) 5	17	Defendant.										
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COMES NOW Plaintiff, CATERINA ANGELA BYRD, by and through her attorneys, ANITA A. WEBSTER, ESQ., and JEANNE F. LAMBERTSEN, ESQ., of the law offices of WEBSTER & ASSOCIATES, and hereby submits her Opposition to Defendant's Motion On Order Shortening Time to Reconsider Denial of Defendant's Audiovisual Appearance Request and Countermotion for Attorney Fees and Costs.

This Opposition and Countermotion is made and based upon the pleadings

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Electronically Filed

and papers on file herein and the following Points and Authorities.

Dated: October 16, 2019.

WEBSTER & ASSOCIATES

By:

ANITA A WEBSTER, ESQ.
Nevada Bar No. 1221
JEANNE LAMBERTSEN, ESQ.
Nevada Bar No. 9460
6882 Edna Ave.
Las Vegas, Nevada 89146
Attorneys for Plaintiff, Unbundled

POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

INTRODUCTION

Plaintiff, Caterina Byrd (hereafter "Caterina") respectfully requests that this court deny the Defendant's, Grady Byrd's (hereinafter "Grady") request to reconsider the court's denial of Grady's request to appear for trial on October 21, 2019 via audiovisual equipment as there was no "clear application of the law" governing such requests as Grady claims.¹

Grady's medical excuses are suspect and Grady appears to be "doctor shopping."²

In a six-month period, Grady went to three different places to get his alleged medical excuses; Sillman Medical Center, Community Medical Services, and

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^{&#}x27;Grady's Motion, page 4, line 18, filed 10/15/19

²Grady's Appendix to Defendant's Motion for Order Time to Reconsider Denial of Audiovisual Appearance, filed 10/15/19.

Mom's Medical Clinic. Only one, the prescription pad note, had any contact information. The other two papers have no address, telephone number or any other contact information on it. This lack of information and the lack of medical records supporting Grady's claims renders his excuses not-credible.

- 1. The May 2, 2019 prescription pad note from a doctor with *Sillman Medical Center* in the Philippines states that "further work up" is needed to rule out venous thrombosis. Note: no diagnosis of venous thrombosis was made on this note. Despite Caterina's discovery requests served on June 17, 2019, Grady has refused to provide any medical records that show testing and diagnosis of deep vein thrombosis. Grady failed to provide any "further work up" medical documents that are noted on the pad.
- 2. The October 4, 2019, paper titled *Community Medical Services* is not on letter head paper, does not have an address, telephone number or any contact information for this place and was allegedly signed by a "nursing attendant" not a physician. Again, absolutely no medical records of any kind support this paper; no testing for Deep Vein Thrombosis, no test results or lab test results for Pulmonary Embolism Symptoms, no test showing the onset, prognosis, is it acute or chronic, or any other supporting information. There are no records or any test results for the "pulmonary issues" he alleges.
- 3. October 10, 2019 paper is titled *Mom's Medical Clinic* and specifically states that this paper is not for the purpose of legal matters: "for whatever purpose it may serve excluding legal matters". As such, it should be disregarded since Grady is using it for a legal purpose. This paper makes no mention of the

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"Pulmonary Embolism Symptoms" Grady claimed and also states Post DVT (Deep Vein Thrombosis). Being "post" has a meaning of its own, however, it is not explained. Again, Grady fails to provide any supporting medical records, testing results, ongoing treatment results or anything supporting his claims.

In response to Caterina's June 17, 2019, requests that Grady provide medical records, Grady provided medical records for September 2019 Veterans' Administration medical visit that Grady redacted with a black marker and blackened out nearly all of the useful information. Two pages are provided with this instant Opposition because they provide a little information on Grady's claim of having pulmonary issues. The record states that Grady claimed to have been diagnosed with DVT and that Grady claimed that he only took the warfarin medicine from May-June 2019. What is troubling, is that nowhere in anything that Grady provided is there a test and bonafide diagnosis of DVT or/and pulmonary issues. Additionally, if he voluntarily stopped the DVT medicine in June 2019, after taking it only 1-2 months, then how reliable is his claim that he has DVT and/or pulmonary issues?

If Grady is to be believed that there is a concern for his health with a prolonged flight, then Grady should start his trip to Nevada now and break it up into small segments. He even mentions in his September 2019 VA record that he prefers to take boats. Grady is the one who selected this October 2019 time period for the Trial. He knew back in May 2019 of the Evidentiary Hearing date.

³Exhibit "1" Grady's September 2019 VA medical record, 2 pages, DEF 424 and DEF 417.

He should have started his trip here already.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The parties divorced after 31 years of marriage on or about June 5, 2014. Grady has resided in the Philippines since 2008. He's 63 years old and recently married a 25-year-old woman. Caterina has resided in the martial residence awarded to her in the decree and relies on monthly support from Grady. On September 1, 2018, Grady stopped paying Caterina \$3,000.00 per month for assistance with her house mortgage and for her interest in his military pay. He did this in retaliation for Caterina asking for copies of the life insurance, Survivor Benefit Plan and other assets awarded to her in the joint petition for summary decree of divorce. She is emotionally and financially destitute.

At the hearing on or about January 23, 2019, with Senior Judge K. Hardcastle, the \$1,500.00 per month payments that Grady was making to Caterina for her home mortgage assistance was deemed alimony, Grady was ordered to pay her arrears and ongoing payments. The other \$1500.00 per month that Grady was paying Caterina was deemed her interest in his military pay, Grady was ordered to pay her arrears and ongoing payments. Attorney fees of \$7,000 were also awarded to Caterina. A status check was set for May 2, 2019, in part to assess his compliance with Court orders. The Court ordered that Grady appear at the May 2, 2019, hearing or a no-bail bench warrant would be issued. Grady did not pay Caterina as ordered and he did not appear at the May 2, 2019 status check hearing before Senior Judge Bixler. Grady submitted a single sheet of paper, a prescription pad type paper from the Philippines, saying that he could

not fly in an airplane due to leg issues. No other medical records, proof of ongoing care or authentication on the medical person's letter head stationary was provided. Caterina objected to his absence.

Grady filed a motion for reconsideration of Senior Judge K. Hardcastle's orders issued at the January 23, 2019 hearing, and Caterina filed an opposition and countermotion to enforce the orders. At the hearing on May 22, 2019, Judge R. Forsberg overturned Senior Judge K. Hardcastle's ruling as to the characterization of the \$1,500 house assistance payment. Judge R. Forsberg found that the \$1,500.00 house assistance was a property settlement, not alimony and ordered Grady to continue paying Caterina \$3,000 per month pending an Evidentiary Hearing on Grady's burden to show that Caterina's financial condition changed so that he does not have to pay her the \$1,500.00 per month for her home mortgage assistance and Grady's burden to show that the parties did not form a contract as to the payment of the \$1,500 military payment amount until he dies. Caterina filed a motion for reconsideration of Judge R. Forsberg's ruling wherein she overturned Senior Judge K. Hardcastle's ruling that the \$1,500.00 for Caterina's mortgage assistance was deemed alimony. This is set for a hearing on October 21, 2019.

Meanwhile, Grady continues to refuse to comply with court orders requiring him to pay Caterina as ordered at the January 23, 2019 hearing, as ordered at the May 22, 2019 hearing, and as ordered at the July 18, 2019 hearing. On October 21, 2019, Caterina's Order to Show Cause why Grady Should Not be Held In Contempt of Court is set to be heard. Grady has admitted that he has the

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funds to pay Caterina (he earns over \$116,000.00 annually) and admits that he has refused to do so. As such, on October 21, 2019, Caterina is seeking that the Court:

Summarily find that Grady Byrd is in Contempt of Court for failure to pay Caterina Byrd as ordered and that he be sanctioned based on the following:

- \$3,000 per month from September 1, 2018 to October 1, 2019 (14 months, \$42,000);
- ii. \$7,000 in attorney fees ordered April 5, 2019;
- iii. \$5,000 in attorney fees ordered June 26, 2019;
- iv. \$1,500 in attorney fees ordered August 9, 2019; v. Sanction \$500 for each month (14, \$7,000);
- v. Sanction \$500 for each month (14, \$7,000); vi. Sanction \$500 for each incident of failing to pay attorney fees (3, \$1,500); and
- vii. That a warrant for Grady Byrd's arrest be issued and that he be let go for his appearance on a hearing on the warrant in the amount for his release set at no less than \$64,000.

II. ARGUMENT

In addition to the items listed above, there are multiple reasons why Grady should appear in person at the October 21, 2019, Evidentiary Hearing that Caterina listed in her Objection to Grady's appearance by audiovisual equipment;

1) The medical papers Grady provided in his Notice of Appearance by Audiovisual Equipment and his Motion for Reconsideration of the court's denial to appear via audio-visual equipment on October 21, 2019, are unreliable; two are missing the address, telephone and other contact information; one is not signed by a physician; and importantly, no medical records accompany the papers to explain the "work up" done to diagnose Grady's claim of DVT, the onset, the diagnosis, the testing, the treatment, Grady's compliance to treatment, if this is

an acute or chronic condition, how long he is expected to remain in this condition, or his prognosis.

Caterina requested medical records from Grady through discovery back on June 17, 2019, and he has refused to provide his medical records. If his claims of poor health are to be believed, he should have eagerly produced the records. He did not. The Discovery Commissioner recommended that he produce his records and to date, he has not.⁴ It is also curious that Grady could fly to Las Vegas Nevada in July 2018, January 2019 and other times, travel in Nevada, and California, and where he abandoned his Chevrolet Cruze at the Los Angeles International Airport. Grady is not credible and his alleged medical paper should not be trusted;

- 2) Grady has threatened Caterina "good luck finding me" referring to her ability to obtain any money that he owes her;
- Per Supreme Court Rules, Grady is required to be present for the adjudication of the Order to Show Cause;
- 4) Grady is simply trying to avoid his responsibilities and he is using federal government money to evade his payments to Caterina;
- 5) Grady was ordered by Judge R. Forsberg to appear at the Trial on October 21, 2019; and
 - 6) Grady is behaving as if he has no intention of returning to Las Vegas

⁴Records produced are referenced herein regarding the September 2019 VA records that Grady Byrd took a black marker and blackened the pages so that they are nearly illegible. Two pages are provided as Exhibits. No other medical records were produced for June 2014 and the September 1, 2018 - present date as the Discovery Commissioner Recommended on 10/11/19.

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Nevada, for the Court or any other time. For example, on or about April 15, 2019, Caterina received mail for Grady. The Airport Police, Los Angeles California sent a "Notice of stored vehicle" that Grady's 2018 Chevy Cruze was found at the L.A. Airport with no license plates attached. Another piece of mail was from Clear Choice Lien Service, Inc. Grady's Chevrolet is being stored by Bruffy's Del Rey Tow, Los Angeles California. Past due notices are also coming to her home showing that Grady is not paying his loans. Combined, it appears that Grady has walked away from over \$51,000.00 in loan debt.

It is important that Grady personally appear to ascertain his understanding of the Court's orders, to obtain compliance and that communications are clear and there is no "lost in translation" problems or other communication problems.

Essential to the Order to Show Cause issue, Grady must appear so that the Court has full access to all available NRS 22. 0100 penalties for contempt, such as imprisonment:

2. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 22.110, if a person is found guilty of contempt, a **fine may be** imposed on the person not exceeding \$500 or the person may be imprisoned not exceeding 25 days, or both.

Supreme Court Rule, Part IX-B

- (B) Rules Governing Appearance by Simultaneous Audiovisual Transmission Equipment for Civil and Family Court Proceedings, in pertinent part:
- 2. In addition, except as provided in Rule 4(1), a personal appearance is required for the following persons or parties:

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- (b) Persons ordered to appear to show cause why sanctions should not be imposed for violation of a court order or a rule; or
- (c) Persons ordered to appear in an order or citation issued under NRS Title 12 or Title 13.

Court discretion to modify rule.

- (a) Applicable cases. In exercising its discretion under this provision, the court should consider the general policy favoring simultaneous audiovisual transmission equipment appearances in family court proceedings.
- (b) Court may require personal appearances. Upon a showing of good cause either by motion of a party or upon its own motion, the court may require a party or witness to appear in person at a proceeding listed in Rule 4(1) or (2) if the court determines on a hearing-by-hearing basis that a personal appearance would materially assist in the resolution of the particular proceeding or that the quality of the simultaneous audiovisual transmission equipment is inadequate.
- "Good cause" may consist of one or more of the following factors as determined by the court:
- (a) Whether a timely objection has been made to parties or witnesses appearing through the use of simultaneous audiovisual transmission equipment:

Caterina has timely objected to Grady's appearance through use of simultaneous audiovisual equipment.

(b) Whether any undue surprise or prejudice would result:

Undue prejudice would result for Caterina because the court is unable to fully exercise all the penalties for

Contempt that are available under Nevada law.

(c) The convenience of the parties, counsel, and the court:

It is not convenient for Caterina's counsel, Caterina or the Court to determine Grady's demeanor, if there are interferences in the room where he is sitting, who else is present, who else is with him, who may be influencing or tampering with this sworn statements and what else Grady may be looking at during trial examination or cross-examination.

- (d) The cost and time savings: Grady has the audacity to complain about the cost of travel while he simultaneously deprives Caterina of \$42,000 since September 1, 2018 for monthly support and \$13,500 in attorney fees and costs awarded since the January 23, 2019 hearing. Grady travels to Clark County Nevada for medical treatment that is free of charge to him at the VA hospital which he had been doing regularly until this instant litigation.
- (e) The importance and complexity of the proceeding:
 This Trial is extremely important to Caterina since she
 has been deprived of Grady's support since September
 1, 2018. The issues of alimony, contract formation,

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support arrears, and Grady's contempt of court are complex.

- (f) Whether the proponent has been unable, after due diligence, to procure the physical presence of a witness: Caterina has diligently maintained that Grady's presence is needed. On April 23, 2019, she even filed an Ex parte Application for Grady's appearance at the May 2, 2019 hearing, his request to appear telephonically was denied and he still failed to appear. The Court has even ordered him to appear at the October 21, 2019 trial. Grady has produced no medical tests to support his "pulmonary issues" and his medical excuses are suspect.
- (g) The convenience to the parties and the proposed witness, and the cost of producing the witness in relation to the importance of the offered testimony:

Grady is the Defendant in this action. He has the burden of proving the issues for Trial, his testimony is important and he must be present for adjudication of the Order to Show cause against him.

(h) Whether the procedure would allow effective cross-examination, especially where documents and exhibits available to the witness may not be available to counsel:

Cross-examination of Grady will be less effective with audiovisual equipment. Caterina's interest is harmed by this.

(I) The importance of presenting the testimony of witnesses in open court, whether the finder of fact may observe the demeanor of the witness, and where the solemnity of the surroundings will impress upon the witness the duty to testify truthfully:

Open court is important to the presentation of Grady's testimony, his demeanor, who else is in the room with him, what other factors are influencing him, the ability of counsel to cross-examine him and fully see his demeanor and responses are important.

(j) Whether the quality of the communication is sufficient to understand the offered testimony:

The court has tried to connect with Grady in the Philippines twice before by telephone and neither connection worked; at the hearing on May 22, 2019 and again on July 18, 2019. Caterina has withstood terrific financial and emotional hardship by repeated delays by Grady and this case is now a year old. An equipment malfunction or poor connections cannot be tolerated.

(k) Such other factors as the court may, in each individual case, determine to be relevant:

Grady's blatant non-compliance with Court orders dating back to the hearing on January 23, 2018, reinforce that Grady's personal appearance is necessary. Grady does

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not have to make the trip in one day. Grady should start his trip to Nevada now and break it up into small segments since the alleged concern is the prolonged time.

COUNTERMOTION

Caterina is requesting an award of attorney fees and costs. On April 23, 2019, Caterina filed a Memorandum of Fees and Costs for the time period from the commencement of this litigation until the January 23, 2019, hearing. The total fees were \$11,580.00 and total costs were \$706.18. At the January 23, 2019 hearing, Caterina was awarded \$7,000.00 in attorney fees and costs. The payment of the \$7,000.00 is included in the \$4,500.00 per month payment that Grady was to begin paying starting on February 15, 2019. Grady refuses to pay.

Since January 23, 2019, Caterina has incurred additional fees and costs defending herself against Grady's wrongful behavior. She has been forced to file motions and seek the court's assistance since then. At the May 22, 2019, hearing (order filed June 26, 2019), Caterina was awarded \$5,000 in attorney fees and at the July 18, 2019 hearing (order filed August 9, 2019), Caterina was awarded \$1,500 in attorney fees. Grady has refused to pay these fees. Caterina will file a current Memorandum of Fees and Costs for the fees requested herein.

Caterina requests fees pursuant to NRS 125.040 and NRS 18.010(2)(a) and/or (b).

Pursuant to NRS 22.100 Penalty for contempt.

 Except as otherwise provided in NRS 22.110, if a person is found guilty of contempt, a fine may be imposed on the person not exceeding \$500 or

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the person may be imprisoned not exceeding 25 days, or both.

3. In addition to the penalties provided in subsection 2, if a person is found guilty of contempt pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 22.010, the court may require the person to pay to the party seeking to enforce the writ, order, rule or process the reasonable expenses, including, without limitation, attorney's fees, incurred by the party as a result of the contempt.

Sargeant v. Sargeant, 88 Nev. 223, 227, 495 P.2d 618, 621 (1972). Spouses should be on an equal footing so that one spouse doesn't have to liquidate her savings. The Nevada Supreme Court held that the district court did not abuse its discretion in awarding approximately \$50,000.00 in attorney fees to the wife in a divorce proceeding. The Court noted that without the district court's assistance, the wife would have been required to liquidate her savings and jeopardize her financial future in order to meet her adversary in court on an equal basis.

In <u>Griffith v. Gonzales-Alpizar</u>, 132 Nev. Adv. Op. 38 (May 26, 2016) the Appellate Court held that: Pursuant to NRS 125.040 the court can award attorney's fees from the start of the action through the appeal.

Wright v. Osburn, 114 Nev. 1367, 970 P.2d 1071 (1998). Disparity in income is a factor to be considered in awarding attorney fees.

Hornwood v. Smith Food King, holds that attorney fees should be awarded to the prevailing party if that party succeeds on a significant number of issues. This court has held that "[a] plaintiff may be considered the prevailing party for attorney's fee purposes if it succeeds on any significant issue in litigation which achieves some of the benefit is sought in bringing the suit." Hornwood v. Smith's Food King, 105 Nev. 188, 192, 772 P.2d 1284 (1989) (quoting Women's Federal S & L Ass'n. v. Nevada Nat. Bank, 623 F.Supp. 469, 470 (D.Nev.1985).

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Awards of attorney fees are within the sound discretion of the Court. See <u>Love v. Love</u>, 959 P.2d 523, 114 Nev. 572 (1998), <u>Fletcher v. Fletcher</u>, 89 Nev. 540, 542-43, 516 P.2d. 103,104 (1973), <u>Leeming v. Leeming</u>, 87 Nev. 530, 532, 490 P.2d 342, 343 (1971), and <u>Halbrook v. Halbrook</u>, 114, Nev. 1455, 971 P.2d 1262 (1998).

Further, there are no other circumstances that make an award of attorney fees unjust; Grady receives more than \$116,000.00 annually from the federal government, he does not have to pay any federal or state taxes and has eliminated more than \$51,000 in debt when he abandoned the Chevrolet Cruze vehicle at the Los Angeles, California airport, and he is not paying his USAA credit cards/loans. He earns sufficient money to employ two servants. It is also highly likely that his household income exceeds \$116,000.00 because he may be receiving dependent benefits for his wife and/or her child. Meanwhile, Caterina has been borrowing money from friends and family to pay her bills since September 1, 2018.

Pursuant to <u>Brunzell v. Golden Gate Nat'l Bank</u>, 85 Nev. 345 (1969), the Court should take into consideration the following factors when determining an award of attorney's fees. (1) The qualities of the advocate(s): Ms. Webster has been practicing law for 34 years and Ms. Lambertsen has been practicing law for 14 years; the law firm's practice is dedicated to family law. (2) The character and difficulty of the work performed: The intricacy, importance, time and skill required to prepare this Opposition and Exhibit Index is moderate to high. (3) The work actually performed by the attorneys and legal assistants: Approximately 3 hours

WEBSTER & ASSOCIATES NRE Edit Arene - Let Vegs. Nevel #9746 Telephone (702) \$62,2200 - Fazembe (702) \$62,2203 were spent by counsel and legal assistants in fees (4) The result obtained is unknown but the Opposition and Countermotion demonstrates Grady's, contempt, lack of cooperation and continuing control of Caterina.

CONCLUSION

Caterina is respectfully requesting that the court Deny the Defendant's notice/request to appear by simultaneous audiovisual equipment at the Trial and Order to Show Cause hearing scheduled for October 21, 2019, or other such date if the hearing is moved, and order the Defendant's personal appearance.

Dated: October 16, 2019.

WEBSTER & ASSOCIATES

ANITA A. WEBSTER, ESQ. Attorney for Plaintiff

W \Family\Byrd, Caterina\Pleadings\Drafts\Opp to to OP Mtn to appear by Audio Visual 10-18- 19 wpd

EBSTER & ASSOCIATES OFF PAIN VEHICLE ASSOCIATES OFF PAIN VEHICLE ASSOCIATION OFF PAIN VEHICLE ASSOCIA

Certificate of Service

Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am employed in the Law Offices of WEBSTER & ASSOCIATES, and that on this ______ day of October, 2019, I caused the above and foregoing to be served as follows:

[X] Electronic Service through the Eighth Judicial District Court's electronic filing system; and

To counsel listed below at the address, email address, and/or facsimile number indicated:

Byron Mills Counsel for Defendant, Grady Byrd Modonnell@millsnv.com

An employee of Webster & Associates

MOFI

DISTRICT COURT FAMILY DIVISION CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

CATERINA ANGELA BYRD	Case No. D-18-577701-Z
Plaintiff/Petitioner	-
v.	Dept. G
GRADY EDWARD BYRD Defendant/Respondent	MOTION/OPPOSITION FEE INFORMATION SHEET
Detendant Respondent	FEE INFORMATION SHEET
Notice: Motions and Oppositions filed after entry of a final of subject to the reopen filing fee of \$25, unless specifically exclude Oppositions filed in cases initiated by joint petition may be subjected with Senate Bill 388 of the 2015 Legislative Session.	luded by NRS 19.0312. Additionally, Motions and bject to an additional filing fee of \$129 or \$57 in
Step 1. Select either the \$25 or \$0 filing fee in the	
S25 The Motion/Opposition being filed with thi	s form is subject to the \$25 reopen fee.
The Motion/Opposition being filed with this fee because:	s form is not subject to the \$25 reopen
The Motion/Opposition is being filed be entered.	fore a Divorce/Custody Decree has been
The Motion/Opposition is being filed sol established in a final order.	ely to adjust the amount of child support
☑ The Motion/Opposition is for reconsider	
entered on	decree was entered. The final order was
☐ Other Excluded Motion (must specify) _	
Step 2. Select the \$0, \$129 or \$57 filing fee in the	box below.
☑ \$0 The Motion/Opposition being filed with thi	s form is not subject to the \$129 or the
\$57 fee because:	a case that was not initiated by joint petition.
☑ The party filing the Motion/Opposition	
☐ \$129 The Motion being filed with this form is s to modify, adjust or enforce a final order. OR-	Description of the second of t
Step 3. Add the filing fees from Step 1 and Step 2.	
The total filing fee for the motion/opposition I am f ☐\$0 ☐\$25 ☐\$57 ☐\$82 ☐\$129 ☐\$154	iling with this form is:
Party filing Motion/Opposition: Plaintiff	Date 10/16/19
Signature of Party or Preparer	

Electronically Filed 10/16/2019 2:59 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT **EXHS WEBSTER & ASSOCIATES** 2 ANITA A. WEBSTER, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 1221 3 JEANNE F. LAMBERTSEN, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 9460 4 6882 Edna Ave. Las Vegas, Nevada 89146 Tel No: (702) 562-2300 Fax No: (702) 562-2303 e-mail: anitawebster@embargmail.com e-mail: ilambertsen@embargmail.com Attorney for Plaintiff, unbundled 8 DISTRICT COURT 9 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 10 CASE NO.: D-18-577701-Z CATERINA ANGELA BYRD DEPT NO .: G 11 WEBSTER & ASSOCIATES
6882 Edua Avenue - La Vopes Novela 8746
Telephone (702) 543-2300 - Fracienile (702) 543-2303 Plaintiff, EXHIBIT APPENDIX 12 13 GRADY EDWARD BYRD 14 Defendant. 15 COMES NOW, Caterina Angela Byrd, by and through her attorneys of record, 16 Anita A. Webster, Esq., and Jeanne F. Lambertsen, Esq., of Webster & Associates, 17 and hereby submits the following exhibits in support of her Plaintiff's Opposition to Defendant's Motion On Order Shortening Time to Reconsider Denial of Defendant's 19 Audiovisual Appearance Request And Countermotion for Attorney Fees and Costs. Pursuant to EDCR 5.205(g) Exhibits may be deemed offers of proof but shall not 21 be considered substantive evidence until admitted. 22 111 23 1/// 24 111 W:\Family\Byrd, Caterina\Pleadings\Drafts\Exhibit Index to Opposition to Motion for Audiovisual 10.16.19.wpd 1

Case Number: D-18-577701-Z

AA537

EXHIBIT "1"

> with worsening the pains, attributed to the pains of 4 tab/day, requesting refill/issuance protection of 4 tab/day.
usual ADLs > related that he took warfarin from May to June 2019 for DVT of left LE noted
after air travel to the US, stopped intake since Tricare does not cover the tests and medication in Cebu/no accredited provider as stated, amenable to start
at present and will do PT/INR monitoring and send results here > not riding airplane anymore due to above and prefers to take ferry/boat > also recommended to wear compression stockings > did not receive supply of the incidence of the service of
> requesting additional/90 days supply of since he is taking it daily/night time > inquiring if he can stop intake of since and since it seems to be
at present > daily basis
SOURCE(S) OF HISTORY: Patient ALLERGIES AS DISPLAYED IN VISTA: Patient has answered NKA Patient/family state(s): No new allergies MEDICATIONS (as listed in Vista):
Active Outpatient Medications (including Supplies): Active Outpatient Medications Status
1) C. 25MG TABLET TAKE ONE TABLET BY MOUTH ACTIVE (S) EVERYDAY FOR DIABETES, REPLACES (
Active Non-VA Medications Status

Location: MANILA RO	
Signed By: MARIANO, PETER LAGO	_
Co-signed By: MARIANO, PETER LAGO	
Date/Time Signed: 17 Sep 2019 @ 1053	
Note	_
	-
LOCAL TITLE: NURSING OUTPATIENT NOTE STANDARD TITLE: PRIMARY CARE NURSING NOTE DATE OF NOTE: SEP 17, 2019@10:37 ENTRY DATE: SEP 17, 2019@10:37:11 AUTHOR: MARIANO, PETER LAGO EXP COSIGNER: URGENCY: STATUS: COMPLETED	
<s> Patient came here today for: 09/17/2019 15:00 MAN PACT SILVERTEAM</s>	
>Admitted at Mountainview Hospital, Las Vegas Nevada due to Repair last September 2019.	
Chief Complaints:	
The second secon	
>Claims to have been diagnosed with DVT as seen by a non-VA Provider last May	
Pain Scale: (09/17/2019 10:20) Type of Pain: [] Cardiac [x Non-Cardiac Patient's description of: Onset: chornic Location: Duration: contant Characteristics: (36) Symptoms: Relief from	
BP: (09/17/2019 10:20) Pulse (09/17/2019 10:20) Resp; (09/17/2019 10:20) Temp: F [36.7 C] (09/17/2019 10:20) Ht: (1.75.3 cm] (09/17/2019 10:20) Wt: [84.1 kg] (09/17/2019 10:20)	

Law Offices of
WEBSTER & ASSOCIATES
6822 Edta Avenue * 1.42 Veges, Newada 89146
Telephone (702) Se2-200 * Pracmile (702) Se2-200

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Electronically Filed 10/16/2019 4:24 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

PMEM WEBSTER & ASSOCIATES ANITA A. WEBSTER, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 1221 JEANNE F. LAMBERTSEN, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 9460 6882 Edna Ave. Las Vegas, Nevada 89146 Tel No: (702) 562-2300 Fax No: (702) 562-2303 e-mail: anitawebster@embarqmail.com e-mail: jlambertsen@embargmail.com Attorney for Plaintiff, unbundled DISTRICT COURT 9 10 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 11 CATERINA ANGELA BYRD CASE NO.: D-18-577701-Z DEPT NO.: G 12 Plaintiff, 10/21/19 13 Trial Date: Trial Time: 9:00 a.m. V. 14 GRADY EDWARD BYRD 15

Defendant.

PLAINTIFF'S PRETRIAL MEMORANDUM

CATERINA ANGELA BYRD (hereinafter "Caterina"), by and through her attorneys, Anita A. Webster, Esq., and Jeanne F. Lambertsen, Esq., of Webster & Associates, hereby submits the following Pretrial Memorandum.

I.

STATEMENT OF ESSENTIAL FACTS

- A. <u>Names and Ages of the parties</u>: Plaintiff, herein, Caterina is 56 years old and the Defendant, herein, GRADY EDWARD BYRD, (hereinafter "Grady") is 63 years old.
- B. <u>Date of Divorce:</u> The parties were divorced on June 5, 2014, after a 31-

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year marriage.

C. Issues For Trial:

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Grady agreed to pay Caterina \$1,500 per month for her mortgage payment and he agreed to pay her 50% of his Army retirement, which he paid to Caterina at the rate of \$1,500 per month for a total of \$3,000 from entry of the Decree of Divorce on June 5, 2014 to September 1, 2018, at which time Grady stopped paying Caterina. Grady is claiming he no longer is obligated to pay these sums.

To date the court has found that pending the Evidentiary Hearing:

- The \$1,500 mortgage assistant payment continues. (Order from June 26, 2019)
- The \$1,500 for retirement payment continues. (Order from June 26, 2019).

On June 26, 2019, the court ruled that:

- 1. The \$1,500 mortgage assistance is a property settlement that Grady is obligated to continue to pay at the same rate, unless he can prove Caterina's financial condition has changed, the house has been paid off or the house has been sold. Caterina has filed a Motion for Reconsideration to ask to have this obligation be identified as alimony.
- Grady has a contractual obligation to pay Caterina \$1,500 per month from his military disability pension pursuant to <u>Shelton v.Shelton</u>, 119 Nev. 492 (Nev. 2003) and cannot reduce his payment to her by claiming it is disability pay pursuant to <u>Shelton v.Shelton</u>, 119 Nev. 492 (Nev. 2003) and <u>Gemma v. Gemma</u>, 105 Nev. 458, 778 P.2d 429

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(1989). Grady is obligated to pay Caterina \$1,500 per month pending the Evidentiary Hearing. At the Evidentiary Hearing, the burden is on Grady to prove that he does not have an ongoing obligation to pay Caterina \$1,500 per month.

THE ISSUES FOR TRIAL ARE:

- Military Pension: Caterina is entitled to receive ongoing payments of 1. \$1,500 from Grady's military pension based on the following:
 - **Contractual obligation**: Grady formed a contract with Caterina to pay to her \$1,500 from his disability pay, and he performed on the contract to pay her \$1,500 per month for more than four (4) years. Shelton v.Shelton, 119 Nev. 492 (Nev. 2003). In Shelton the court explained that:

Although states cannot divide disability payments as community property, states are not preempted from enforcing orders that are res judicata or from enforcing contracts or from reconsidering divorce decrees, even when disability pay is involved.

Grady agreed to pay Caterina 50% of his United State Army Retired Pay for as long as he lives. In emails predating the parties' divorce, he represented to Caterina that 50% came to \$1,508 per month. He paid Caterina \$1,500 per month for over 4 years and abruptly ceased paying on September 1, 2018, claiming that he no longer has an obligation to pay her. The facts show that a contract was formed. In Shelton the court held:

It appears, therefore, that the agreement of the parties was that Roland pay Maryann \$577 each month for her portion

of the community asset, rather than pay her one-half of his retirement pay, since \$577 is more specific than "one-half." Moreover, the parties' subsequent conduct reinforces this conclusion, in that Roland ratified the terms of the agreement by performing his obligations under the decree for a period of two years. In addition, this interpretation yields a fair and reasonable result, as opposed to a harsh and unfair result. Roland cannot escape his contractual obligation by voluntarily choosing to forfeit his retirement pay. [Emphasis Added].

b. Alimony: Disability pension benefits can be considered a source of income for purposes of awarding alimony, the court can invalidate an alimony waiver and the court can award alimony when military pension benefits are converted to disability payments. Fattore v. Fattore, 458 NJ Super. 75, 83 (App. Div. 2019) and Parker v. Green, No. 73176 (Nevada June 25, 2018). In Fattore, the wife waived alimony. The court found that "but for" her receipt of an interest in her husband's pension, the wife would not have waived alimony. So, too, in this instance, Caterina, waived alimony in return for her receipt of \$1,500 per month as and for the mortgage assistance payment, plus \$1,500 per month for her interest in Grady's pension payment. Grady paid \$3,000 per month for more than 4 years.

In Fattore, supra, the court explained:

"Here, we hold the alimony waiver was not a bar to a consideration of a post-judgment award of alimony to plaintiff. However, the record readily demonstrates plaintiff gave valuable consideration for the waiver of alimony in exchange for the promise of the future ability to share in defendant's military pension. Moreover, as defendant notes in his reply brief, his earnings were approximately thirty-four percent greater than plaintiff's at the time of the divorce. Thus,

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there was valuable consideration given by plaintiff in exchange for the alimony waiver, and the unforeseeable loss of the bargained for pension benefit was a substantial and permanent change in circumstances, which invalidated the waiver. Upholding the alimony waiver in these circumstances would be wholly unfair." (Emphasis Added).

In Parker v. Green, No. 73176 (Nevada June 25, 2018), the Decree of Divorce contained an express waiver of alimony. The Nevada Supreme Court found that the waiver was ambiguous; that the language regarding payments to wife used in the decree mirrored standard alimony language; and that as a result it was necessary to delve beyond the terms of the Decree of Divorce and "examine the circumstances surrounding the parties' agreement in order to determine the true intentions of the parties". In Parker the court did not uphold the alimony waiver. So, too, in this instance, the court must examine the true intentions of the parties regarding the alimony waiver. Those intentions are demonstrated by the pre- decree communications and Grady's post decree payments for more than 4 years.

Res Judicata: If military and/or disability benefits were divided and the C. Order is final (i.e. there was no appeal), then the benefits at issue were lawfully and validly divided. The Howell decision doesn't suggest that the United States Supreme Court intended to invalidate the terms of Decrees that predated the Howell decision. In Winters v. Winters,

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No. 5-16-0217, 2017 WL 3276408 (III. App. Ct. July 31, 2017) husband never appealed from earlier rulings dividing his disability compensation and subsequently he agreed to pay his former spouse a portion of his The court ruled that the husband's postdisability compensation. retirement agreement to pay his former wife a share of his military pension, together with the doctrine of res judicata, barred his later claim that he did not have continue paying her. See also, Bloom v. Bloom No. 1443 WDA 2016, 2017 WL 3225862 (Pa. Super. Ct. July 31, 2017), wherein the parties' settlement agreement, incorporated in a divorce decree provided that the former wife would receive 50% of the retired former husband's "retirement pay from the U.S. Army for as long as she lives." He subsequently converted his pension to CRSC and his former wife no longer received any portion of the pension. The court reasoned that the election of CRSC in lieu of military retired pay amounted to "a 'unilateral and extrajudicial modification of the decree,' depriving [former wife] of the bargained-for benefits included in the divorce decree. On appeal, the court determined that the retiree's post-retirement agreement to pay his former wife a share of his military pension, together with the doctrine of res judicata, barred his later claim that he did not have to pay his former wife the amount previously agreed upon.

Extraordinary remedy: Although property division is generally fixed d. and final, a court has discretion to reopen a division of

marital/community property when extraordinary circumstances arise. NRCP 60(b)(6). In <u>Guerrero v. Guerrero</u>, 362 P.3d 432, 445 (Alaska 2015), the appellate court held that the lower court abused its discretion by refusing to reopen the parties' property settlement agreement and conduct a full equitable division analysis when he converted his pension to disability pay.

Based on the foregoing, Grady is obligated to continue to pay Caterina \$1,500 per month for his life for the military pension. Grady has the burden to prove otherwise.

- 2. Mortgage Assistance: Grady agreed to pay Caterina \$1,500 per month until her financial situation changed, her house was paid off or she no longer owned the house. The court held that the burden is on Grady to show that one of these conditions has been met. Although the court held that the payments are a property settlement payment, Caterina is requesting that the mortgage assistance payments be identified as alimony payments as explained more fully in her Motion for Reconsideration and briefly herein below.
- 3. Order to Show Cause: Caterina requests that this court summarily find that Grady is in Contempt of Court for failure to pay Caterina \$1,500 in mortgage assistance and \$1,500 in military benefits, as ordered by the court. Grady admits that he has sufficient funds to pay Caterina and admits that he has refused to pay Caterina. Grady should be sanctioned based on the following amounts:

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- 1. \$3,000 per month from September 1, 2018 to October 1, 2019 (14 months, \$42,000);
- ii. \$7,000 in attorney fees ordered April 5, 2019;
- iii. \$5,000 in attorney fees ordered June 26, 2019;
- iv. \$1,500 in attorney fees ordered August 9, 2019;
- Sanction \$500 for each month (14, \$7,000); V.
- Sanction \$500 for each incident of failing to pay attorney Vi. fees (3, \$1,500); and
- That a warrant for Grady Byrd's arrest be issued and that VII. he be let go for his appearance on a hearing on the warrant in the amount for his release set at no less than \$64,000;
- 4. Arrearages Reduced to Judgment: That Judgment be entered against Grady for non-payment of the military benefits and mortgage assistance benefits from when he stopped paying on September 1, 2018, to the present date.
- 5. Attorney Fees: That Caterina be awarded her Attorney's Fees and Costs previously awarded, fees and costs associated with the Order to Show Cause, fees and costs associated with this ongoing action, including the fees and costs reserved by the Discovery Commissioner at the hearing October 11, 2019.

Additional Issues: 6.

Survivor Benefits: That if Grady's current spouse, Pinky Byrd, a. continues to refuse to sign a waiver of her interest in the military

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Survivor Benefit Plan awarded to Caterina in the divorce decree, that Pinky Byrd be joined as a party to this action. By taking Caterina's Survivor Benefit Plan that was awarded to Caterina in the Decree of Divorce, and refusing to consent to a waiver of her interest, Pinky Byrd could have reasonably anticipated being hailed into court in this state from the consequences of her actions. Trump v. District Court, 857 P. 2d 740 - Nev: Supreme Court 1993;

- Motion for Reconsideration: The Order filed June 26, 2019, as b. to the finding that Caterina waived spousal support in the Decree of Divorce, should be set aside based on the following:
 - The law-of-the-case doctrine: The law of the case doctrine i. holds that one district court judge should not overturn another district court's ruling. Judge Hardcastle's ruling, filed April 5, 2019, that the \$1,500 per month house contribution payment is alimony, should stand. Judges who sit [on the same case] should not attempt to overrule the decisions of each other. United States District Court, California(2016). Further, Grady's motion for E.D. reconsideration of the order filed April 5, 2019, raised no new issues of law and made reference to no new or additional facts. The motion was superfluous and it was an abuse of discretion for the district court to entertain it.

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- ii. The mortgage assistance payment is alimony: The mortgage assistance payment is alimony because Grady's payments to Caterina are indefinite. Per emails leading up to the divorce, all payments were to continue until Grady dies, and there is no defined dollar amount being paid towards satisfaction of a particular amount, and the mortgage assistance payments are based on financial need. See e.g. Parker v. Green, No. 73176 (Nevada 2018);
- iii. There was no alimony waiver because:
 - Caterina didn't knowingly waive alimony. Caterina (1) relied on Grady's promise that he would pay her \$3,000 per month until he died. She could not have waived her right to alimony while simultaneously accepting support to pay her necessities.
 - The payments are in the nature of alimony. Grady's (2)payment to Caterina of "\$1500 dollars extra a month to assist with her home mortgage" may cease if "her financial situation changes." Since Grady's assistance to Caterina may cease based on Caterina's financial situation, this is consistent with the NRS 125.150 considerations for alimony.
 - The monthly assistance with mortgage payments is (3)

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also consistent with the federal definition of alimony 42 U.S.C. §659 (2)(i)(3):

The term "alimony", when used in reference to the legal obligations of an individual to provide the same, means periodic payments of funds for the support and maintenance of the spouse (or former spouse) of the individual, and (subject to and in accordance with State law) includes separate maintenance, alimony pendente lite, maintenance, and spousal support, and includes attorney's fees, interest, and court costs when and to the extent that the same are expressly made recoverable as such pursuant to a decree, order, or judgment issued in accordance with applicable State law by a court of competent jurisdiction."

- (4) Caterina claimed the payments as alimony on her taxes.
- Grady violated his fiduciary duty to Caterina. She trusted iv. Grady when he told her he would take care of her for the rest of her life. He admits that he promised to pay her \$3,000 per month as long as he lives. A fiduciary relationship arises from the existence of the marriage itself, thus precipitating a duty to disclose pertinent assets and income. Cook v. Cook, 112 Nev. 179, 912 P.2d, 264 (1996) citing Williams v. Waldman, 108 Nev. 466, 836 P.2d 614 (1992) at 471-72, 836 P.2d at 618.
- Pursuant to Parker v. Green, No. 73176 (Nevada June 25, 2018), the court should examine the circumstances surrounding the parties' alimony waiver in order to

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determine the true intentions of the parties. The Nevada Supreme Court in Parker, found that the waiver was ambiguous; that the language used in the decree mirrored standard alimony language; and that as a result it was necessary to delve beyond the terms of the Decree of Divorce and "examine the circumstances surrounding the parties' agreement in order to determine the true intentions of the parties". In the Parker case the court did not uphold the alimony waiver. So, too, in this instance, the alleged alimony "waiver" is not the end of the inquiry in this case. The nature of the payments creates an ambiguity, the language of support is similar to the alimony language in NRS 125.150(9)(a) and the facts of the case show that, based on what Grady told Caterina before and at the time of the divorce, Caterina reasonably expected that Grady would support her for the remainder of her life and that upon his death, she would continue to be supported based on her receipt of his Survivor benefits. Here, in the months leading up to the divorce, Grady repeatedly assured Caterina that she would receive \$3,000 per month for as long as he lived, that he could not have alimony language in the decree of divorce because he would not qualify for a loan, and that he was fully aware that Caterina needed

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support because her mortgage alone was over \$1,933 per month, since the house was purchased just a few months before he told her he wanted a divorce.

- The present orders for military pay and mortgage vi. assistance are uncollectible unless they are considered alimony. Grady has not paid Caterina since September 1, 2018, despite being ordered to continue making the \$3,000 per month payments by this court. Under federal law, disability and social security income cannot be garnished, but spousal support is eligible for garnishment from military disability income and social security. 42 U.S.C. §§ 659. As such, under NRCP 60(b)(6), Caterina should be granted relief from the decree of divorce and the payments to her should be deemed alimony;
- Cassinelli v. Cassinelli, 229 Cal Rptr. 3d 801, 20 Cal App. vii. 5th 1267 (Cal. App. 2018), the court confirmed that spousal support is enforceable against Veteran's benefits, CRSC, and social security benefits. Similar to the husband in Cassinelli, Grady has multiple sources of income which are not exempt from a spousal support order. All of this income, which comprises Grady's approximate \$116,000.00 annual income, can be considered when a spousal support obligation to Caterina is calculated. Pursuant to NRS

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125.150 (4), the court may set apart a portion of the husband's separate property for the wife's support as is deemed just and equitable.

viii. Caterina should receive lifetime alimony based on Grady's waiver of military pension for disability payments: as a military wife, she set aside her education and career to follow her husband around the world. Because she moved multiple times for Grady's career, she could not sustain employment long enough to develop a retirement plan of her own, she raised the parties' son and supported Grady as he earned two master's degrees, a war college certificate, FEMA certificate and became a high ranking officer. Grady currently receives over \$116,000.00 annually in largely tax free income, receives free medical care and was able to reduce his debt. Caterina has the need for support, she must be compensated for economic loss and Grady has the ability to pay. Kogod v. Cioffi-Kogod, 135 Nev., Adv. Op. 9 (April 25, 2019).

ATTORNEY FEES

The court has awarded Caterina attorney's fees in these proceedings as set forth herein below. Further, the Discovery Commissioner reserved attorney's fees at the hearing on Caterina's Motion to Compel and Grady's Motion for Protective Order heard on October 11, 2019.

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Grady should pay Caterina's attorney fees and costs in full.

In Sargeant, we concluded that the district court had not abused its discretion in awarding approximately \$50,000 in attorney fees to the wife in a divorce proceeding. We noted that without the district court's assistance, the wife would have been required to liquidate her savings and jeopardize her financial future in order to meet her adversary in court on an equal basis. Miller v. Wilfong, 121 Nev. 619, 119 P.3d 727 (2005).

In Griffith v. Gonzales-Alpizar, 132 Nev. Adv. Op. 38 (May 26, 2016) the Appellate Court held that: Pursuant to NRS 125.040 the court can award attorney's fees from the start of the action through the appeal.

Grady makes approximately \$116,000.00 per year. Caterina is unemployed and has no income. Grady has refused to pay Caterina attorney fees as ordered to date and has refused to pay the ongoing payment of \$3,000 ordered to date. Grady was ordered to pay Caterina:

- 1. \$7,000.00 in attorney fees at the hearing on January 23, 2019;
- 2. \$5,000.00 in attorney fees at the hearing on May 22, 2019; and
- 3. \$1,500.00 in attorney fees at the hearing on July 18, 2019.

Caterina placed attorney fees on credit cards, maxing out the available balances. She owes attorney's fees which she is unable to pay. Caterina has borrowed money from family to pay her bills. Grady should be ordered to pay Caterina's attorney's fees.

Pursuant to Brunzell v. Golden Gate Nat'l Bank, 85 Nev. 345 (1969), the Court should take into consideration the following factors when determining an award of attorney's fees. (1) The qualities of the advocate(s): Ms. Webster has been practicing law for 34 years and Ms. Lambertsen for 14 years; the law firm's practice is dedicated to family law. (2) The character and difficulty of the work

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performed: moderate to moderately high. (3) The work actually performed by the attorney: Many hours were spent litigating and preparing this case for Trial. (4) The result obtained: is yet to be determined.

Extenuating circumstances surrounding attorney fees: Caterina has attempted to communicate directly with Grady without the intervention of counsel. Time and again, Caterina is met by Grady with disdain, and bullying, and threats to not communicate with her at all, telling her "good luck finding me". Caterina had no choice but to involve counsel. Grady then refused to stipulate to change venue from Churchill county, Nevada to Clark county Nevada, causing Caterina to incur additional legal fees and costs.

Resolved issue:

1. The following issue may be resolved:

Grady's Veterans Group Life Insurance naming Caterina beneficiary of the policy wherein Caterina agrees that she receives \$200,000.00 and his new wife receives \$25,000.00 of the total policy in the amount of \$225,000.00.

II.

WITNESSES

- 1. Caterina Byrd, Plaintiff, c/o Webster & Associates. The Plaintiff will testify regarding all aspects of this case.
- 2. Grady Byrd, Defendant, c/o Byron Mills, Esq. The Defendant will testify regarding all aspects of this case.
- Persons Most Knowledgeable/Custodian of Records, financial institutions. 3. These witnesses will testify regarding the parties' financial institution accounts.
- Person Most Knowledgeable/Custodian of Records, various credit card 4. companies. These witnesses will testify regarding the parties' debt.

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- Person Most Knowledgeable/Custodian of Records, IRA's, 401k's, Stocks, Bonds, Life Insurance Policies and other investments. These witnesses will testify regarding these assets.
- 6. All witness identified by the Defendant.
- 7. Rebuttal and/or impeachment witnesses.

III.

EXHIBITS

- 1. Joint Petition for Summary Divorce, filed June 4, 2014. (PLA007000 PLA007013)
- 2. Decree of Divorce, filed June 5, 2014. (PLA007014 PLA007025)
- 3. Notice of Entry of Order from the January 23, 2019 Hearing, filed April 5, 2019. (PLA007026 PLA007036)
- Notice of Entry of Order from the May 2, 2019 Hearing, filed May 28, 2019. (PLA007037 - PLA007042)
- Order of the Court from the May 22, 2019 Hearing, filed June 26, 2019. (PLA0007043 - PLA007048)
- Notice of Entry of Order from the July 18, 2019, filed August 9, 2019. (PLA0007049 - PLA007054)
- 7. Notice of Entry of Order to Show Cause to Appear on October 21, 2019, filed July 29, 2019. (PLA007055 PLA007058)
- Caterina's Financial Disclosure Form Amended, filed July 15, 2019. (PLA007059 - PLA007066)
- 9. Grady's Financial Disclosure Form Amended, filed January 18, 2019. (PLA007067 PLA007079)
- 10. Grady's Financial Disclosure Form, filed June 18, 2019. (PLA007080 PLA007089)
- Schedule of Arrearages for Support, filed October 9, 2019. (PLA007090 -PLA007093)
 - Email from Defendant to Plaintiff, making up information on money to get the home loan approved, dated April 2, 2013. (PLA000002)
 - 13. E-mail from Defendant to Plaintiff promising the Plaintiff that she will receive the same benefits whether he is married or not, including Survivor Benefit Plan, dated February 20, 2014 and Emails between Defendant and Plaintiff, Defendant writing it is time for a divorce and promising Plaintiff \$3000 a month, email dated, February 20 & 21, 2014. (PLA000001 and PLA000522 - PLA000523)
- 14. Email from Defendant to Plaintiff promising Plaintiff \$3,000 a month as long as he lives, et. al, dated March 23, 2014. (PLA000003)
- 15. Email from Defendant to Plaintiff threatening to stop communicating with her, dated March 26, 2014. (PLA000004)

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- Emails between Plaintiff and Defendant, regarding Survivor Benefit Coverage, dated February 2014 - April 2014. (PLA000431 - PLA000435)
- 17. Emails from Defendant to Plaintiff regarding "this is your last warning..." and "just sign the [divorce] papers..." dated March 27, 2014 and April 10, 2014. (PLA000006 - PLA000007)
- 18. Emails between Plaintiff and Defendant regarding Benefits, dated April 9, 2014 and April 15, 2014. (PLA000489 - PLA000490)
- Email from Defendant to Plaintiff discouraging her from seeing a lawyer, dated March 27, 2014. (PLA000008)
- 20. Email from Plaintiff to Defendant stating that she has no idea what OPM is, and Defendant mad that she wants to see lawyer, dated March 27, 2014.
- 21. Emails from Plaintiff to Defendant telling the Defendant that she is feeling very nervous and scared, dated February 20, 2014 and April 8, 2014. (PLA000011 - PLA000012)
- 22. Email from Defendant to Plaintiff stating that Plaintiff is not entitled to any more money in the decree of divorce, dated April 9, 2014. (PLA000013) and Emails between Defendant and Plaintiff regarding benefits, dated April 10, 2014. (PLA000524 - PLA000525)
- 23. Email from Plaintiff to Defendant, regarding Plaintiff's health insurance denial, dated July 29, 2016, to August 1, 2016. (PLA000015 - PLA000018)
- Emails between the parties regarding Vystar insurance policy, dated 24. December 11, 2017 through December 15, 2017. (PLA000019 PLA000021)
- 25. Email from Defendant to Plaintiff regarding Car insurance and cancer surgery, dated July 16, 2018. (PLA000491)
- 26. E- Mail from Plaintiff to Defendant asking about the bank account and her monthly payment from the Defendant, dated September 4, 2018. (PLA000023)
- 27. Form DD 2656, dated March 10, 1999. (PLA000436 - PLA000437)
- DFAS Retiree Account Statement, dated December 3, 2017. (PLA000037) 28. 2014 Individual Tax Return for Plaintiff with form 1040 attached. 29. (PLA000249-PLA000253)
- 2015 Individual Tax Return for Plaintiff, (PLA000254 PLA000255) 30.
- 21 2016 Individual Tax Return for Plaintiff. (PLA00256 - PLA000257) 31.
- 2017 Individual Tax Return for Plaintiff with form W-2G attached. 32. 22 (PLA000258 - PLA000260)
- 23 2018 Individual Tax Return for Plaintiff. (PLA000261 - PLA000263) 33. USAA Mortgage Loan Statement, dated July 1, 2019. (PLA000366)
- 24 Long Term Care Partners letter to Plaintiff dated November 1, 2017. 35. (PLA000026 - PLA000029) 25
 - Canvon Gate Master Association billing statements, dated October 20, 36. 2017, October 18, 2019 and May 13, 2019. (PLA000369 - PLA000371)
 - Plaintiff's January 2019 health insurance premium. (PLA000039) 37.
 - Summary letter from Caterina's counselor, dated September 3, 2019, and 38. summary of visit date April 16, 2012. (PLA000374 - PLA000375)

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- 39. Plaintiff's Health care information and statements, dated 2016 2017. (PLA000442 -PLA000457)
- 40. UMC care documents, dated March 9, 2017. (PLA000481 PLA000483)
- 41. Places the parties lived during the marriage. (PLA000353 PLA000356)
- 42. Social Security Statement for Plaintiff, dated June 11, 2019. (PLA000270 PLA000275)
- 43. Letter from the DMV with Defendant's Nevada Driver's License sent to Plaintiff's address, dated July 3, 2018. (PLA000063)
- 44. "Notice of stored vehicle" sent to Plaintiff's address from Los Angeles, California Airport Police, regarding Defendant's 2018 Chevy Cruze that was found at the L.A. Airport with no license plates attached, dated April 8, 2019. (PLA000064 PLA000066)
 - 45. Letter from Clear Choice Lien Service, Inc., sent to Plaintiff's address regarding the lien on Defendant's 2018 Chevy Cruz. (PLA000067 PLA000068)
- 10 46. Past due notices, sent to Plaintiff's address showing that Defendant is not paying his loans, dates from 2019. (PLA000069 PLA000073)
 - 47. Ally Financial letter to Defendant regarding deficiency for Chevy Cruze, dated June 18, 2019. (PLA000358)
 - 48. Plaintiff's Opposition to Defendant's Ex Parte motion for a Continuance of Plaintiff's Motion to Enforce the Decree of Divorce, for an Order to Show Cause, to Divide a Newly Discovered Asset, to Execute QDROs, and for Attorney's Fees and Costs and Countermotion for Attorney Fees and Costs (PLA008000 PLA008021)
 - 49. Reply to Opposition and/or Countermotion, filed December 28, 2018. (PLA007094 PLA007118)
 - 50. Plaintiff's Request for Admissions to Defendant, served March 5, 2019. (PLA000495 PLA000521)
 - 51. Defendant's Response to Plaintiff's First Request for Admissions, served March 19, 2019. (PLA000075 PLA000080)
- Defendant's description of his two employees in Defendant's response to Second Set of Interrogatories; Answer No. 4, pg 2, ln. 4. (PLA000089 PLA000092)
- 53. Defendant's Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion to Compel Discovery, filed September 17, 2019. (PLA007133 PLA007140)
- 22 54. Armed Forces bank statements March May 2019. (DEF281 DEF288)
- 55. Letter dated November 30, 2017, regarding decision for VA benefits.
 (DEF084 DEF085 and DEF096 DEF105)
- 56. Payment history July 2015 August 2014. (DEF106)
 - 57. Defendant's Statement of Annuity paid as Disability 2014 1099. (DEF131)
- 58. Armed Forces Bank statement, acct #25, August 2019. (DEF336)
 59. Armed Forces Bank statements, acct #76, October 2018 August 2019. (DEF380)
 - 60. Vystar 180 History March 2019 August 2019. (DEF399)
 - 61. VA appointment calendar. (DEF406 DEF408)
- 28 62. School records for Defendant, dated 1989 2003. (PLA000337 -

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PLA000352)

63. Correspondence to Defendant's counsel, regarding SBP, dated September 24, 2019. (PLA000492 - PLA000493)

64. Correspondence from Defendant's counsel, regarding response to 9/24/19 letter, dated September 25, 2019. (PLA000494)

IV.

LENGTH OF TRIAL

One half day.

Dated this 16 day of October, 2019.

WEBSTER ASSOCIATES

By:

ANITA A WEBSTER, ESQ.

Nevada Bar No. 1221

JEANNE F. LAMBERTSEN, ESQ.

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Attorney for Plaintiff

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Certificate of Service

Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am employed in the Law Offices of WEBSTER & ASSOCIATES, and that on this ______ day of October, 2019, I caused the above and foregoing document to be served as follows:

[X] by mandatory electronic service through the Eighth Judicial District Court's electronic filing system;

To the attorney(s) listed below at the address, email address, and/or facsimile number indicated below:

Byron Mills Counsel for Defendant, Grady Byrd Modonnell@millsnv.com

An employee of Webster & Associates

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