

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
for the
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
Springfield Division

FILED
7/7/2026
CLERK OF THE COURT
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

LUKE A. THOMAS,

Plaintiff,

-against-

HOLLY J. HENZE, in her official capacity only;
JERRY J. HOOKER, in his official capacity only;
DEVRON OHRN, in his official and individual
capacities;
JUSTIN OLIVER, in his official and individual
capacities;
GWENDOLYN M. THOMAS, in her official and
Individual capacities;
GEORGEANNE OSMER, individually;
JOHN D. OSMER, individually;
CASS COUNTY, ILLINOIS;
MENARD COUNTY, ILLINOIS;
THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS;
JOHN DOES 1–10, individually and in their official
capacities (as applicable)

Defendants.

-----X

Civil Action No. 26-CV-0319

Rule 65 & Local Rule 7.1
Declaration

**DECLARATION OF PLAINTIFF PURSUANT TO FED. R. CIV. P. 65 (ACTUAL
NOTICE) AND LOCAL RULE 7.1 REGARDING NOTICE OF EMERGENCY MOTION**

I, Luke A. Thomas, Plaintiff, proceeding *pro se*, declare under penalty of perjury
pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that the following is true and correct:

1. I am the Plaintiff in the above-captioned matter.
2. On **June 30, 2026**, I filed a Verified Complaint alongside an Emergency Motion for a
Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) and Preliminary Injunction.

3. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65 and Central District of Illinois Local Rule 7.1, I am filing this Declaration to certify to the Court the actual notice provided to the Defendants and my good-faith efforts to meet and confer regarding the emergency relief sought.
4. **Actual Notice Provided:** On July 1-2, 2026, I provided actual notice of this federal action and the Emergency Motion for a TRO by transmitting file-stamped copies of the Verified Complaint and the Emergency Motion to all named Defendants via electronic mail and USPS at their known addresses and/or at the known addresses of their legal representatives as more fully set forth on Plaintiff's Notice of Compliance with Local Rule 4.1 as filed with this honorable Court on July 5, 2026. A true and correct copy of said filing is attached hereto for convenience of the parties and this honorable Court.
5. **Efforts to Meet and Confer:** On **July 5, 2026**, I transmitted an electronic communication in PDF and HTML formats to the Defendants advising them of the emergency filing. In that communication, I explicitly requested their position on the emergency relief sought and asked for their scheduling availability for an emergency hearing. A true and accurate copy of this communication is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.
6. **Response of Defendants:** As of the filing of this Declaration, I have **no response** from the Defendants regarding their availability or their position on the TRO.
7. **Justification for Emergency Review:** Plaintiff has and continues to suffer irreparable harm as result of the continued ex-parte proceedings and punitive sua sponte sanctions as as heretofore raised and as established by the attached Supplemental Exhibit.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 7th day of July, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



LUKE A. THOMAS

PLAINTIFF, pro se

Email: thomaslitigation2022@gmail.com

Phone: 309-217-8452

Illinois ARDC No.: 6278591

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 7th day of July, 2026, I electronically filed the foregoing document with the Clerk of the Court for the United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois using the CM/ECF system.

I further certify that I have served the following parties with the foregoing document via email as indicated below:

Cass County, Illinois c/o Cass County State's Attorney Craig Miller
statesattorney@co.cass.il.us

Cass County Sheriff Devron Ohrn (Official Capacity) c/o Cass County State's Attorney
Craig Miller statesattorney@co.cass.il.us

Holly J. Henze (Official Capacity Only) c/o Ms. Sharon Main, Trial Court Administrator for the
Eighth Judicial Circuit of Illinois (by request); smain@adamscountyil.gov

Jerry J. Hooker (Official Capacity Only) c/o Ms. Sharon Main, Trial Court Administrator for the
Eighth Judicial Circuit of Illinois (by request); smain@adamscountyil.gov

Eighth Judicial Circuit of Illinois c/o Ms. Sharon Main, Trial Court Administrator for the Eighth
Judicial Circuit of Illinois (by request); smain@adamscountyil.gov

Brown County Sheriff Justin Oliver (Official Capacity) c/o Brown County State's Attorney
statesattorney@browncoil.org

Justin Oliver, Individually c/o Brown County State's Attorney stateattorney@browncoil.org

Menard County, Illinois c/o Menard County State's Attorney:
statesattorney@co.menard.il.us

Gwendolyn Thomas, Individually gwentomaslaw@gmail.com

John D. Osmer odot@casscomm.com

Georgeanne Osmer odot@casscomm.com

Luke A. Thomas

Attorney at Law | Peoria, Illinois

Defendant/Defendant's Counsel

RE: Thomas v. Henze et al, 3:26-cv-03219, Local Rule 7.1 Meet and Confer: Emergency Motion for TRO

Defendant/Defendant's Counsel:

I am the Plaintiff in the above-referenced federal civil rights action. I am contacting you pursuant to Local Rule 7.1 of the United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois regarding the Emergency Motion for a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) and Preliminary Injunction currently pending before the Court.

As you are aware, you were previously provided with copies of the Verified Complaint and the Emergency Motion. To satisfy the Court's meet and confer requirements prior to the scheduling of an emergency hearing, I am requesting your position on the following two procedural questions:

1. Do you oppose the emergency relief sought in the pending Motion for a TRO?
2. What is your scheduling availability (and/or specific conflicts) for an emergency hearing before the Court within the next 72 to 96 hours?

Please provide your response by **Monday, July 6, 2026 at 4:00 PM CST**.

If I do not receive a response from you by that time, I will file a certification with the Court indicating that I have made a good-faith effort to meet and confer but received no reply, and I will proceed with contacting the Courtroom Deputy to request a hearing date.

Dated: July 5, 2026 (3:46 PM CST)

Respectfully,



Luke A. Thomas, Plaintiff
Thomaslitigation2022@gmail.com
ARDC No. 6278591

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
for the
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
Springfield Division

LUKE A. THOMAS,

Plaintiff,

-against-

HOLLY J. HENZE, in her official capacity only;
JERRY J. HOOKER, in his official capacity only;
DEVRON OHRN, in his official and individual
capacities;
JUSTIN OLIVER, in his official and individual
capacities;
GWENDOLYN M. THOMAS, in her official and
Individual capacities;
GEORGEANNE OSMER, individually;
JOHN D. OSMER, individually;
CASS COUNTY, ILLINOIS;
MENARD COUNTY, ILLINOIS;
THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS;
JOHN DOES 1–10, individually and in their official
capacities (as applicable)

Defendants.

-----X

Civil Action No. 26-CV-0319

Supplemental Exhibit

**SUPPLEMENTAL EXHIBIT: CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF ADA FORMAL
REQUEST PROCESS**

(July 2025 – October 21, 2025)

Exhibit Description: This supplemental filing consists of a comprehensive, chronological record of the Plaintiff's documented efforts to request and engage in the process for obtaining reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) within the underlying state court proceedings and due process violations which initiated the requests.

Relevance to Pending Motion for Temporary Restraining Order: This record is submitted as supplemental evidence of the Plaintiff's **likelihood of success on the merits** and the **irreparable harm** suffered. It demonstrates that the Plaintiff's inability to defend his property interests and medical stability was not a failure of litigation, but the direct and foreseeable result of the

Defendants' coordinated pattern of administrative obstruction and the denial of federally protected rights to reasonable accommodation.

Key Document Components:

1. **Summary Statement:** A chronological table highlighting critical requests for accommodation and the subsequent administrative denials.
2. **Foundational Correspondence:** The origin point of the dispute, establishing the Plaintiff's immediate and documented need for medical/procedural accommodation.
3. **Record of Obstruction:** The complete, chronological sequence of emails and filings demonstrating the failure of the interactive process, due process violations and continued risk due to lack of understanding or indifference to the purpose of the rights and protections afforded by the ADA.

FILED
7/21/2025 10:12 AM
BRADLEY PARLIER
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
CASS COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS, CASS COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN RE:	)	
	)	
THE MARRIAGE OF	)	
	)	
GWENDOLYN M. THOMAS,	)	
	)	2022-DC-15
Petitioner,	)	
AND	)	
	)	
LUKE A. THOMAS,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

NOTICE OF HEARING

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on **Thursday, July 24,, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.**, I shall appear before the Honorable Holly J. Henze, or any judge sitting in her stead, via **Zoom** and then and there call up for hearing the Emergency Motion to Address Health Insurance, Emergency Motion to Address Carnival Mastercard, and Petition for Indirect Civil Contempt filed herein. You are further given notice you may appear at said time and place if you deem fit. The Zoom information may be found on the Adams County website and is:

JUDGE	ZOOM MEETING ID	ZOOM MEETING PASSCODE
Holly J. Henze	773 822 8195	ACC2024#1B

s/ Gwendolyn M. Thomas

Gwendolyn M. Thomas, Petitioner
416 N. Sylvan
Ashland, IL 62612
217-291-3892
Email: gwenthomaslaw@gmail.com



Luke Thomas <thomaslitigation2022@gmail.com>

Fwd: Hearing Unavailable

1 message

Luke Thomas <thomaslitigation2022@gmail.com>

Thu, Jul 24, 2025 at 7:15 AM

To: Holly Henze <hhenze@adamscountyil.gov>, Gwendolyn Thomas <gwenthomaslaw@gmail.com>

Dear Judge Henze,

I just wanted to follow up to ensure you and Gwen received my message below. I did not want to needlessly take up your schedules. I remain unavailable today.

In addition to the issues/matters raised below I have begun research and may need time to speak to someone the chief judge's office and/or the Administration Office to see ADA accommodations in the way this case is administered procedurally going forward.

If either of you know of the process in place currently in the Eighth Circuit for making accommodations requests, I would greatly appreciate any guidance.

Thank you.

Luke Thomas

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Luke Thomas** <thomaslitigation2022@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Jul 23, 2025, 6:19 AM

Subject: Hearing Unavailable

To: Holly Henze <hhenze@adamscountyil.gov>, Gwendolyn Thomas <gwenthomaslaw@gmail.com>

Judge Henze,

I apologize for the delay in response. My employment with Peoria Housing Authority commenced January 21, 2025 and ended by resignation effective July 8, 2025.

My employment as Assistant City Attorney commenced July 21, 2025. I maintained BCBS of Illinois PPO Gold Family Health, Dental and vision coverage while with the Housing Authority, with coverage terminating July 31st. I will be finalizing signing up for BCBS family coverage as part of my orientation this week. Coverage will be effective July 21st.

I am in orientation this week and unavailable for Zoom. Additionally, I have only had time to recently download and scan the documents. I would need time to review and determine if hiring counsel or consulting one through Legal insurance is necessary. I would need time to plead as well.

I am hopeful the order setting tomorrow's Zoom meeting will be vacated without the need of a hurried Motion. Please advise. I would not be available to prepare such motion until 7:30 pm today.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Luke Thomas

If either of you know of the process in place currently in the Eighth Circuit for making accommodations requests, I would greatly appreciate any guidance.

Thank you.

Luke Thomas

----- Forwarded message -----

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Subject: Hearing Unavailable

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Judge Henze,

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My employment as Assistant City Attorney commenced July 21, 2025. I maintained BCBS of Illinois PPO Gold Family Health, Dental and vision coverage while with the Housing Authority, with coverage terminating July 31st. I will be finalizing signing up for BCBS family coverage as part of my orientation this week. Coverage will be effective July 21st.

I am in orientation this week and unavailable for Zoom. Additionally, I have only had time to recently download and skin the documents. I would need time to review and determine if hiring counsel or consulting one through Legal insurance is necessary. I would need time to plead as well.

I am hopeful the order setting tomorrow's Zoom meeting will be vacated without the need of a hurried Motion. Please advise. I would not be available to prepare such motion until 7:30 pm today.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Luke Thomas



Luke Thomas <thomaslitigation2022@gmail.com>

RE: Hearing Unavailable

1 message

Holly Henze <hhenze@adamscountyil.gov>

Thu, Jul 24, 2025 at 8:32 AM

To: Luke Thomas <thomaslitigation2022@gmail.com>, Gwendolyn Thomas <gwenthomaslaw@gmail.com>

Cc: Sharon Main <smain@adamscountyil.gov>, Roger Thomson <masoncountyjudge@gmail.com>

Mr. Thomas,

This will serve to confirm that I have received both emails. I will not be addressing any matters – other than the scheduling of court dates/times via email. All other matters shall be brought via written motion.

As far as a request for ADA accommodations, you may contact Sharon Main, the Trial Court Administrator for the Eighth Judicial Circuit. I have copied her on this email.

HJH

Hon. Holly J. Henze

521 Vermont Street

Quincy, IL 62301

217-277-2032

hhenze@adamscountyil.gov

From: Luke Thomas <thomaslitigation2022@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2025 7:16 AM

To: Holly Henze <hhenze@adamscountyil.gov>; Gwendolyn Thomas <gwenthomaslaw@gmail.com>

Subject: Fwd: Hearing Unavailable

Dear Judge Henze,

I just wanted to follow up to ensure you and Gwen received my message below. I did not want to needlessly take up your schedules. I remain unavailable today.

In addition to the issues/matters raised below I have begun research and may need time to speak to someone the chief judge's office and/or the Administration Office to see ADA accommodations in the way this case is administered procedurally going forward.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF ILLINOIS, CASS COUNTY

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF	)	
	)	
GWENDOLYN M. THOMAS, Petitioner,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	No. 22-DC-15
	)	
LUKE A. THOMAS, Respondent.	)	

ORDER

The Petitioner appears via Zoom in CR1B at the Adams County Courthouse pursuant to Notice of Hearing. The Respondent does not appear, having contacted the Court via e-mail regarding his unavailability but not having filed a written motion to continue. The Court makes the finding that the Petitioner's Emergency Motions filed by the Respondent are emergent in nature and finds and rules as follows:

Emergency Motion to Address Health Insurance

The Respondent is directed to provide proof of health insurance coverage for *all* of the parties' minor children to the Petitioner and to the Court by close of business on Friday, July 25, 2025. If proof is not provided it will be assumed there no coverage is available, and the Petitioner is ordered and directed to enroll the children on her health insurance plan. The Court reserves ruling on the issue of reimbursement by the Respondent to the Petitioner of the costs after the filing and review of financial affidavits.

Emergency Motion to Address Carnival Mastercard

The Respondent is directed to pay the judgment against the Petitioner, either directly to the Petitioner or to the judgment creditor, in Case County Case No. 25-LM-3. Said Judgment was entered on July 8, 2025 and provide proof of same to the Petitioner by the close of business on Friday, July 25, 2025 in the sum of \$22,376.71. If the Judgment is not paid in full by the Respondent as set out above, the Petitioner may negotiate a settlement with the judgment creditor and may pay the agreed upon amount out of the proceeds of the gun sales. The Court reserves ruling on any judgment against the Respondent for the settlement amount after the filing and review of financial affidavits.

The Petition for Indirect Civil Contempt is set for status on Thursday, August 21 at Noon. The status hearing will be held via Zoom from Adams County, and a hearing date shall be selected at that time. The parties shall file updated Financial Affidavits on or before that date.

Entered this 24th day of July, 2025

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Holly J. Henze", is written over a horizontal line.

Hon. Holly J. Henze

Copy: Pet
Resp

Luke A. Thomas

Attorney at Law | Peoria, Illinois

13 August 2025

The Honorable Roger Thomson	Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts
Chief Judge, Eighth Judicial Circuit	Attn: ADA Requests and Judicial Assignments
125 North Plum St.	3101 Old Jacksonville Rd.
Havana, IL 62644	Springfield, IL 62704

Ms. Sharon Main	Mr. Brad Parlier
Trial Court Administrator	Cass County Courthouse
Eighth Judicial Circuit	100 East Springfield St.
Adams County Courthouse	Virginia, IL 62691
521 Vermont St	casscircuitclerk@casscomm.com
Quincy, IL 62301	
smain@adamscountyil.gov	

Re: Request for ADA Accommodations and Clarification of Administrative Matters
Case: *In re Marriage of Thomas*, No. 2022-DC-15 (Cass County)

Dear Gentlepersons

Although I have come to know you as a practicing attorney in the Circuit over the past two decades, I am writing as a pro se litigant in the above-referenced post-dissolution matter.

The purpose of this letter is twofold: first, to formally request reasonable accommodations pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to ensure my full and meaningful participation in all future court proceedings; and second, to address critical administrative and procedural issues that impact the validity of the proceedings and my right to due process.

I. Formal Request for ADA Accommodations

I have documented medical conditions, including ADHD and mild PTSD, which substantially impact my ability to process information, organize my thoughts, and participate in complex legal proceedings. The history of this case—which is replete with instances of ex-parte communications, a failure to preserve the record, and sudden, unrecorded hearings—has significantly exacerbated these conditions.

To ensure I am afforded a fair opportunity to participate, I respectfully request the following accommodations:

Luke A. Thomas

Attorney at Law | Peoria, Illinois

Honorable Roger Thomson, et. al.

13 August 2025

Page 2

1. **All Proceedings to be Officially Recorded:** All hearings, status conferences, and any other substantive communications with the court must be recorded by a certified court reporter to create a complete and accurate record. This is essential for my peace of mind and is a medical necessity to mitigate the stress and anxiety caused by my PTSD, which is directly linked to the history of unrecorded and disputed events in this case.
2. **In-Person Evidentiary Hearings:** Due to my ADHD diagnosis, which affects executive functioning, it is essential that all evidentiary hearings be conducted in person. This allows me to visually process testimony, observe witness demeanor, and physically organize exhibits, which is critical for my ability to effectively present evidence and conduct cross-examination.
3. **Adequate Time for Preparation and Response:** I request that I be afforded, at a minimum, the full statutory time allowed by law to respond to motions and prepare for hearings. My ADHD requires additional time to process complex legal arguments and organize my thoughts. The practice of holding hearings on "emergency" motions with less than 48 hours' notice has previously denied me the ability to meaningfully participate.
4. **Official Record of Communications:** All communications, including emails and text messages sent to or from the court, must be contemporaneously filed and made part of the official court record.

II. Critical Administrative and Procedural Matters

In addition to my need for accommodations, there are significant procedural issues that require clarification to ensure the integrity of the judicial process.

1. **Preservation of the Record:** As noted above, the failure to record proceedings has been a persistent issue. The official record on appeal is missing transcripts from multiple hearings simply because no recording was made, despite my repeated requests. This systemic failure must be rectified immediately.
2. **Judicial Assignment and Authority:** My review of the court file and related communications has revealed a critical jurisdictional issue that must be addressed:
 - o On **September 19, 2022**, an order was entered in this case recusing the Honorable Roger Thomson.

Luke A. Thomas

Attorney at Law | Peoria, Illinois

Hon. Roger Thomson et. al.

12 August 2025

Page 3

- It is my understanding that Judge Thomson now serves as the Chief Judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit.
- I stumbled across an email dated **July 18, 2025**, the Honorable Holly J. Henze advised that her reassignment to our post-dissolution case was confirmed by "Chief Judge Roger Thomson and Cass County Presiding Judge TJ Wessel."
- A diligent search of the court record reveals no formal, written order from a non-conflicted judge reassigning Judge Henze to these post-judgment proceedings.
- As you know, a judge who has been recused from a case is legally and ethically barred from taking any further action in that matter, including the administrative act of assigning a new judge.

Given that the current Chief Judge is recused from this case, I respectfully request clarification as to which judge holds the administrative authority to make judicial assignments in this matter and that a formal order of assignment be entered into the record to ensure all subsequent orders are valid.

My requests are made in good faith and are supported by my documented medical history and the procedural history of this case. My sole objective is to ensure a fair, transparent, and accessible judicial process for all parties. I am prepared to provide medical documentation to the court under seal upon request.

I would appreciate a written response to my request for accommodations at your earliest convenience so that we may proceed in a manner that is fair and in accordance with the law.

Thank you for your time and attention to these important matters.

Respectfully,



Luke A. Thomas
ARDC No: 6278591

EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT
STATE OF ILLINOIS

ADAMS COUNTY COURTHOUSE || 521 VERMONT STREET || QUINCY, ILLINOIS 62301 || PHONE (217) 277-2032 || masoncountyjudge@gmail.com

CHAMBERS OF

THE HONORABLE ROGER B. THOMSON, Chief Judge

August 18, 2025

Luke A. Thomas
Attorney at Law
5240 N Big Hollow Rd
Peoria, IL 61615-3455

Re: August 13, 2025 "Request for ADA Accommodations and Clarification ..."

Mr. Thomas,

Most of issues raise in the above referenced correspondence will need to be addressed by Hon. Holly J. Henze, as the judges presiding in Cass County 2022-DC-15, and/or by Mr. Brad Parlier, as the Access to Justice Coordinator for Cass County.

However, as Chief Judge for the Eighth Judicial Circuit, I can response to your question regarding "Judicial Assignment Authority." Please note the following:

1. The docket in Cass County 2022-DC-15 shows that Chief Judge J. Frank McCartney assigned Hon. Holly J. Henze to hear this case by Order For Reassignment of Judge entered on March 3, 2023;
2. Illinois Supreme Court Rule 903 states "Whenever possible and appropriate, all child custody and allocation of parental responsibilities proceedings relating to an individual child shall be conducted by a single judge. ..."; and
3. No order has been entered modifying or removing Judge Henze as the judge assigned to your case.

As such, Judge Henze remains the judge assigned to your case without the necessity of any further "formal order of assignment."

Sincerely,

Hon. Roger B. Thomson
Chief Judge for the Eighth Judicial Circuit

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS, CASS COUNTY, ILLINOIS

GWENDOLYN M. THOMAS,

Petitioner,

vs.

LUKE A. THOMAS,

Respondent.

No. 2022-DC-15

**RESPONDENT'S MOTION TO CONTINUE HEARING AND FOR STATUS
ON ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

NOW COMES the Respondent, LUKE A. THOMAS, *pro se*, and respectfully moves this Court to continue the hearing currently scheduled for August 21, 2025, on the Petitioner's "Petition for Indirect Civil Contempt," and in support thereof, states as follows:

1. This matter is set for a hearing via Zoom on August 21, 2025. Respondent only learned of this hearing by email two days prior to the initial date and was never personally served with either the Petition or the Order setting this matter for hearing.
2. A continuance is necessary and just for several critical reasons that must be resolved before any hearing on the merits of the contempt petition can proceed.

GROUND'S FOR CONTINUANCE

A. Pending Request for ADA Accommodations

3. On or about August 13, 2025, Respondent sent a formal written request for reasonable accommodations pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to the Chief Judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit and the Trial Court Administrator. A copy of this request is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

4. This request is based on documented medical conditions already made of record in this cause, which impact Respondent's ability to meaningfully participate in court proceedings. The accommodations sought, including the right to in-person evidentiary hearings and the preservation of a complete court record, are essential to ensure Respondent is afforded due process.
5. A hearing cannot proceed until the Court has had an opportunity to receive, review, and rule upon Respondent's request for accommodations. To proceed otherwise would deny Respondent his right to meaningfully participate in his own defense.

B. Jurisdictional Uncertainty of the Presiding Judge

6. A diligent review of the court record in this matter reveals no formal, written order appointing the Honorable Holly J. Henze to preside over these post-judgment proceedings.
7. The current Chief Judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit, the Honorable Roger Thomson, was previously recused from this case by order entered September 19, 2022. As such, he is without authority to make any administrative assignments in this matter.
8. Before Respondent can be subjected to a hearing on a petition for contempt, which carries the potential for serious sanctions, due process requires that the jurisdictional authority of the presiding judge be clarified and confirmed on the record by a valid administrative order from a non-conflicted judge.

C. Inability to Prepare a Defense Due to Lack of Court-ordered Accounting

9. The January 18, 2024, Judgment of Dissolution explicitly ordered Petitioner to provide Respondent with an accounting of the proceeds from the sale of certain assets, including a firearm collection.

10. To date, Petitioner has failed to provide this court-ordered accounting. This information is essential and indispensable for Respondent's defense against the contempt petition, as it directly pertains to the availability of funds and his ability to comply with the Court's financial orders.

11. Respondent cannot adequately prepare a defense regarding his alleged failure to pay certain debts without the financial documentation that the Petitioner was ordered to provide and which remains in her sole possession.

CONCLUSION

Proceeding with the hearing on August 21, 2025, would be a violation of Respondent's rights under the ADA and his right to due process. The preliminary issues of Respondent's necessary accommodations, the jurisdictional authority of the presiding judge, and the production of essential documentation must be resolved before any hearing on the merits can be fairly conducted.

WHEREFORE, Respondent, Luke A. Thomas, respectfully prays that this Honorable Court enter an order:

- A. Continuing the hearing currently scheduled for August 21, 2025;
- B. Staying all further proceedings until a ruling has been made on Respondent's Request for ADA Accommodations;
- C. Staying all further proceedings until the administrative order of judicial assignment is clarified on the record;
- E. For an such further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

LUKE A. THOMAS, Respondent
Pro se

By: /s/ Luke A. Thomas

Luke A. Thomas

VERIFICATION BY CERTIFICATION

Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to Section 1-109 of the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in the foregoing instrument are true and correct, except as to matters therein stated to be on information and belief, and as to such matters, the undersigned certifies aforesaid that I verily believe the same to be true. I further state that the statements made in the foregoing instrument as to want of knowledge sufficient to form a belief are true.

/s/ Luke A. Thomas
Luke A. Thomas, Respondent

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I Luke A. Thomas, an attorney at law duly licensed to practice in the State of Illinois, do hereby certify that I electronically served the MOTION TO CONTINUE HEARING AND FOR STATUS ON ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS in the above-entitled cause upon Petitioner to the electronic mailing address of record as stated below this 19th day of August, 2025
Gwendolyn M. Thomas: gwenthomaslaw@gmail.com

/s/ Luke A. Thomas

Luke A. Thomas, Respondent
Thomaslitigation2022@gmail.com
ARDC No.: 6278591

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
CASS COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF

GWENDOLYN THOMAS,

Petitioner,

-vs-

LUKE THOMAS,

Respondent.

22-DC-15

STATUS HEARING

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS of the STATUS HEARING, before
the Honorable JUDGE HOLLY J. HENZE, commencing on the 21st
day of August, 2025.

APPEARANCES:

MS. GWENDOLYN THOMAS,

Pro Se Petitioner;

MR. LUKE THOMAS,

Pro Se Respondent.

RECORDING TRANSCRIBED BY:
Tracy L. Grott
Official Court Reporter

1 THE COURT: All right, folks. We are on the record
2 taking up Cass County Case Number 22-DC-15, In Re: The
3 Marriage of Thomas. Both parties appear by Zoom. And we
4 are recording here in Adams County.

5 I am getting up to speed. This matter was set
6 for status today to select a hearing date, and updated
7 financial affidavits were to be filed on or before today's
8 date. I don't see that either party has filed financial
9 affidavits, correct?

10 MS. THOMAS: That is correct, Your Honor.

11 MR. THOMAS: That's correct.

12 THE COURT: All right. I'm not inclined to set a
13 hearing date until they're on file. How much more time,
14 folks, do you think you're going to need?

15 MR. THOMAS: Judge, I had filed a motion to continue
16 today's hearing.

17 THE COURT: We're not having a hearing today. It's
18 just a status. So there's no reason why we can't proceed
19 with a status.

20 MR. THOMAS: I've asked the court to address that,
21 your appointment, to make sure that we're proceeding
22 correctly on the record. That was part of the motion to
23 continue, so I don't know if selecting a date until that's
24 resolved -- I wouldn't have much input on that because

1 those matters, I would like to have resolved. And the
2 petition itself, the petition for indirect civil contempt,
3 raises all sorts of information that's going to require
4 pleading and discovery of information. I haven't even
5 received an inventory of the guns that are alleged in
6 there. I didn't even know they were sold.

7 THE COURT: Have you filed discovery requests?

8 MR. THOMAS: I haven't filed -- I mean, I was taken by
9 surprised by this, so no, I filed a motion to continue and
10 it's asking the court to address whether you'll be
11 proceeding in this or on a petition if I file a 2-1401, if
12 you'll be the judge. I need to get it procedurally
13 resolved before I can address this.

14 THE COURT: What is the issue with me continuing to
15 preside over this case?

16 MR. THOMAS: Well, I've set forth in the motion
17 because the appointment -- and then if you're going to
18 remain then I have to decide whether or not a motion for
19 substitution is warranted, given the procedural history of
20 the case. But I don't even know who to --

21 THE COURT: Well, I can't -- I can't --

22 (Simultaneous speaking)

23 MR. THOMAS: -- hearing dates because of my e-mail, I
24 don't get responses. I'm kind of at a loss how to proceed

1 if I file motions and I can't get hearing dates. I don't
2 want to waste the court's time and set hearings on
3 something -- on one singular issue when it's all going to
4 involve the finances.

5 THE COURT: Okay, you haven't -- okay, let me --

6 MR. THOMAS: My request for modifications was --

7 (Simultaneous speaking)

8 THE COURT: Okay. I wasn't aware that this was filed.
9 I didn't get notice of it. I didn't see it until just
10 now, so give me a moment to review the motion to continue.

11 (Brief pause in proceeding)

12 THE COURT: All right. Your request for ADA
13 accommodations would be addressed through Mr. Pearlier.
14 He is the ADA coordinator for Cass County. So you can
15 address those issues with him.

16 I have been told by the presiding -- or the chief
17 judge that I am to remain in the case, so if you are
18 requesting that I not be in the case, you would need to
19 file a motion for substitution. That has not been filed.

20 MR. THOMAS: I was questioning because there's not a
21 written order in the file appointing -- usually that's in
22 there, so I just want the record complete to make sure
23 that --

24 THE COURT: There was no written order back when I was

1 originally assigned to the case?

2 MR. THOMAS: There should have been, but this is a
3 post dissolution. I think that --

4 THE COURT: No. I would remain in the case unless
5 someone else is substituted in.

6 MR. THOMAS: Well, I didn't know because you asked
7 Judge Wessel and Judge Thomson if you were to remain, so
8 in that case, I didn't know why you asked. If that's
9 automatic -- I couldn't find anything saying that it was
10 automatic.

11 I was able to get that letter sent off to Judge
12 Thomson and to the administrative's office.

13 THE COURT: Well, I got a copy -- I got a copy of his
14 response, which I was a little -- because I didn't know
15 that you had made a request -- but I did get a copy of his
16 response that went out that -- I believe it's dated the
17 18th. All right. That clarifies the judicial assignment
18 issue.

19 You will need to discuss any ADA accommodations
20 with Mr. Parlier.

21 Today was just a status review. All right. What
22 I'm going to do is set another status.

23 And Mr. Thomas, you will need to turn on your
24 camera. That is one of my Zoom rules, as long as we're

1 proceeding by Zoom, is to get your camera turned on and
2 not just have a picture.

3 MR. THOMAS: Am I on yet?

4 THE COURT: No. It's a symbol of a camera with a line
5 through it.

6 MR. THOMAS: Okay.

7 THE COURT: I would like to set this for status on
8 October 9th at noon. And until I'm told otherwise, that
9 will still be by Zoom. If your ADA requests are made and
10 it be done in person then I will schedule a time when I
11 can travel to Cass County for that purpose, but for now it
12 will be a status by Zoom.

13 MR. THOMAS: I apologize, Judge. My light's on my
14 camera and my laptop, but I can't seem to get --

15 THE COURT: All right. Well, any further proceedings,
16 I would need you to have your camera working. We're okay
17 for today.

18 I would order that financial affidavits be filed
19 by October 2nd because, again, I'm not going to set
20 anything for hearing until both parties' financial
21 affidavits are on file or else a deadline, a time certain,
22 that if they're not filed, we would proceed. The
23 violating party just wouldn't be able to present financial
24 information, but right now, to be filed October 2nd. We

1 don't have a hearing date yet.

2 And any discovery requests -- if either party
3 intends on filing discovery requests, they are to be filed
4 by September 18th.

5 All right. Is there anything else that needs to
6 be addressed today? Ms. Thomas?

7 MS. THOMAS: I don't believe so, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Thomas?

9 MR. THOMAS: No, thank you.

10 THE COURT: All right. All right. I'll get the order
11 out. I will send that to Cass County for filing with
12 copies to you both.

13 MS. THOMAS: Okay. Thank you.

14 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

15 (Which were all the proceedings had at the
16 hearing in the above-entitled cause, this 21st day of
17 August, 2025.)
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

CHAMBERS OF
HOLLY J. HENZE
ASSOCIATE JUDGE

CIRCUIT COURT
EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF ILLINOIS



ADAMS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
521 VERMONT STREET
QUINCY, ILLINOIS 62301
(217) 277-2032
FAX (217) 277-2072
EMAIL hhenze@co.adams.il.us

August 22, 2025

Mr. Luke Thomas
Attorney at Law
5240 N. Big Hollow Road
Peoria, IL 61615-3455

RE: Request for ADA Accommodations

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Mr. Parlier and I have reviewed your request for ADA Accommodations as set out on page 2 of your August 13, 2025 correspondence, and I have the following to pass along to you.

1. All Proceedings to be Officially Recorded. This request is granted.
2. In-Person Evidentiary Hearings. This request is granted. I will appear in person in Cass County for all evidentiary proceedings.
3. Adequate Time for Preparation and Response. This request is granted. You will be allowed the full statutory time allowed by law to respond to motions, petitions and discovery. If you believe in any given circumstance that additional time is necessary, you may file a motion requesting an extension of time.
4. Official Record of Communications. This request is denied.

Sincerely,

Holly J. Henze

Copy: Roger Thomson
Brad Parlier
Nicole Kopec
Sharon Main
AOIC



Luke Thomas <thomaslitigation2022@gmail.com>

Luke Thomas ADA Accommodations Request

1 message

Luke Thomas <thomaslitigation2022@gmail.com>
To: Brad Parlier <casscircuitclerk@casscomm.com>
Cc: CDCReport@illinoiscourts.gov

Thu, Aug 28, 2025 at 4:11 PM

Dear Mr. Parlier,

Good afternoon. I am writing to follow up on my ADA accommodation request and to seek clarification on several procedural and substantive items to ensure the process is handled correctly going forward.

Based on the communications to date, I have the following questions and requests:

Confirmation of Your Role: The AOIC website indicates you are the designated Court Disability Coordinator (CDC) for Cass County. Could you please confirm that this is your correct title and role for purposes of the Supreme Court Policy on Access for People with Disabilities?

Clarification of Decision-Making Authority: Judge Henze's letter of August 22, 2025, stated that you and she had reviewed my request. To understand the proper procedure for review and appeal, could you please clarify whether the decision on my accommodations was made by you as the CDC, by Judge Henze, or jointly?

Process for Appeal: The Supreme Court Policy provides for a review of a CDC's decision by the Chief Judge. As Chief Judge Thomson is recused from this matter, please advise who serves as the acting/conflicts Chief Judge for the Eighth Circuit to whom any appeal should be directed.

Costs for Transcripts as an Accommodation: I have received conflicting information regarding the cost of transcripts. You had previously advised that after seeking guidance, I would not have to pay for this accommodation, yet I have since received another demand for payment from the court reporter.

As I have explained, for my specific disabilities, a written transcript is the necessary auxiliary aid that makes court proceedings accessible to me. Under the ADA, such aids must be provided at no cost.

To resolve this, I respectfully request that you, in your capacity as CDC, coordinate with the court reporting staff to ensure that all transcripts are provided to me at no cost as a necessary and approved accommodation.

I know your time and resources are limited. If there is a specific contact at the AOIC with whom I should coordinate to resolve these issues, please provide their name and contact information. In light of the Court's historical denials of my requests for continuance and the rapidly approaching October dates, I would like to get this resolved as quickly as possible--it is exhausting and stressful so I appreciate your time and help.

Sincerely,

Luke Thomas
ARDC No: 6278591

P.S. I have also attached Judge Henze's letter mentioned above for your reference.



Thomas ADA_0001 (3).pdf
258K

lathoms1975@outlook.com

From: Tracy Grott <tgrott@adamscountyl.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 29, 2025 11:05 AM
To: casscircuitclerk@casscomm.com; thomaslitigation2022@gmail.com
Cc: Nicole Kopec-gmail
Subject: RE: 2022-DC15 Thomas v Thomas
Attachments: 20250821 ERD 1B HJH_Cass County 22-DC-15 Gwendolyn and Luke Thomas COPY.pdf; In Re The Marriage of Gwendolyn and Luke Thomas Cass Co 22-DC-15 - Invoice.pdf

Please find attached the transcript copy of the hearing held in Adams County via Zoom proceedings on 8/21/2025 regarding the above-mentioned Cass County cause number as well as the invoice for transcription.

The original transcript has been e-filed under the respective Cass County cause number.

Thank you.

Tracy L. Grott, CSR

Tracy L. Grott

Official Court Reporter

tgrott@adamscountyl.gov

Chief Judge's Office: 217-277-2055



Official Court Reporter
Eighth Judicial Circuit of Illinois
Tracy L. Grott, CSR

Adams County Courthouse
521 Vermont Street
Quincy, IL 62301

☎ Chief Judge's Office (217) 277-2055

✉ tgrott@adamscountyl.gov

From: casscircuitclerk@casscomm.com <casscircuitclerk@casscomm.com>

Sent: Friday, August 29, 2025 8:10 AM

To: Tracy Grott <tgrott@adamscountyl.gov>

Subject: 2022-DC15 Thomas v Thomas

Good morning,

Please forward any bill for the transcript in the above referenced case. Cass County is responsible for any fees. Also will you e-file this into the case?

Brad Parlier
Cass County Circuit Clerk
PO Box 203
Virginia IL 62691
217-452-7225 opt 2

Luke A. Thomas

Attorney at Law | Peoria, Illinois

25 August 2025

Mr. Brad Parlier
Cass County Courthouse
100 East Springfield St.
Virginia, IL 62691
casscircuitclerk@casscomm.com

Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts
Attn: ADA Requests and Judicial Assignments
3101 Old Jacksonville Rd.
Springfield, IL 62704

Re: ADA Accommodation-Request for Report of Proceedings (Transcript) Case: *In re Marriage of Thomas*, No. 2022-DC-15

Dear Mr. Parlier:

As part of an ADA accommodation request recently granted, I am writing to formally request the preparation of the official Report of Proceedings (transcript) for the Zoom status hearing held in the above-referenced matter on **Thursday, August 21, 2025**.

During the hearing, the presiding judge, the Honorable Holly J. Henze, stated that the proceedings were being conducted "on the record." Furthermore, in a letter dated August 22, 2025, Judge Henze granted my formal request for ADA accommodations, which includes the provision that "All Proceedings to be Officially Recorded."

Pursuant to the Court's statement and that accommodation, please have the official transcript for the August 21, 2025, hearing prepared and filed with the Court. Once it has been finalized and filed, please provide a copy to me at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your time and assistance in this matter.

Respectfully,



Luke A. Thomas
ARDC No: 6278591

lathoms1975@outlook.com

From: Luke Thomas <thomaslitigation2022@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 12:39 PM
To: Brad Parlier
Subject: Fwd: ADA Accommodation Ltr (2022DC15)
Attachments: Parlier, Brad Cass Co. Circuit Clerk re ADA Accommodations Ltr re 2022-DC-15 8-25 (follow-up).pdf

Mr. Parlier,

I apologize for the multiple emails/messages regarding my request and the overall issue. While I typically appreciate informalities, this issue is too important and confusing to not seek clarifications at the juncture. I such, I have attached ia follow up letter to our exchanges earlier today. Please allow the attached letter to replace my initial emailed response to your 10:08 a.m. 8/25/25 email.

Please let me know if you need further clarification or have any questions regarding my requests (this one or all).

Thank you once again for your time.

Luke Thomas

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Luke Thomas <thomaslitigation2022@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Aug 25, 2025 at 10:51 AM
Subject: Re: ADA Accommodation Ltr (2022DC15)
To: <casscircuitclerk@casscomm.com>

Mr. Parlier,

I'll defer to you as ADA coordinator as to the process and whether costs can or should be charged.

Dear Mr. Parlier,

Thank you for your prompt response. To ensure the request is handled correctly, please forward this email to the appropriate court reporter and instruct them to prepare the official transcript of the hearing held on August 21, 2025, in the above-referenced case.

As you know, this transcript is part of a granted ADA accommodation, and it is essential that it be prepared and filed with the court.

If costs associated with ADA accommodations requests are to be borne by the requestor, please forward the statement for these fees. I believe I should pay any costs to you as a part of the ADA accommodations request separate and distinct from the case.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Luke A. Thomas

On Mon, Aug 25, 2025 at 10:08 AM <casscircuitclerk@casscomm.com> wrote:

Good morning,

The hearing was recorded and a transcript can be provided to you. So, I will go ahead and forward your request to the Court Reporter Supervisor. Also, I was informed that the court is not responsible for any fees associated with the production of the transcript. If you would like an estimate of the cost prior to the preparation, we can have the reporter provide that to you.

Brad Parlier

Cass County Circuit Clerk

PO Box 203

Virginia IL 62691

217-452-7225 opt 2

From: Luke Thomas <thomaslitigation2022@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 9:09 AM

To: Brad Parlier <casscircuitclerk@casscomm.com>

Subject: ADA Accommodation Ltr (2022DC15)

Mr. Parlier,

Good morning. Please see the attached correspondence being sent regarding the above-referenced matter.

Please let me know if you have any questions or difficulties with opening the attachment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Luke Thomas

ARDC No: 6278591

lathoms1975@outlook.com

From: Luke Thomas <thomaslitigation2022@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 4:05 PM
To: casscircuitclerk@casscomm.com
Subject: Re: Luke Thomas ADA Accommodations Request

Mr. Parlier,

Thank you for your response and the attachments. I appreciate the courtesy.

Luke Thomas

On Tue, Sep 2, 2025 at 3:57 PM <casscircuitclerk@casscomm.com> wrote:

Dear Mr. Thomas

I apologize for the delay in responding but we are short handed currently and Friday was extremely busy. But I will try and answer your questions as best I can.

1. Confirmation of my role : Yes, I was appointed by the Chief Judge either late last year or earlier this year to fill the role of the CDC.
2. Clarification of Decision-Making Authority: When I received your request, I forwarded your request to the Chief Judge's Office and Judge Henze, as your request dealt exclusively with Court procedure. I discussed the matter with Judge Henze, and we agreed about the accommodation. Ultimately, the decision was mine. The first three requests were granted. The fourth request was denied. The court is not required to take actions that result in a fundamental alteration of a service, program or activity. I believe granting this would be a fundamental alteration of court activities.
3. Process for Appeal: If you believe the actions have not complied with the Supreme Court's Policy on Access for People with Disabilities it is your right to appeal my decision to the 8th Circuit's Chief Judge.
4. As I stated in my previous email from August 25, 2025, transcripts will be provided to you at no cost. I have contacted the Court Reporter assigned to prepare the most recent transcript as well as the Court Reporter Supervisor to make sure all invoices for transcripts come to us.

For your convenience I have attached the grievance and appeal procedure, as well as the grievance and appeal forms.

Thank you

Brad Parlier

Cass County Circuit Clerk

PO Box 203

Virginia IL 62691

217-452-7225 opt 2

From: Luke Thomas <thomaslitigation2022@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2025 4:11 PM

To: Brad Parlier <casscircuitclerk@casscomm.com>

Cc: CDCReport@illinoiscourts.gov

Subject: Luke Thomas ADA Accommodations Request

Dear Mr. Parlier,

Good afternoon. I am writing to follow up on my ADA accommodation request and to seek clarification on several procedural and substantive items to ensure the process is handled correctly going forward.

Based on the communications to date, I have the following questions and requests:

Confirmation of Your Role: The AOIC website indicates you are the designated Court Disability Coordinator (CDC) for Cass County. Could you please confirm that this is your correct title and role for purposes of the Supreme Court Policy on Access for People with Disabilities?

Clarification of Decision-Making Authority: Judge Henze's letter of August 22, 2025, stated that you and she had reviewed my request. To understand the proper procedure for review and appeal, could you

please clarify whether the decision on my accommodations was made by you as the CDC, by Judge Henze, or jointly?

Process for Appeal: The Supreme Court Policy provides for a review of a CDC's decision by the Chief Judge. As Chief Judge Thomson is recused from this matter, please advise who serves as the acting/conflicts Chief Judge for the Eighth Circuit to whom any appeal should be directed.

Costs for Transcripts as an Accommodation: I have received conflicting information regarding the cost of transcripts. You had previously advised that after seeking guidance, I would not have to pay for this accommodation, yet I have since received another demand for payment from the court reporter.

As I have explained, for my specific disabilities, a written transcript is the necessary auxiliary aid that makes court proceedings accessible to me. Under the ADA, such aids must be provided at no cost.

To resolve this, I respectfully request that you, in your capacity as CDC, coordinate with the court reporting staff to ensure that all transcripts are provided to me at no cost as a necessary and approved accommodation.

I know your time and resources are limited. If there is a specific contact at the AOIC with whom I should coordinate to resolve these issues, please provide their name and contact information. In light of the Court's historical denials of my requests for continuance and the rapidly approaching October dates, I would like to get this resolved as quickly as possible--it is exhausting and stressful so I appreciate your time and help.

Sincerely,

Luke Thomas
ARDC No: 6278591

P.S. I have also attached Judge Henze's letter mentioned above for your reference.

Luke A. Thomas

Attorney at Law | Peoria, Illinois

1 October 2025

Mr. Brad Parlier
Cass County Courthouse
100 East Springfield St.
Virginia, IL 62691
casscircuitclerk@casscomm.com

Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts
Attn: ADA Requests and Judicial Assignments
3101 Old Jacksonville Rd.
Springfield, IL 62704

Re: ADA Accommodations-Transcripts Request : *In re Marriage of Thomas*, No. 2022-DC-15

Dear Mr. Parlier:

Thank you for your email dated September 29, 2025 in response to my request for transcripts of the proceedings held on September 25, 2025, before the Honorable Frank McCartney. Based on your response, I understand it will be approximately 2 weeks before the transcript will be made available.

I am not sure if the same court reporter was assigned to the July 24, 2025 hearing held in my absence before Judge Henze, but if so, please be sure to include a request for the transcript of that proceeding as well. Otherwise, please promptly request and secure the transcript from that proceeding at your earliest opportunity. Both transcripts are essential for my ability to prepare and/or defend the pending motion(s)/petitions and to otherwise be able to ascertain my legal remedies available.

Please provide an estimated timeline when both transcripts will be made available. I must file a motion to continue the hearing scheduled on October 6th and want to be able to provide the Court with an accurate timeline.

Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully,



Luke A. Thomas
ARDC No: 6278591



Luke Thomas <thomaslitigation2022@gmail.com>

RE: IRMO Thomas 2022-DC-15 9-25-2025 Hearing Transcript

1 message

casscircuitclerk@casscomm.com <casscircuitclerk@casscomm.com>
To: Luke Thomas <thomaslitigation2022@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 29, 2025 at 8:37 AM

Mr. Thomas,

I contacted the court reporter that was assigned to the last hearing. She is off all this week, so it will be a couple of weeks before it is done. I will email it to you as soon as it is filed.

Brad Parlier

Cass County Circuit Clerk

PO Box 203

Virginia IL 62691

217-452-7225 opt 2

From: Luke Thomas <thomaslitigation2022@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 26, 2025 12:49 PM
To: Brad Parlier <casscircuitclerk@casscomm.com>
Subject: IRMO Thomas 2022-DC-15 9-25-2025 Hearing Transcript

Mr. Parlier,

Good afternoon. I am writing to inquire when the transcript from yesterday's proceedings will be available as part of the ADA accommodation. Please advise once you have determined the same so that I can plan accordingly.

As always, thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Luke Thomas



Luke Thomas <thomaslitigation2022@gmail.com>

Re: Luke Thomas ADA Accommodations Request

Luke Thomas <thomaslitigation2022@gmail.com>
To: casscircuitclerk@casscomm.com

Tue, Sep 2, 2025 at 4:05 PM

Mr. Parlier,

Thank you for your response and the attachments. I appreciate the courtesy.

Luke Thomas

On Tue, Sep 2, 2025 at 3:57 PM <casscircuitclerk@casscomm.com> wrote:

Dear Mr. Thomas

I apologize for the delay in responding but we are short handed currently and Friday was extremely busy. But I will try and answer your questions as best I can.

1. Confirmation of my role : Yes, I was appointed by the Chief Judge either late last year or earlier this year to fill the role of the CDC.
2. Clarification of Decision-Making Authority: When I received your request, I forwarded your request to the Chief Judge's Office and Judge Henze, as your request dealt exclusively with Court procedure. I discussed the matter with Judge Henze, and we agreed about the accommodation. Ultimately, the decision was mine. The first three requests were granted. The fourth request was denied. The court is not required to take actions that result in a fundamental alteration of a service, program or activity. I believe granting this would be a fundamental alteration of court activities.
3. Process for Appeal: If you believe the actions have not complied with the Supreme Court's Policy on Access for People with Disabilities it is your right to appeal my decision to the 8th Circuit's Chief Judge.
4. As I stated in my previous email from August 25, 2025, transcripts will be provided to you at no cost. I have contacted the Court Reporter assigned to prepare the most recent transcript as well as the Court Reporter Supervisor to make sure all invoices for transcripts come to us.

For your convenience I have attached the grievance and appeal procedure, as well as the grievance and appeal forms.

Thank you

Brad Parlier
Cass County Circuit Clerk
PO Box 203
Virginia IL 62691
217-452-7225 opt 2

From: Luke Thomas <thomaslitigation2022@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2025 4:11 PM
To: Brad Parlier <casscircuitclerk@casscomm.com>
Cc: CDCReport@illinoiscourts.gov
Subject: Luke Thomas ADA Accommodations Request

Dear Mr. Parlier,

Good afternoon. I am writing to follow up on my ADA accommodation request and to seek clarification on several procedural and substantive items to ensure the process is handled correctly going forward.

Based on the communications to date, I have the following questions and requests:

Confirmation of Your Role: The AOIC website indicates you are the designated Court Disability Coordinator (CDC) for Cass County. Could you please confirm that this is your correct title and role for purposes of the Supreme Court Policy on Access for People with Disabilities?

Clarification of Decision-Making Authority: Judge Henze's letter of August 22, 2025, stated that you and she had reviewed my request. To understand the proper procedure for review and appeal, could you please clarify whether the decision on my accommodations was made by you as the CDC, by Judge Henze, or jointly?

Process for Appeal: The Supreme Court Policy provides for a review of a CDC's decision by the Chief Judge. As Chief Judge Thomson is recused from this matter, please advise who serves as the acting/conflicts Chief Judge for the Eighth Circuit to whom any appeal should be directed.

Costs for Transcripts as an Accommodation: I have received conflicting information regarding the cost of transcripts. You had previously advised that after seeking guidance, I would not have to pay for this accommodation, yet I have since received another demand for payment from the court reporter.

As I have explained, for my specific disabilities, a written transcript is the necessary auxiliary aid that makes court proceedings accessible to me. Under the ADA, such aids must be provided at no cost.

To resolve this, I respectfully request that you, in your capacity as CDC, coordinate with the court reporting staff to ensure that all transcripts are provided to me at no cost as a necessary and approved accommodation.

I know your time and resources are limited. If there is a specific contact at the AOIC with whom I should coordinate to resolve these issues, please provide their name and contact information. In light of the Court's historical denials of my requests for continuance and the rapidly approaching October dates, I would like to get this resolved as quickly as possible--it is exhausting and stressful so I appreciate your time and help.

Sincerely,

Luke Thomas
ARDC No: 6278591

P.S. I have also attached Judge Henze's letter mentioned above for your reference.

lathoms1975@outlook.com

From: casscircuitclerk@casscomm.com
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 1:31 PM
To: 'Luke Thomas'
Subject: RE: IRMO Thomas 2022-DC-15 9-25-2025 Hearing Transcript

Mr. Thomas,

I got ahold of the Court Reporter and she is trying to get it finished up today. As soon as she files it, I will forward it to you.

Brad Parlier
Cass County Circuit Clerk
PO Box 203
Virginia IL 62691
217-452-7225 opt 2

From: Luke Thomas <thomaslitigation2022@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 8:40 AM
To: casscircuitclerk@casscomm.com
Subject: Re: IRMO Thomas 2022-DC-15 9-25-2025 Hearing Transcript

Mr. Parlier,

I am writing to follow up on the status of the transcript from the September 25th hearing. I understand the assigned reporter was scheduled to be off the week following the hearing (week of September 29th). With 20 days having passed since the hearing, I would appreciate it if you could follow up on the status and advise.

Thank you.

Luke Thomas
6278591

On Thu, Oct 2, 2025 at 9:47 AM Luke Thomas <thomaslitigation2022@gmail.com> wrote:

Mr. Parlier,

Thank you for your response. I have submitted my formal response and additional request through the efilng system. A courtesy copy is attached.

Sincerely,

Luke Thomas

6278591

On Mon, Sep 29, 2025 at 8:37 AM <casscircuitclerk@casscomm.com> wrote:

Mr. Thomas,

I contacted the court reporter that was assigned to the last hearing. She is off all this week, so it will be a couple of weeks before it is done. I will email it to you as soon as it is filed.

Brad Parlier

Cass County Circuit Clerk

PO Box 203

Virginia IL 62691

217-452-7225 opt 2

From: Luke Thomas <thomaslitigation2022@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 26, 2025 12:49 PM
To: Brad Parlier <casscircuitclerk@casscomm.com>
Subject: IRMO Thomas 2022-DC-15 9-25-2025 Hearing Transcript

Mr. Parlier,

Good afternoon. I am writing to inquire when the transcript from yesterday's proceedings will be available as part of the ADA accommodation. Please advise once you have determined the same so that I can plan accordingly.

As always, thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Luke Thomas

6278591

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
CASS COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE INTEREST OF)
GWENDOLYN M. THOMAS,)
)
Petitioner,)
)
and) No. 22-DC-15
)
LUKE A. THOMAS,)
)
Respondent.) HEARING

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS of the hearing before the
Honorable JUDGE FRANK J. MCCARTNEY, commencing on September 25,
2025.

APPEARANCES:

GWENDOLYN THOMAS, Petitioner,
Pro Se,
LUKE THOMAS, Respondent, (Via Zoom)
Pro se.

Kathy A. Genenbacher, CSR
IL License No. 084-003096

1 THE COURT: On the record, 22-DC-15, Gwen Thomas, Luke
2 Thomas. This cause comes on for hearing on pending motions.
3 Miss Thomas appears in person. Luke Thomas appears via Zoom.

4 My plan is to go through these one by one. I know
5 there is a -- But we will start with the one, the most recent, a
6 motion for clarification and set procedural order of hearing.

7 Mr. Thomas, are you ready to proceed on that?

8 MR. THOMAS: Yes, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: And, Miss Thomas, are you ready to proceed?

10 MS. THOMAS: Yes, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Thomas, it's your motion. Do you
12 wish to be heard?

13 MR. THOMAS: Sure. I'll keep it brief. The motion pretty
14 much sets forth what we fully allege in there that in order to
15 have a clean record, in order to go forward, the orders that are
16 enforceable -- and I think this has to be addressed. And in
17 fact, Judge Henze asked -- reached out to ask Judge Thomson,
18 Judge Wessel who would be appointed. That in itself -- See,
19 that's been historically the practice. And as far as I know,
20 that's the practice standard in Illinois, but that's typically
21 the practice is that they reach out. But in this case, when
22 this case started out a lot of changes happened, and you were
23 our Chief Judge when the case started, and Judge Thomson was
24 recused from this case. Now it goes back to the Chief Judge and

1 in a sense back to you. I think that just needs to get -- to
2 get cleared up.

3 I think we are at the point where this needs to go to
4 another county in all fairness to everybody involved. Like I
5 say, it's not fair to even have -- to make -- I wish it weren't
6 that, that the record was clean and things left the way it
7 should have, but they haven't. So I think that's important we
8 address that first and then move to the motion of substitution
9 if the Court denies that.

10 THE COURT: Yes. Why don't you, if you have anything
11 further, maybe also address the motion for administrative order
12 clarification determination, the second one, and I think they
13 kind of go hand in hand. Is there anything additionally you
14 want to argue on that motion?

15 MR. THOMAS: No, there is nothing additional. Again, it
16 speaks for itself.

17 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Sounds good. Miss Thomas,
18 do you wish to be heard?

19 MS. THOMAS: Your Honor, I guess I really don't know what
20 really the Respondent is attempting to accomplish with the
21 motion for clarification and the motion for administrative
22 order. To me, it's all -- it's confusing. And I think that the
23 crux of it really is an argument that he's trying to make with
24 regards to the motion for substitution.

1 I don't believe that respondent is entitled to kind of
2 direct the Court on what to do. So I guess I'm not sure what's
3 trying to be achieved by these two motions. I would ask that
4 they be denied.

5 THE COURT: Yes. So, Mr. Thomas, last word on that if you
6 want.

7 MR. THOMAS: Sure. Certainly. The problem with the case
8 is being in the county from the get-go. It's a very confusing
9 record to begin with. But again, it's just -- I don't know how
10 much more obvious it is. The standards -- the rules of
11 professional conduct, Rule 63, the appearances of impropriety
12 set forth that -- I just don't know. Now we have got -- Miss
13 Thomas is an active state's attorney. Her boss is now a judge
14 that sits there. I just don't know how we can in good conscious
15 say this doesn't need to go to a different county and this
16 doesn't need to be addressed.

17 I'm not saying that there is any ill intention,
18 especially on Judge Thomson's part. He's had hundreds of cases
19 probably before that and since that time, but he might not even
20 realize the record in this case. Again, it is confusing, the
21 two cases set. But that's the point of bringing it forward
22 because it is confusing to the parties. But we are the ones
23 that have to have a clean record, and that's why I say it's
24 important to get that all straightened out now because there are

1 serious allegations against me, and there are serious issues to
2 be presented to an impartial judge. And having those matters
3 cleared up for that I think is just of utmost importance and for
4 the interest of justice.

5 MS. THOMAS: Judge, if I may state, just with regards to
6 the comment about Judge Thomson assigning Judge Henze to the
7 case. Judge Henze is the presiding judge over this proceeding.
8 So really, I believe that the case remains with her and that it
9 was unnecessary for her to even communicate with Judge Thomson
10 regarding whether she should remain as the judge. I would
11 suspect that that was just simply done out of pure courtesy, but
12 that it was not something that was procedurally necessary. And
13 because she was the original judge that heard the divorce
14 proceeding, and there is one child, one judge, that she would
15 continue with any post-judgment dissolution hearings as well.

16 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Thomas, so you have addressed as
17 much as you want to as far as argument on your motion for
18 clarification and your motion for administrative order, correct?

19 MR. THOMAS: I believe so, Judge. Procedure again would be
20 that in order to even address this would be to make -- present
21 these to the Chief Judge, but the Chief Judge -- That's why the
22 motion was filed. That's why the administrative order was
23 brought in. Short of going to the Illinois Supreme Court, that
24 is the best procedure I could come up with to bring the matters

1 to the attention of the Court.

2 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Court having considered the
3 pleadings, Court having considered the arguments, I'm going to
4 go through this. If I speak too quickly, let me know.

5 So the motion for clarification and to set procedural
6 order of hearing, I think there was some confusion, Mr. Thomas,
7 on maybe how this started in 22-DC-15. Fortunately, Judge
8 Thomson assigned me to hear this so I have a little bit of
9 knowledge of how that went down because I was the Chief Judge.
10 But basically what happened in 22-DC-15 Judge Thomson was
11 assigned originally -- or not originally -- when there was a
12 recusal by I think Judge Wessel and Judge Tippey I believe.
13 Then I, as Chief, assigned Judge Thomson. And then what
14 happened was on -- You filed a motion -- And this is in the OP
15 case. So I'm also referenced in 22-OP-66. On September 19th of
16 2022 you filed a motion for substitution of judge as a matter of
17 right, and it's for right and for cause is the way I think it
18 read. And then on September 26th, the docket reflects a motion
19 as a matter of right as to Thomson. On September 28th of
20 2022 -- And this is all in the OP case. Judge Thomson granted
21 that. And then the Chief Judge, me at the time, assigned Judge
22 Hooker to that case, 22-OP-66, on October 13th, '22. And at
23 that same time because I wanted one judge to hear all matters,
24 and I thought there might be some, you know, evidence in both

1 matters that could be applicable to both cases, I then
2 reassigned the 22-DC-15 case to Judge Hooker because I didn't
3 want two judges hearing probably some of the same evidence at
4 some point. So Judge Thomson never recused himself. What
5 happened was when you as a matter of right substituted Judge
6 Hooker out of the OP case -- And I will note that you did not
7 substitute Judge Hooker. You couldn't as a matter of right
8 because you had already used it on Judge Thomson. I know at
9 some point I believe you filed a motion for cause as to Judge
10 Hooker, and Judge Burch denied that. But nonetheless, when you
11 did that in the OP case, I made the decision to have one judge
12 because there were children involved to hear both matters. So
13 Judge Thomson was -- It was reassigned to Judge Hooker I should
14 say, and Judge Thomson never recused himself.

15 And just to address the part about him being Chief
16 Judge, so he became Chief Judge in basically January of this
17 year I believe. And the way that works is -- I have always
18 taken the position, and I could be wrong -- And it is not
19 applicable here because he wasn't recused or substituted out.
20 But I have always taken the position that if I was substituted
21 out of a case, as Chief Judge I could still reassign that to
22 someone else. I am not seeing that challenged. I could be
23 wrong. That's not the situation we have here because he was not
24 recused -- or he did not recuse himself out of the DC-15 case

1 any way. So that was my decision to put Judge Hooker in that
2 case.

3 So we don't even have the situation where he was for
4 some reason disqualified and not able to hear 22-DC-15. So we
5 don't even get into the situation that I was referencing where
6 on occasion when I was Chief someone would substitute me as a
7 matter of right, and in exercising my authority as Chief Judge I
8 then assign that to someone else. I didn't enter any other
9 rulings in that case other than to assign it. But that's not
10 the situation we have here.

11 So as far as your prayer for relief, one, as I
12 indicated last week in my order, I plan on dealing with all
13 motions today. Secondly, I think Judge Thomson, you know,
14 properly could -- did assign this case to Judge Henze. And as
15 Miss Thomas indicated, the practice in our circuit has always
16 been once a judge is assigned to a case, especially a family
17 case with children, that judge will stay in that case until
18 completion.

19 And I know there was some time where -- I know this
20 case went up on appeal, it was affirmed, and then there was a
21 period of time where I don't believe any pleadings were
22 necessarily filed. But once Miss Thomas filed those I think
23 three pleadings recently, then Judge Henze would hear those
24 until it is completed because we keep one judge in the case

1 because, as you can imagine, Mr. Thomas, it would be very
2 difficult for someone like me necessarily to get up to speed on
3 everything that's happened in this case. And it wasn't my
4 order, you know, the final order. It was Judge Henze's. So she
5 would be in the best spot or the best position to be able to
6 address these motions. So there was no necessity for Judge
7 Thomson to quote/unquote reassign her. As Miss Thomas
8 indicates, she remains in the case absent being substituted out
9 for cause.

10 So as to the motion for clarification and to set
11 procedural order, I think I have addressed that. That will be
12 denied.

13 And then on the motion for administrative order of
14 clarification determination, I think I have addressed -- Let me
15 see if there's anything else I wanted to address. Oh, I will
16 address one other thing. And you bring -- Mr. Thomas, you
17 brought up an interesting point, Judge Wessel signing orders.
18 Obviously, he recused himself. I know -- I mean it doesn't have
19 any effect on the case as far as I'm concerned, and I don't find
20 that. He's basically making sure the people that are doing the
21 work are getting paid. And a lot of times as resident judge in
22 small rural counties we are called on to make sure people are
23 getting paid. So I know that on occasion I have signed orders,
24 even where I was out of the case, either recused or substituted,

1 where I just ordered payment. I don't make any substantive
2 rulings, nothing of that nature. I'm just making sure the bills
3 are being paid. If I don't have another judge available, I know
4 I have signed those orders. And I know you referenced that.

5 MR. THOMAS: Thank you, Judge. I don't want to interrupt,
6 but if I could be heard since that is an issue.

7 THE COURT: Okay. You can go ahead and address that if you
8 want to.

9 MR. THOMAS: Your Honor, my concern is that -- Yeah, it's a
10 matter of getting paid. Everyone deserves the right to be paid.
11 There is a series of orders. And again, that is alleged in
12 there. There was information there for that that the resident
13 judge that I may possibly have a claim against the county.
14 Subsequent to that we have orders entered. Obviously, my
15 thought was just to hire an attorney in the case or to me just
16 to not have one, but then that wasn't able to be dealt with.
17 The evaluation that was paid for by Cass County, the possible
18 claim by the statute of limitations hasn't run -- When I was
19 supposed to be going to trial, according to Judge Hooker, I am
20 now being sent to have a mental evaluation for no request or
21 pleadings or nothing. And Judge Henze entered that. And she
22 has conferred with Judge Wessel on a regular basis on those
23 types of matters. And we have got orders entered by Judge
24 Wessel. And as I pointed out, it's the appearance of

1 impropriety. I have a judge granting me -- or paying for mental
2 health evaluation in a case and then possibly observe the issue
3 when I discharged him as an employee of mine. (Inaudible zoom)
4 And I notice other claims have been filed also tracking with
5 this case before Judge Wessel. Financially --

6 THE COURT: Try to slow down. Try to slow down a little
7 bit. I think I see smoke coming out of my court reporter's
8 fingertips.

9 MR. THOMAS: Sorry.

10 THE COURT: Go ahead. Anything else, sir? I don't mean to
11 cut you off.

12 MR. THOMAS: No, Your Honor. I will slow down here.

13 THE COURT: Well, any reservation that you may be -- the
14 county seeking reimbursement, I'm sure if that's done at all, it
15 will be through Judge Henze. It won't be through Judge Wessel.
16 He just orders it so those get paid. And if there is going to
17 be any kind of reimbursement issue, I'm sure that will be
18 something that Judge Henze takes up. I know it hasn't occurred
19 yet, so my guess is that will not occur, but I will leave that
20 up to her. But I am quite confident Judge Wessel won't be
21 involved in that part of it, absent there being a different case
22 filed. Then perhaps he would be on that as resident judge. But
23 on this case itself, I don't imagine you are going to see him.
24 And that's not before me today, any kind of hearing where he is

1 seeking reimbursement from you.

2 MR. THOMAS: I guess that goes to the asking the
3 administrative court to have it run by a judge outside of the
4 county to hear that because again -- I know we are hoping for
5 the best of intentions and everything, but it has the appearance
6 of impropriety. This is my family, my children. I don't want
7 to take the chance and guess that that's the case when there is
8 no reason to have it there when you have an impartial judge.
9 One of those did run against me in general election and having
10 conferred with my wife about my illness through the entire
11 time --

12 THE COURT: Mr. Thomas, the beauty of that is he is not
13 presiding over this DC case. Judge Henze is. So I understand
14 your point, and I know you pled that out, but I don't find there
15 is a necessity to have this referred to the administrative
16 office or to have Judge Thomson do that, have a judge outside
17 the circuit, because at this point, pending your other motion,
18 Judge Henze is assigned to it. And if she was for some reason
19 removed for cause, then I'm sure we could have another judge who
20 could be assigned. So I'm going to deny that.

21 I think I have addressed all the points I want to
22 address in the motion for clarification and to set procedural
23 order of hearing and the motion for administrative order
24 clarification determination. I believe those have been

1 addressed.

2 And now I'm going to turn to the third amended motion

3 for substitution and cause -- for cause I should say.

4 Mr. Thomas, would you like to be heard on that? I'm just going
5 to remind you to please not speak too quickly.

6 MR. THOMAS: Sure. I'm turning the monitor on.

7 THE COURT: You are fine. We hear you. We hear you great.
8 You have got a little bit of me in you. I sometimes talk too
9 fast, and I have to remind myself I have a court reporter trying
10 to keep up. So do your best and try to slow down a little bit.
11 But we are on now your third amended motion for substitution of
12 judge for cause. This is Judge Henze. And I'm going off that
13 one since that's your most recent cause motion. Go ahead, sir.
14 Are you there, Mr. Thomas? Mr. Thomas, are you there, sir?
15 Let's hope he logs back in. Give him a few minutes.

16 (Zoom was interrupted.)

17 (Off the record.)

18 THE COURT: Mr. Thomas, can you hear me again?

19 MR. THOMAS: I can. I apologize, Judge. I am on a PCN.
20 It disconnected, so I connected to my phone here.

21 THE COURT: You're okay. Thank you for doing that. Let me
22 know when you are ready. I don't necessarily need to see you.
23 I recognize your voice. So I want to take up the third amended
24 motion for substitution of judge for cause. That's your most

1 recent. Are you prepared to argue that?

2 MR. THOMAS: I am, Judge. I will start over.

3 THE COURT: Try to watch your speed is all I ask, okay?

4 MR. THOMAS: I will do, sir.

5 THE COURT: All right. Go ahead, sir.

6 MR. THOMAS: At this point, the petition -- the third
7 amended petition meets the pleading requirements. The
8 substitution for cause is supported by affidavit. It meets all
9 those requirements. No pleading has been filed in response to
10 it. Judge Henze has not filed any affidavit providing testimony
11 in response. So I think this decision is a pretty easy one. We
12 have more than met our burden there. So I think that it should
13 be granted --

14 THE COURT: Okay.

15 MR. THOMAS: -- on its face. Additional information -- If
16 you want me to provide testimony under oath, I am glad to do so.

17 THE COURT: I'm giving you the opportunity to argue or do
18 whatever you need to on your motion, and then I'm going to give
19 Miss Thomas the opportunity to state her position. So whatever
20 you want to do, this is the time to do it.

21 MR. THOMAS: Okay. I didn't know the practice in the
22 county on substitutions. If they were non-evidentiary or
23 evidentiary, I can be sworn in.

24 THE COURT: It's up to you, sir. If you want to be sworn

1 in, I can have the clerk swear you in, and then you can stand on
2 your motion I mean or state under oath the allegations. So
3 that's totally up to you, sir.

4 MR. THOMAS: I can provide additional testimony under oath.
5 I think that's probably -- We have got to make a record. So go
6 ahead and do that.

7 THE COURT: Okay. So raise your right hand.

8 (Witness sworn.)

9 LUKE THOMAS,
10 having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as
11 follows:

12 EXAMINATION BY

13 THE COURT:

14 Q. Okay. Please state your name.

15 A. My name is Luke Thomas.

16 Q. And you filed this third amended motion for
17 substitution of judge for cause?

18 A. That is correct, Judge.

19 Q. And other than the pleading, what else do you want the
20 Court to know about that?

21 A. Well, discussing all the issues -- I mean the case
22 started off with Judge Henze being assigned when Judge Hooker
23 abruptly recused himself. So judge Henze was appointed. And
24 that was -- The first contact that I had with her I had asked

1 for an emergency order of protection. She gave me a hearing
2 date. After that hearing -- Or she refused to go to an
3 evidentiary hearing on that because she thought it would effect
4 co-parenting. And we proceeded as such. Now we were talking
5 about the incident in May, the kidnapping charges, or
6 allegations, that Miss Thomas claimed that she had sought the
7 Amber alert against me after giving me permission to have my
8 son. Judge Henze had -- The Guardian Ad Litem was a Saturday.
9 Even offered to talk to Judge Henze. Judge Henze was aware of
10 the emergency order of protection entered in Sangamon County and
11 refused to talk to me about it, entered an order and with no
12 notice. And again, that was -- I think there was a hearing in
13 April. Without bending over backwards, we had three hearings
14 without notice. And then I had my parental rights taken away
15 without notice. And the reason I bring it up is she
16 acknowledges on the record that I was permitted to go camping,
17 that they were false. Then I get no hearing. Just everything
18 is put off. And I keep being told I'm going to have a hearing.
19 I filed a motion to continue in advance of the trial to try to
20 present. I can't get a hearing date. I e-mailed. Won't be a
21 hearing date. I'm forced to beg for money. I asked for money
22 when an emergency situation comes up prior to trial. I had no
23 money. I'm living with my son, making \$570.00 every two weeks.
24 I'm asking for money to be able to participate in the court

1 proceedings. And she won't even respond to the e-mail. She
2 responds to me after court, telling me that her order speaks for
3 itself and I can appeal it. Those are the kinds of treatments.

4 I'm an officer of the court. I have never done
5 anything to any of these folks. And I don't know why it's so
6 hard to give me the same equal treatment that they -- They are
7 setting hearings for her without any notice to me. They proceed
8 to hearing whether I was there or not. I try to get the same
9 courtesy. I don't even get it. The writing is on the wall.
10 All the evidence that we want to come in has been stopped time
11 and time again by Judge Henze, never allowing me to go to
12 hearing, always pushing off court, point blank trying to
13 intimidate me when there is no record. That's why there is no
14 record in this case, Your Honor, and it's very intimidating
15 because she is very rude. At this point I really haven't had
16 much say. When I tried to question the case earlier on about
17 the Guardian Ad Litem, I just wanted to ask her questions about
18 the extent of her examination. She said I'm not doing that, not
19 questioning the Guardian Ad Litem. I asked for ex parte
20 communications to be shared with me. That's denied. It's
21 obvious that they are communicating about me and me allegedly
22 kidnapping my son. That's so ridiculous. Excuse me. But to do
23 that and then not even give me the courtesy of a hearing -- She
24 bent over backwards to have hearing stopped and have trial. And

1 this is all my business, every asset I have, in a two hour zoom
2 hearing that there is no records reported.

3 I note today for the trial we are in Cass County
4 courtroom. On the day of trial we were in Adams County, and we
5 had technical difficulties on it, and Judge Wessel's personal
6 zoom hearing for the trial that took a little more than two
7 hours, and it was all done through the testimony of (inaudible).
8 How in the world could that even be remotely considered
9 impartial? So that -- I really -- I hope to God that you take
10 this motion and the consequences of it and the total unfairness
11 has soured me on that so much that to be treated the way I have
12 been treated --

13 THE COURT: Okay.

14 MR. THOMAS: I said -- You can read the whole court file,
15 every correspondence, everything. I have been nothing but
16 polite and respectful. I respect the Court, the position that
17 Judge Henze holds. I don't know why those same courtesies
18 haven't been extended to me when they are extended time and time
19 again and beyond violating the notice provisions in favor of one
20 party and the other party doesn't get the same courtesy. I
21 think it's just overwhelmingly clear, Judge, that substitution
22 needs --

23 THE COURT: Okay. Anything else?

24 MR. THOMAS: No. Thank you.