

FILED
OCT 16 2026
Becky Baker
Circuit Clerk, Cass County, IL

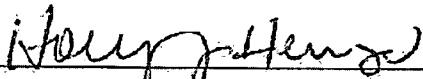
No. 22-DC-15

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF ADAMS)

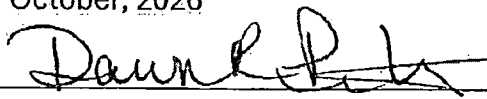
1. I was assigned to hear this case by Order entered on March 3, 2023, and that judicial assignment has remained in effect through post judgment proceedings.
2. The Respondent filed Motions formally requesting the disclosure of *ex parte* communications between the court, the guardian ad litem and/or the Petitioner on October 6, 2025 and November 14, 2025, respectively.
3. In support of the Respondent's Motion for Substitution of Judge, he complains that I "took no action on these fundamental due process motions for approximately 10 months."
4. From September 2, 2025 (the date the Respondent filed his first Motion for Substitution of Judge) through August 25, 2026 (the date I denied the motions described in paragraph 2, above), the Respondent filed in excess of twenty pleadings, which caused delaying in hearing pending motions.
5. The Respondent further supports his Motion for Substitution of Judge by his statement that I gave him no notice that I intended to rule upon the Motions described in paragraph 2, above. Attached is an e-mail sent to both parties on August 24, 2026 advising them of same. Following the entry of the August 25, 2026 Order denying the above-described Motions, the Respondent filed additional pleadings with no complaints or motions regarding the August 24, 2026 Order, until the latest Motion for Substitution of Judge filed on September 23, 2026.

6. The entirety of any *ex parte* communication with the Guardian ad Litem occurred during the weekend long dispute between the Petitioner and the Respondent involving Grant's removal from the hospital, the whereabouts of the Respondent and Grant, whether or not Grant had his necessary medication for treatment of his diabetic condition, and the investigation by law enforcement into Grant's whereabouts based on the Petitioner's allegation that Grant had been kidnapped by the Respondent.
7. Following that weekend's events, I obtained from Judge Perrin a copy of the Emergency Order of Protection that the Respondent sought against the Petitioner in Sangamon County, since Grant, as a minor, was a protected party. A copy of same was transmitted to the GAL at her request.
8. The communications with the Guardian ad Litem were disclosed to the Petitioner and the Respondent at subsequent hearing(s), including disclosure to both parties my own frustration with *both* the Petitioner's and the Respondent's behaviors and actions that weekend. After those weekend's events, as well as other matters involving the parties and Grant were brought to hearing, temporary parenting time of Grant was awarded to the Respondent.
9. The Respondent further supports his Motion for Substitution for cause with the claim that I have "personal knowledge of facts that are in dispute in the proceeding." As stated above, any personal knowledge was disclosed to the parties. Further, the subject matter pertaining to the parental responsibility and parenting time of the Thomas Minors has been litigated and affirmed by the Appellate Court.

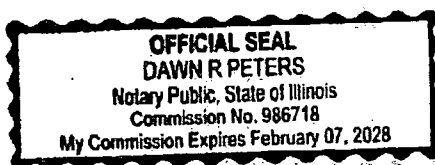
Further Affiant Sayeth Naught.


Holly J. Henze

Signed and sworn to before me this 15th day of October, 2026


Notary Public

(Seal)



Holly Henze

From: Holly Henze
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 3:36 PM
To: 'Gwendolyn Thomas'; Luke Thomas
Subject: RE: IRMO Thomas

Counsel,

Since there were no Orders entered staying the trial court proceedings, I intend to proceed to resolve the pending motions and petitions in this case. The Motion to Stay Enforcement of Judgment Pending Appeal was specific to the Order(s) entered by Judge McCartney.

I did not grant Mr. Thomas' Motion on an emergency basis, granting Ms. Thomas time to respond. No response having been filed objecting to the Motion or denying its allegations, it seemed prudent to move things along by granting the Motion. At this point, I will not accept or hear a response to the Motion or an objection to the Motion without leave of court.

At this point in time I would like to begin setting the pending pleadings for hearing. That having been said, I will be entering an order either today or tomorrow disposing of the Motions for Disclosure of Ex Parte Communications filed on 10/06/25 and 11/14/25, respectively. I have reviewed my file notes, me emails and my text messages, and there were no communications with either party or the GAL that were not disclosed on the record at subsequent hearings. With regard to the Motion to Stay Proceedings filed on October 3, 2025, the order will reflect that this Motion is now moot.

I would intend to proceed with the Petition for Relief from Judgment filed on October 14, 2025; then the Emergency Motion for Temporary Custody (which clearly is no longer an emergency) and the Petition for Emergency and Permanent Modification of Allocation of Parental Responsibilities filed on November 3, 2025. Finally, we can then schedule the Petition for Indirect Civil Contempt filed on July 18, 2025. I have the following dates available to schedule the Petition for Relief from Judgment for hearing:

Tuesday, September 22 either at 9 am or 1pm
Tuesday, October 6 either at 9 am or 1pm
Tuesday, October 13 either at 9 am or 1pm
Tuesday, October 20 either at 9 am or 1 pm
Tuesday, October 27 at 1 pm
Friday, October 30 at either 9 am

I would ask that you correspondence with each other to select a mutually convenient date/time and then advise me accordingly. As a reminder, all correspondence with the court should be limited to matters involving scheduling only.

Hon. Holly J. Henze

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