

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)

) SS:

2 COUNTY OF W I L L)

3 THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
4 WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

5 CONNIE L. FORSYTHE,)

)

6 Petitioner,)

)

7 vs.)

No. 19 OP 1740

)

8 JOHN NORTON,)

)

9 Respondent.)

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12 REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had in the above-entitled
13 cause before the HONORABLE MARK THOMAS CARNEY,
14 Judge of the Circuit Court of Will County,
15 Illinois, on the 23rd day of October, 2020.

16 APPEARANCES:

17 MR. ROBERT HANLON,
Attorney At Law
18 for the Petitioner;

19 MR. JOHN NORTON,
Self-Represented Litigant.

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22 TAMMY M. MAIER, C.S.R.
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER
23 WILL COUNTY COURTHOUSE
14 WEST JEFFERSON STREET
24 JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60432

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WITNESSES

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No witnesses.

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EXHIBITS

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No exhibits.

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1 THE COURT: Is Attorney Hanlon here?

2 MR. HANLON: Yes, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Hello.

4 MR. NORTON: Good morning, your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Let me just read my notes.

6 (Pause.)

7 THE COURT: All right. Why don't you and
8 Mr. Norton come on up?

9 19 OP 1740. Good morning.

10 MR. NORTON: Good morning, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Are you John Norton?

12 MR. NORTON: Yes, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Are you John Norton?

14 MR. NORTON: Yes, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Are you Robert Hanlon?

16 MR. HANLON: I am, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: All right. Can you just fill me
18 in on what's going on today?

19 MR. HANLON: Yes, Judge. The procedural
20 history has been that Mr. Norton had filed a motion
21 to vacate that your Honor had denied. At the time
22 of the hearing on the motion to vacate I sent a
23 separate counsel here, Denise Ambrosia. If you
24 remember, she had long hair. Anyway you denied his

1 motion to vacate. He subsequently filed a motion
2 to reconsider. The motion to reconsider is based
3 on basically the same pleading that he had the last
4 time.

5 The order of protection is
6 scheduled to terminate I believe this evening at
7 5:30, and he has a motion to reconsider your denial
8 of the motion to vacate that's before the Court
9 today.

10 THE COURT: Okay. Well, why don't we just run
11 out the clock and wait until 5 o'clock? It sounds
12 like -- it sounds like this whole thing is going to
13 be over at 5 o'clock.

14 MR. NORTON: Your Honor, the reason for
15 the motion to vacate was based on when you denied
16 my first motion to vacate because I lacked the
17 one document that you kept asking me for and I
18 forgot to bring it that day, so I filed a motion
19 to reconsider to include those documents in court
20 filings for you, your Honor. This way I didn't
21 forget about it, and it's in -- it's in in the
22 motion that's on your computer system, and I have
23 a copy of it here. It showed where the initial
24 complaint was filed against me for disorderly

1 conduct, so I have to look at my notes, your Honor.

2 I cannot remember the judge's name.

3 THE COURT: Wait. Could you just --

4 MR. NORTON: All right.

5 THE COURT: Before we get into the heart of
6 it, what difference does it make if I grant your
7 motion or if I deny it or whatever?

8 MR. NORTON: Because --

9 THE COURT: This thing is going to expire at
10 5:00 tonight.

11 MR. NORTON: Your Honor, if -- because
12 we're going to need you to, Um, to, Um, enter the
13 order.

14 THE COURT: You're not going to answer my
15 question, are you?

16 MR. NORTON: No, this actually is heading up
17 to it, your Honor, and my apologies.

18 THE COURT: Don't lead up to it. Just answer
19 it.

20 MR. NORTON: What it is is that this type of
21 thing on my record --

22 THE COURT: Okay. Okay.

23 MR. NORTON: -- puts my federal licenses in
24 jeopardy.

1 THE COURT: All right. You answered it.

2 That's all you had to say.

3 MR. NORTON: My apologies, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: That's all you had to say. That's
5 all you had to say is I don't want on it on the
6 record.

7 MR. NORTON: I want to --

8 THE COURT: Got it. Got it. Got it.

9 MR. NORTON: -- expunge my record here.

10 THE COURT: Got it. Got it. Okay. Good.

11 All right. Do you have any
12 objection to vacating it since it's going to expire
13 at 5:00 tonight?

14 MR. HANLON: Yes, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Why?

16 MR. HANLON: Basically for the same reason.
17 The, Um -- it's actually in the interest of
18 justice. It's in the carrying through on the
19 order that Judge Harvey had originally entered,
20 you know, granting the order of protection
21 through (inaudible). Notwithstanding that, Um,
22 all the reasons that Mr. Norton has just
23 articulated he doesn't want on the record, my
24 client wants it on the record, and his seeking

1 to vacate this order at this point in time I
2 think is simply done so that he can engineer for
3 lack of a better term an effort to expunge the
4 non-expunged item.

5 And, you know, I want to be very
6 clear with respect to anything that happens in
7 this case that if in fact Mr. Norton wants to
8 take it up to the Appellate Court that I have a
9 clear record. My client is not going to give up
10 her rights. She has a right to the order of
11 protection to the time of its expiration, and we
12 don't measure it by the amount of time that's
13 remaining. We measure it based upon his conduct
14 and what had been ordered.

15 THE COURT: All right.

16 MR. NORTON: Your Honor --

17 THE COURT: So this is your motion. Are
18 you prepared to argue it today?

19 MR. NORTON: Yes, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Okay.

21 Are you prepared?

22 MR. HANLON: I'm prepared to argue it, yes,
23 Judge.

24 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. Take it away.

1 MR. NORTON: Your Honor, and I've been against
2 Attorney Hanlon numerous times, and what I said to
3 Judge Anderson a couple of weeks ago, the one, the
4 key factor in all these cases including case
5 19 CH 1143, and I was also made aware of another
6 new case, I forgot the case number, that most of
7 this has been brought against me. And according to
8 a few months on your computer records how I said
9 and even to Judge Harvey that over the last 50
10 years, over 50 years you don't see my name on any
11 of these court records with the exception of a
12 couple of minor traffic violations that all got
13 dismissed.

14 THE COURT: Okay. You better get to the
15 point.

16 MR. NORTON: That last hearing --

17 THE COURT: You better get to the point.
18 You're just --

19 MR. NORTON: I am, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: You're talking about traffic
21 violations.

22 MR. NORTON: That's right. I know, but
23 they're -- I'm just laying the foundation for this,
24 your Honor.

1 THE COURT: I don't need the foundation. I
2 need you to make your point.

3 MR. NORTON: That's -- that's in there.

4 THE COURT: Just like when I asked you
5 why does it matter, instead of going around and
6 talking and talking, all you had to do is say,
7 Judge, I don't want it on my record, there, two
8 seconds.

9 MR. NORTON: Yes, sir.

10 THE COURT: Now get to the point.

11 MR. NORTON: Over the last four years this
12 person has been the linchpin on several different
13 cases brought against me and I have -- I now know
14 why.

15 THE COURT: Just talk about this case, sir.

16 MR. NORTON: The idea was --

17 THE COURT: Sir, come on.

18 MR. NORTON: It's all interrelated to this
19 case, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: No, it isn't. I want to know
21 why I should vacate, right. This is a -- this
22 is a motion. Is it a motion to vacate or
23 reconsider?

24 MR. HANLON: It's a motion to reconsider.

1 MR. NORTON: Vacate, your Honor.

2 MR. HANLON: It's a motion to reconsider your
3 denial of his motion to vacate.

4 THE COURT: To reconsider his motion to
5 vacate?

6 MR. NORTON: Yes, your Honor.

7 MR. HANLON: Reconsider the denial of the
8 motion to vacate.

9 THE COURT: Okay.

10 MR. NORTON: Yes, your Honor, because what
11 happened was you said that when you asked me when
12 I was standing right here and I had my documents
13 here I -- the one document I did not possess was
14 in the, Um, Um, the case that was tried in
15 Wilmington, the ordinance violation. I didn't
16 have the document to show I was going to connect
17 that case to this case in which the Honorable
18 Judge, Um --

19 THE COURT: Colon-Sayre.

20 MR. NORTON: What's her name? Um --

21 THE COURT: Colon-Sayre.

22 MR. NORTON: Yes. Thank you, your Honor.

23 Found me not guilty, and that in
24 fact in her impounded notes which is on your

1 server, Um, so she initiated contact with me and
2 instigated the problem. I didn't. All I was
3 trying to do was avoid a situation. I told her to
4 shut up, called her a nasty name and walked out.
5 Um, and --

6 THE COURT: You're just trying to relitigate
7 this again. We've done this --

8 MR. NORTON: No.

9 THE COURT: -- a couple of times.

10 MR. NORTON: I know, your Honor. But, Um,
11 what it is is I was -- this OP was granted and I
12 hadn't even found -- I hadn't even been tried in
13 the other case which was the basis of it which was
14 eventually found not guilty.

15 THE COURT: We're going through the same
16 thing. I've heard this argument from you now a
17 couple of times.

18 MR. NORTON: And you asked me if I had
19 the document to connect the two cases. Well, I
20 didn't have it at the time, so I filed a motion
21 to reconsider, and then unfortunately you were
22 not able for the past two times to be here for I
23 don't know. It was never explained to me why.

24 THE COURT: I'm sorry.

1 MR. NORTON: And which I know things happen.

2 THE COURT: I'm sorry about that.

3 MR. NORTON: I documented the fact that
4 this happened in the event something like this came
5 up.

6 THE COURT: All right. Do you want to show me
7 this piece of paper that is supposed to kind of
8 connect everything?

9 MR. NORTON: Um, well, it's on your -- Um, I
10 entered as evidence in my, Um, log book this one an
11 emergency.

12 THE COURT: Come on. This is like the most
13 important piece of paper in your file and you can't
14 give it to me.

15 MR. NORTON: Oh, I have it right here, your
16 Honor. I have the case report. I can't lick my
17 fingertips to turn pages.

18 Um, and the case, yes, I have a case
19 report from Wilmington that ties into this case,
20 your Honor. It's actually in my motion I put in.
21 I actually did it as --

22 THE COURT: Mr. -- Mr., Um, Norton, I'm not
23 trying to be rude.

24 MR. NORTON: I know. I understand, your

1 Honor.

2 THE COURT: But I just asked for something
3 real simple. It seems like it takes a long time
4 for you to get to the point. I asked for can I
5 please have the piece of paper?

6 MR. NORTON: Yes, your Honor. It's right
7 here.

8 THE COURT: See how easy that is.

9 MR. NORTON: My apologies, your Honor. You
10 were trained in law. I was a former certified
11 Navy instructor so my training on how to present
12 things is totally different than yours.

13 THE COURT: But that's fine.

14 MR. NORTON: It's --

15 THE COURT: You do know how to listen, right?

16 MR. NORTON: Yes, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Okay. So what's -- what
18 requires so much training when somebody says can
19 I please have the piece of paper that's so
20 important?

21 MR. NORTON: Um, well, okay. It's right
22 there, your Honor.

23 MR. HANLON: Your Honor, may I inquire as to
24 what the document is?

1 THE COURT: It looks like it's a case report.
2 I'll show it to you.

3 Do you want me to -- is this the
4 important part, the narrative?

5 MR. NORTON: Yes, your Honor, that's probably
6 the most critical part of it.

7 Also I have another document.

8 THE COURT: Thank you. Yes, yes, Judge, this
9 is.

10 MR. NORTON: Yes, your Honor, Um-hum.

11 THE COURT: Can I write on this?

12 MR. NORTON: Yes, your Honor.

13 (Pause.)

14 THE COURT: Okay. I'll take it.

15 THE BAILIFF: Thank you.

16 THE COURT: All right. I read this. I don't
17 know if you want to read it or not. You've
18 probably seen it already. It's this case report
19 regarding the incident that took place at the
20 Dollar General store that I think is the whole
21 basis of this thing, right?

22 MR. HANLON: Well, no, it's not the whole
23 basis of it, Judge, because this is a no stalking,
24 no contact order. There were instances in which he

1 had been calling my client a whore and instances in
2 which he was interfering with her abilities, a
3 handicapped parking spot.

4 And in addition to that the use --
5 I'm sorry, the threats and the statements made in
6 the Dollar General store in which he articulated
7 that he knew how to kill people and get away with
8 it which was --

9 MR. NORTON: Objection, your Honor. It
10 doesn't support what he's saying. He has yet to
11 provide any evidence to support that.

12 THE COURT: Ha, ha, ha.

13 MR. NORTON: No witnesses, no nothing.

14 THE COURT: I got -- I've got to disagree
15 with you. I don't know what's going on here,
16 Mr. Norton. You gave me this piece of paper --

17 MR. NORTON: Yes, your Honor.

18 THE COURT: -- which you said is like the
19 smoking gun. You're like, Judge, this is the thing
20 that you really have to see that I didn't bring in
21 last time.

22 MR. NORTON: Yes, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Right.

24 MR. NORTON: And yet I had another judge rule

1 on it that I was found not guilty of any of that
2 because the complaint never provided any evidence
3 to support her claim --

4 THE COURT: Mr. Norton --

5 MR. NORTON: -- for the City of Wilmington.

6 THE COURT: -- told her -- okay. So he just
7 started to say that you were in the Dollar General
8 and that you said that you knew how to kill
9 people --

10 MR. NORTON: I --

11 THE COURT: -- and then you objected and you
12 objected.

13 MR. NORTON: Yes, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: And then I stood up and I started
15 to interrupt, and I would just like to read to you
16 from this most important piece of paper in your
17 file. Okay. It says Norton told her that he knew
18 how to kill people and get away with it. That's
19 what you just --

20 THE COURT: I've never said that, your Honor,
21 and no evidence has ever been presented to prove I
22 even said it. Besides I'm not Donald Trump. I
23 don't go say I could kill somebody on Fifth Avenue.
24 I'm not like that. Besides I'm an independent, not

1 -- not a Republican.

2 THE COURT: Okay. There this says --

3 MR. NORTON: I would never say something like
4 that.

5 THE COURT: -- Norton approached Forsythe in
6 an aggressive manner, loud voice, clenched fist and
7 got approximately two feet from her face and called
8 her a bitch. Another customer, Sarah, told Norton
9 not to talk to her in that manner.

10 Norton called Forsythe a bitch
11 again. She stated that Norton was talking crazy
12 and made no sense whatever he was saying and that
13 she was scared of him. Norton told her that he
14 knew how to kill people and get away with it.

15 Once customers asked Norton to step
16 aside, he approached Forsythe and called her a
17 bitch several times and stated that she was the one
18 that starts all the shit in town.

19 Officer Campos located Norton at his
20 residence. Upon approaching Norton in his
21 driveway, Norton's own daughter, Sarah, was also
22 present, and she immediately stated I told you that
23 you can't talk to people like that, dad. You
24 deserve to go to jail.

1 MR. NORTON: Yeah, your Honor, my --

2 THE COURT: The motion is denied. You're
3 wasting everybody's time. This is craziness.

4 MR. NORTON: Your Honor, even the judge in
5 Wilmington said what she stated here she
6 presented, and the City of Wilmington presented no
7 evidence to support those statements that she made
8 in here. There was none. There is nothing in
9 court records. That the videotape I showed in the
10 court clearly showed she came after me. She, Um,
11 approached me and all I did was and yes, your
12 Honor, I exercised my freedom of the first
13 amendment right and told her to shut up. I called
14 her a -- the B word --

15 THE COURT: Okay.

16 MR. NORTON: -- continued talking to her and
17 walked out.

18 THE COURT: That was supposed to be --

19 MR. NORTON: The videotape was -- it was in.
20 The videotape was presented to Judge Harvey.

21 THE COURT: That was supposed to be your
22 smoking gun, and that was like a bomb that blew
23 up your case. I mean that was very damaging to
24 you.

1 Mr. Norton, I've listened to your
2 case and I'm going to deny your motion, and I'm
3 going to go call the next person.

4 Zabala versus Carlos Lee.

5 MR. NORTON: May I ask, Um, will -- will this
6 expire at 4:30 because the court closes at 4:30,
7 not 5:30?

8 THE COURT: What does the order say?

9 MR. HANLON: I believe it says 5:30, your
10 Honor.

11 MR. NORTON: Can you verify that on your
12 computer, sir?

13 THE COURT: Sure.

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14             Can you pull the order and print it
15 out for me?
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16 MR. HANLON: Your Honor, I didn't bring it
17 with me. Does the Court require that I draft an
18 order and submit it?

19 THE COURT: No. All I need to do is ask the
20 Clerk to print off the order, and then I'm going to
21 look at it and I'll answer your question.

22 MR. NORTON: Yes, your Honor.

23 (Pause.)

24 THE COURT: Erica, that's getting to be a

1 pretty darn long list.

2 AN UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Um, I'm done with
3 the list. I'm just writing up a description of --

4 THE COURT: Okay.

5 AN UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I'll be done --

6 THE COURT: All right.

7 AN UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: -- in just a moment.

8 (Pause.)

9 THE COURT: You and Mr. Norton may want to get
10 together. Okay.

11 (Pause.)

12 THE COURT: All right. Here is the -- by the
13 way, thank you, Priscilla.

14 THE CLERK: Thank you.

15 THE COURT: This is the stalking no contact
16 order that was entered October 24, 2019 by was that
17 Judge Harvey?

18 MR. HANLON: Yes, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Judge Harvey?

20 THE CLERK: Yes.

21 THE COURT: It is to expire today,
22 October 23rd, 2020 at 5 P.M.

23 Would you hand that to Mr. Norton?
24 I highlighted it. We're finished.

1 MR. NORTON: Your Honor --

2 THE COURT: Ms. Zabala, hello.

3

4 (WHICH WERE ALL THE
5 PROCEEDINGS HAD IN THIS
6 CAUSE ON THIS DATE.)

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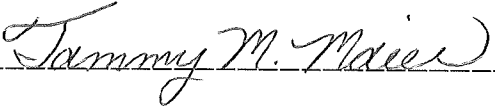
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1 THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
2 WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
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6 I, TAMMY M. MAIER, an Official Court
7 Reporter for the Circuit Court of Will County,
8 Twelfth Judicial Circuit of Illinois, do hereby
9 certify the foregoing to be a true and accurate
10 transcript of the electronic recording of the
11 proceedings of the above-entitled cause which
12 recording contained a certification in accordance
13 with rule or administrative order.
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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Tammy M. Maier", is written over a horizontal line.

19

OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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23 DATED this 4th day

24 of NOVEMBER, 2020.