STATE OF MICHIGAN

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF MACOMB

EDWARD MICHAEL HANNAFORD,

Plaintiff

vs File No. 1995-004609-DM

CHRISTINE LYNN MORRISON

Defendant

_____/

PROCEEDINGS

BEFORE HONORABLE TRACEY A. YOKICH, CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

Mount Clemens, Michigan – Monday, August 11, 2025

APPEARANCES:

In Pro Per: MS. CHRISTINE LYNN MORRISON

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4:28 p.m.

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THE COURT: All right. Calling the matter of Edward Hannaford and Christine Morris – Morrison. This is file 1995-4609-DM. Good afternoon.

DEFENDANT: Good afternoon.

THE COURT: You – you're Ms. Morrison?

DEFENDANT: I am.

THE COURT: Okay. Ms. Morrison, you indicated on your Notice of Hearing for today's date that you mailed a copy of your motion to Mr. Hannaford on June 25th with a copy of the notice of hearing, is that correct?

DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: Okay. This matter was set for 1:30. It's now 4:29. You may proceed.

DEFENDANT: Thank you. I stand before you today as a victim of criminal conduct perpetrated not only by the Plaintiff, but also attorneys, the Friend of the Court, various oversight agencies and the Court.

In 1997, my marriage was annulled under a consent judgment and amended twice. These judgments were entered

without my consent, without my signature or knowledge and without the informed consent of my legal counsel regarding its content only to form. This violates fundamental principles of due process, the procedural requirements of a valid, legal agreement and contract law. The trial court lacked the jurisdictional authority to enter judgment based on them. All subsequent orders including its amendments, enforcement orders, financial penalty – penalties and child support rule – rulings relying on these documents are void and must be vacated.

I filed the brief and a motion –

THE COURT: You filed a motion to set aside, I assume, your judgment of divorce –

DEFENDANT: Correct.

THE COURT: - under MCR 2.61(c)(2) – well, C – C1, 1 – one –

DEFENDANT: D.

THE COURT: - of the provisions, D – yeah, but – but you're not – you just can't say it's void. There has to be some mistake, inadvertence, neglect, newly discovered end – evidence, fraud. It's not void just because you say it's void. So, there's got to be some way to get to void.

DEFENDANT: Okay. So, there's two court transcripts; one in 1999 in front of Chief Judge Maceroni.

THE COURT: Well, he was your trial court judge and

he's the one that entered your divorce judgment.

DEFENDANT: Sorry?

THE COURT: He's the one that entered your divorce judgment.

DEFENDANT: It was Judge Servitto.

THE COURT: Okay. I'm not going to argue with you. Go ahead.

DEFENDANT: So, on March 8th, 1999, I – the Court said, the consent judgment of annulment, what is your issue regarding it? I said, the validity of it. I never consented or signed that and neither did my attorney.

THE COURT: And how long was this after your judgment was entered?

DEFENDANT: It was entered in –

THE COURT: Two years or so?

DEFENDANT: Sorry?

THE COURT: Was it about two years after –

DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: - that – it's first transcript –

DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: - occurred that you came to the Court and said – now did you go to the Court of Appeals after your judgment had entered?

DEFENDANT: Did I appeal it?

THE COURT: Yeah.

DEFENDANT: No.

THE COURT: Okay. So, this is the first time – your first appeal is like two years after the judgment of annulment was entered, right, and you had that conversation with Judge Maceroni?

DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: Okay. And he denied it and then what was the next step you took?

DEFENDANT: The next step was I had an attorney malpractice trial in 2001 - August 20th, 2001. During the proceedings, the defense counsel, Geyer, said this was not a consent and he stipulated on the record that he would – he – he said, I'll stipulate that the clients did not sign either amendment. The Court said, okay. My attorney said, or the original and the defense counsel, Geyer, said or the original and my attorney said, thank you, I'll accept the stipulation then.

So, the judgment is void for lack of valid consent –

THE COURT: No, that's – that – well, let me see something that says that a court of general jurisdiction here said that your judgment is void. You just can't go from because – I don't know what happened in that trial. You're reading me a snippet of the trial. What was the finding in the trial? What – were there any penalties imposed if the attorney that represented you was found to have not exercised

his due diligence in representing you. So, that – you just can't go from, well because he said this in the trial then it must be void. It doesn't work that way.

DEFENDANT: I never signed the original consent judgment of annulment in this Court or the two amendments in this Court.

THE COURT: So, when did you – when – so, what you – if you – you – did you take it to the next higher court when you were denied relief –

DEFENDANT: It's non –

THE COURT: - at this Court?

DEFENDANT: - appealable because it was void from the start.

THE COURT: Okay. And what's your case law for that?

DEFENDANT: Um –

THE COURT: Because I don't – I'm not familiar with that stance in the law.

DEFENDANT: I think I have it in my brief. The appellate courts have said that void judgments are non-appealable because it has no merit –

THE COURT: Yeah, but your – you're arguing that it's void and that is appealable because so far for the last 20 plus years that judgment has been held repeatedly – you – you've been denied relief and it's – you – your step – if you

thought that that judgment was entered inappropriately, you probably got a copy within what weeks of it being entered by the Court from your lawyer. They probably mailed you a copy or you had access to a copy and you didn't appeal it to the next higher court that this was not what you agreed to and you could have or you could ask – you say Judge Servitto, a motion for reconsideration of the entry of your judgment of annulment, I don't see that you've done that.

See, you can't come 20 plus years later and say, oh, Judge – Judge Yokich, those prior judges all made a mistake. It doesn't work that way. I don't go back and review prior judge's decisions. That's what the next higher court is required to do.

DEFENDANT: Well, in Williamson versus Berry (phonetically spelled) it says the appellate court must declare judgments void when the lower courts lack jurisdiction and must dismiss it because it's – it has no merit.

THE COURT: Well, jurisdiction is a whole different cup of tea. That has nothing to do in your case. We had jurisdiction, that was a judgment of annulment, Michigan State Law provides for annulment between parties, okay, and it – the part – parties were properly served. So we not only had subject matter jurisdiction, but we had personal jurisdiction over the parties who resided in Michigan. So, jurisdiction isn't an issue. I'm not sure – just because you're throwing

that word in there. It – Williamson doesn't apply.

DEFENDANT: Personal jurisdiction has to have a signature, right, on the contract, on the settlement agreement –

THE COURT: No, the –

DEFENDANT: - for –

THE COURT: - the jurisdiction is the initiation of the action, ma'am, is where jurisdiction applies. Initiation, the filing of the complaint.

DEFENDANT: But I never –

THE COURT: And we had jurisdiction over you and your husband at the time the complaint for annulment or divorce, I'm not sure whatever it was, was filed.

DEFENDANT: But I never consented to the –

THE COURT: You've made that –

DEFENDANT: - original order to amendments -

THE COURT: - very clear and I'm just telling you you had lots of remedies available to you 25 years ago that you didn't take. You could have asked immediately for a motion for reconsideration. You could have immediately taken it to the Court of Appeals. You didn't do either and specifically the law in Michigan is you've got to seek that relief pretty timely. In fact, it says that your motion for relief from judgment must be made within a reasonable time, but no later than one year after the judgment has entered and

we're –

DEFENDANT: I'm bringing –

THE COURT: - 23 years later.

DEFENDANT: I'm bringing it in on void.

THE COURT: You – well, that's what you keep saying to get around this, but it doesn't get around it. You're saying that there was some kind of fraud because you didn't sign the judgment and it didn't comport with your understanding, right, of what you agreed to in terms of property settlement, right? Is that what it is?

DEFENDANT: There was no property settlement.

THE COURT: So, why – so then what's – why – why are you saying – if there was no property settlement, did you not – you're the Defendant so you had no choice if it was filed as a divorce action and what were you objecting to it being transferred from a divorce action to an annulment action?

DEFENDANT: No.

THE COURT: What were you objecting to in the judgment? If there was no property to divide -

DEFENDANT: The custody.

THE COURT: And what was the custody that was awarded?

DEFENDANT: Joint legal.

THE COURT: Hmm – hmm.

DEFENDANT: And I received no parental rights on the

settlement agreement that I never signed or consented to.

THE COURT: Well, but see if it said joint legal, that's all the parental rights you need. You said – you just told me it said joint legal.

DEFENDANT: But the Court never enforced my rights.

THE COURT: Well, that's a whole different cup of tea about whether your judgment's good or bad. It's good, it's just whether the Court agreed with your complaints about the other parent and your ability to coparent. That's a whole different cup of tea.

DEFENDANT: So, I am –

THE COURT: Okay. I'm going to give you about five more minutes –

DEFENDANT: Okay.

THE COURT: – and then you got to wrap it up and I won't interrupt.

DEFENDANT: I am only here on the settlement agreement and the amendments that I never consented to or signed pursuant to two court transcripts that I've attached. The Judge did nothing. He continued along with the Plaintiff for enforcement on orders that I never – when I never consented to the original settlement or the amendments. I had an attorney malpractice trial in 2001 where it was stipulated on record, this was not a consent yet the Court continued to enforce orders on an invalid, illegal settlement agreement

that I never consented to and the amendments.

I never voluntarily or knowingly agreed to the terms of the settlement agreement and its amendments and the Court continued to enforce orders and judgments against me and there are significant financial concealment by the other party. It's unconstitutional judgment, due process violations, no consent, two court transcripts. There were multiple appeals filed in this case. All dismissed by the appellate court. There's still orders under advisement in this case by Judge Maceroni, 09-01-1999, 09-02-1999 and 10-12-2000.

So, I'm asking the Court to set aside and declare the settlement agreement and the two amendments void pursuant to MCR 2.612 (C)(1)(d) that permits relief at any time and I've cited Foranta Lawrence Clark (phonetically spelled). And as far as an appeal, there's – it's no merit. There's nothing to appeal.

So, I respectfully ask this Court to declare the settlement agreement and the amendments and all subsequent enforcement orders *void ab initio* under Michigan and the U.S. Constitution for lack of valid consent and violations of due process. And two court transcripts confirm I never consented. There was no legal basis to continue with the no consent.

THE COURT: Okay. You got about 30 seconds. Is there anything else you want to tell me?

DEFENDANT: I pretty much am just asking for the

Court to declare the settlement agreement and the amendments *void ab initio* pursuant to the law.

THE COURT: Okay. Your motion's denied. Unfortunately, you pull out terms and throw them together and expect that that makes a coherent argument under Michigan Law for the Court to operate. Your motion for relief from judgment is denied. You can call a judgment void all day long, but unless there is a basis and a hearing in which to you can put the evidence before the Court. All you've done is tell me that you're upset about the joint legal custody, which was granted to the two – to you and Mr. Hannaford in the judgment for annulment, that you were unable to coparent, it sounds like, effectively together and that you were on – didn't agree with the Court's rulings over a period of 18 years with regards to custody and parenting time.

You probably understand and I'm sure, if you've done your research, that custody and parenting time is always under the jurisdiction of the Court once we take jurisdiction of minor children in a divorce action or an annulment action or a custody action. It can be changed at any point in time that you meet the minimum level for a review and the Court makes a finding that change of both custody and parenting time is in a minor child's best interest.

So, for me, what you've said to me is that this sounds like sour grapes years and years later over not being

more successful on your pleadings and in your representation of yourself before the Court when issues of the children came before the judge. You now, for the first time in, I didn't see it in your pleadings anyway, but you may have before alleged some type of financial shenanigans as well trying to get this set aside. Again, you just – you can't wait 25 years and then come on back and say, Judge, you should for this reason alone just because I said it set a judgment aside or even give you an evidentiary hearing without some proof that that has occurred and I saw no proof of that nor did you articulate any in your motion. So, that isn't a basis for this Court to address the issues.

Again, just because you say it's void doesn't make it so. You know, as you indicated correctly ground C, 1, A, B and C have to be filed within one year of a judgment. Everything else has to be within a reasonable time and I don't think 20 plus years later is a reasonable time. You've always had access to the Court of Appeals. If, in fact, the Court needed to readdress certain issues with you guy's custody and parenting time, a parent always has the ability to come back and ask the Court to review a situation or an order on custody and parenting time, if it's in the minor children's best interest to do so.

You seem to just have – take issue with the Court's rulings when you did do so or that certain orders were

enforced against you. For those reasons, your motion is denied. You're welcome to stay for an order or you'll get a copy via e-service. Thank you.

DEFENDANT: Now, I'd just like to make a statement, I am –

THE COURT: Nope, we're done. Thank you. I have other families waiting.

(At 4:46 p.m., hearing concluded)

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STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) SS
COUNTY OF MACOMB)

CERTIFICATE

I, Rebecca A. Russell, Certified Court Reporter in the State of Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages, 1 through 16 inclusive, comprise a full, true, and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by means of video recordation without the benefit of a court reporter present in the matter of Edward Hannaford versus Christine Morrisn, case number 1995-004609-DM on Monday, August 11, 2025.

I further certify that I, Rebecca A. Russell, will assume no responsibility for any events that occurred during the above proceedings for any inaudible responses by any party that are not discernible on the video of the proceedings.

/s/Rebecca A. Russell
_____
REBECCA A. RUSSELL, 4105
Macomb County, MI

Mount Clemens, Michigan
DATED: 11-10-25