

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF HORRY)
)
IN THE MATTER OF: MICA ACACIA MILLER)
(Decedent))
)

IN THE PROBATE COURT

APPLICATION/*PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT
OF SPECIAL ADMINISTRATOR

CASE NUMBER: 2024-ES-26- 01446

COPY

PROBATE COURT
HORRY COUNTY, S.C.
2024 MAY - 3 A 9:39
R. ALAN GIBNEY JR.
CLERK OF COURT

***COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF FILING
PETITION FOR SPECIAL ADMINISTRATOR**

*
Petitioner(s) vs.
*
Respondent(s)

INFORMAL

***FORMAL**

Appointment of a Special Administrator is requested:

INFORMAL PROCEEDING:

- to protect the Estate of Decedent prior to the appointment of a general Personal Representative.
- to safeguard Estate assets until a Successor Personal Representative is appointed due to the death or disability of _____, the previously appointed Personal Representative.
- to enforce a creditor's security interest upon property of the Estate or to institute proceedings to establish the Decedent's liability to the extent of the limits of insurance protection only.
- to take appropriate actions involving Estate assets, specifically: PRESERVING DECEDENT'S PORTION OF MARITAL ESTATE.
- to obtain medical, tax, or other confidential records, specifically: Waccamaw Mental Health, South Strand Medical Center/Grand Strand Regional Medical Center, Victim's Advocacy.
- to gain access to and take possession of any Wills, deeds to cemetery plots, and insurance policies, or other Estate related documents in Decedent's safe deposit box located at: TBD.
- Other: SEE ATTACHED MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL ADMINISTRATOR.

FORMAL PROCEEDING:

- Appointment of a Special Administrator is requested to preserve the Estate and to secure the Estate and to secure the Estate's proper administration because: _____.
- Other: _____.

***NOTE: IF THIS IS A FORMAL PROCEEDING, IN ADDITION TO A PETITION, YOU MUST ALSO FILE
A SUMMONS (FORM SCCA 401PC) AND PAY THE STATUTORY FILING FEE OF \$150.00.
A HEARING IN THE PROBATE COURT ON THE PETITION MAY BE REQUIRED.**

VERIFICATION

The undersigned, being sworn, states that the facts set forth in the foregoing statements are true to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, information and belief, and hereby submits to the Court's jurisdiction in this matter.

SWORN to before me this 2nd day of May, 2024

[Signature]

Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: 12/16/31

Signature: [Signature]

Print Name: SIERRA FRANCIS

Address: [Redacted]

Telephone (Work): _____

(Home): _____

(Cell): [Redacted]

Email: [Redacted]

Relationship to Decedent/Estate: SISTER

ORDER FOR HEARING

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a hearing on this matter be set for:

DATE: _____

TIME: _____

PLACE: _____

Pursuant to SCPC 62-1-401, Petitioner is ordered to give notice of this hearing to all interested persons at least twenty (20) days prior to the hearing date.

Executed this _____ day of _____, 2024.

, Probate Court Judge

ORDER OF APPOINTMENT

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above application/petition for appointment of Special Administrator in the above estate be

GRANTED DENIED as follows:

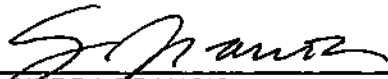
RESTRICTIONS: _____

Executed this _____ day of _____, 2024.

, Probate Court Judge

QUALIFICATION AND STATEMENT OF ACCEPTANCE

I accept appointment and agree to perform the duties and discharge the trust of the office of Special Administrator of the foregoing Estate and submit to the jurisdiction of the Court in this matter.

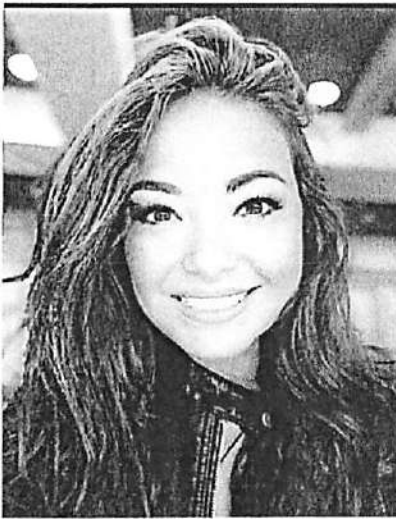
Signature: 
Print Name: SIERRA FRANCIS
Address: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Telephone (Work): _____
(Home): _____
(Cell): [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

Attorney: T. JARRETT BOUCHETTE
Address: P.O. BOX 14607
SURFSIDE BEACH, SC 29587
Telephone: 843-238-5141
Email: TJBOUCHETTE@FLOYDLAW.COM

COURTESY OF
LUNA SHARK

Mica Acacia Miller

March 7, 1994 ~ April 27, 2024 (age 30)



Services

Celebration of Life

Sunday

May 5, 2024

3:00 PM

Solid Rock at Market Common

803 Howard Ave.

Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Mica Acacia Miller, 30, of Myrtle Beach, SC, passed away on Saturday, April 27, 2024. She was born March 7, 1994, in Wichita, Kansas, a daughter of Michael Francis and Angelita Ramirez.

She is survived by her husband, Pastor John-Paul Miller of Myrtle Beach, SC; stepchildren, Logan, Zachary, Eli, Asher, and Selah; one brother, Nate Francis and his wife, Victoria; four sisters, Anna Francis, Sierra Brown and husband, Matt, Abi Francis and Destinee Barrientos and husband, Nicholas.

Mica was energetic, affirming, adventurous, faithful, loving, giving, forgiving, talented, joyous, creative, assertive, bold, determined, authoritative, passionate, hardworking, a risk taker, and so much more. She and JP have been friends since 2009, married in 2017, and spent almost every single day and night together. Mica loved her little dog, Loki. She loved doing outdoor activities like waterfall rappelling, hiking, skydiving, running, and going to the beach. Mica would take on any challenge, even if it was being a vegan for an entire year. Mica was a great stepmother, and an amazing wife and helpmate. She helped Pastor JP with the church in every way. Mica was the worship leader, graphics designer, youth leader, women's ministry leader, and Pastor's assistant. And she did all of this with the upmost integrity and faithfulness. Mica made the greatest of efforts to always be the best wife she could be. She truly served Jesus and her husband with all of her heart. She would praise her husband after every church service telling him he was the best preacher in the world (even if it wasn't true). She also told him he was the funniest preacher in the world (even though that wasn't true either). Mica loved her family soooooo much. She looked forward to every text from her father or brother. She sought every opportunity to pour into her sisters. There were thousands of nights that she would pray out loud for God to always bless and take care of her family. They were constantly on her mind. Mica wanted more than ANYTHING for each member of her family to serve Jesus continually. Mica loved her ice bath, nice car, sauna, house, etc. but more than anything on earth, was her desire to see people come to Jesus!

A celebration of Mica's life will be held 3:00pm Sunday, May 5, 2024, at Solid Rock at Market Common, 803 Howard Ave, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577. The family will receive friends immediately following the service.

The family has requested that memorial donations be made to <https://dare2caremissions.com> (<http://dare2caremissions.com>) to sponsor a child in Africa.

Condolences may be made at www.burroughsfh.com

Burroughs Funeral Home and Cremation Services (843.651.1440) of Murrells Inlet is assisting the family with arrangements.

**COURTESY OF
LUNA SHARK MEDIA**

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) IN THE PROBATE COURT
)
COUNTY OF HORRY) Case No.: 2024-ES-26- 01440

IN THE MATTER OF: ESTATE OF MICA A. MILLER

Sierra Francis)
)
Petitioner,)

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF
APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATOR

BACKGROUND

Petitioner is the sister of the Decedent, Mica Acacia Miller, who died on April 27, 2024, under what is being referred to as suspicious circumstances, which are currently being investigated by Robeson County authorities.¹ Just prior to her death, on April 15, 2024, the Decedent filed for divorce from her husband, John-Paul Jones.² On April 25, 2024, Decedent's husband was duly served with a copy of the family court proceedings. Then, on April 27, 2024, Petitioner was found deceased.

A hearing as to Decedent's Motion for Temporary Relief in the family court proceedings has been scheduled for June 5, 2024.³ Petitioner seeks to be appointed as Special Administrator for the Estate of Mica Acacia Miller for two specific purposes: (1) to preserve the Decedent's interest in the martial estate; and (2) to determine whether a Last Will & Testament exists, as further described below, and in the attached Exhibits.

- 1. Petitioner seeks to be appointed as Special Administrator in order to preserve the Decedent's interest in the martial estate.***

Though the Decedent's claims for divorce and support would have abated upon her death, the claim for equitable apportionment as to the marital estate remains. *See Hodge v. Hodge*, 305

¹ See Exhibit A, a news story from WPDE, published on May 2, 2024.

² See Exhibit B, a copy of the Summons for the domestic action.

³ See Exhibit C, a copy of the Notice of Hearing from the Horry County Family Court.

S.C. 521 (Ct. App. 1994); *see also Seels v. Smalls*, 437 S.C. 167 (2022) (holding that the family court property retained jurisdiction to rule on an action seeking equitable apportionment of marital property after one of the parties died during the pendency of the action). To preserve the Decedent's interest in the marital estate, Petitioner seeks to be appointed as Special Administrator for the purpose of moving to be substituted as Plaintiff in the family court action. Decedent's interest in the material estate vested at her filing the family court action and can be collected by a representative of her estate.

As mentioned briefly above, Plaintiff's Motion for Temporary Relief is scheduled for **June 5, 2024**, before the Honorable Jan Bromell Holmes. It is of the particular importance for Petitioner to appear and obtain a *pendente lite* order restraining and enjoining Mr. Miller from disposing, encumbering, transferring, selling, hypothecating, pledging, destroying, or otherwise altering the status or value of any marital asset.

It would be impractical for Mr. Miller be appointed as Special Administrator, or Personal Representative, of the Decedent's estate as he has a pecuniary interest in the outcome of such a claim regarding the marital estate. It is prudent for a third-party to be appointed for this purpose to ensure that the results are equitable to those involved.

- Petitioner seeks to determine whether Decedent has a Last Will & Testament and would seek to use subpoena powers granted to her in her authority as Special Administrator to do so.***

Petitioner is aware through the creation and filing of Decedent's Power of Attorney⁴ that some level of estate planning exists. What Petitioner does not know, and currently has no grounds under which to inquire into further, is whether part of this estate planning included the preparation and signing of a Last Will & Testament, which could impact Decedent's estate.

⁴ It is worth mentioning that this Power of Attorney indicates it was signed by the Decedent on December 5, 2022, though it was not filed until March 20, 2024.

While Decedent's estranged husband might know the answer to this question, if the answer to whether she had a Will was answered in the affirmative and such would not benefit him, due in large part to allegations of abuse and the pending divorce proceedings, he would be better served through intestate succession, which would make him the sole heir to Decedent's estate. Had Decedent created a Will and sought to limit her estranged husband's share of same, or disinherit him entirely, is what Petitioner seeks to determine, by requesting any such relevant estate planning documents. This is especially relevant as to Petitioner's need to preserve the Decedent's interest in the marital estate and the subsequent distribution of same.

- 3. Finally, both for those reasons mentioned above, and due to John-Paul Miller's potential exclusion from benefiting from Decedent's estate under S.C. Code § 62-2-803, it would be improvident to give him control over the Decedent's estate, despite the two still being legally married.*

As initially mentioned, the investigation into the circumstances surrounding the Decedent's death are still being actively investigated by law enforcement. Circumstances exist to indicate that John-Paul Miller may be a person of interest in connection with his wife's death, but that will take law enforcement additional time to determine. If he is convicted of having a role in her death, this would preclude him from benefiting from the Decedent's estate, pursuant to S.C. Code § 62-2-803, more colloquially known as the "Slayer Statute." However, in the absence of such a conviction or guilty plea establishing the criminal accountability for the Decedent's death, S.C. Code § 62-2-803(f) allows a court, upon the petition of an interested person to "determine whether, upon the preponderance of the evidence standard, the individual would be found responsible" for the death. Although this is yet to be determined, it is still an important factor in Petitioner's request to be appointed, as the possibility of his disqualification creates the implication that he would not act in the best interest of the Decedent's estate. See the

enclosed Affidavits⁵ of Sierra Francis and Nathaniel Francis as supporting evidence of the potential for culpability in the Decedent's death. Additionally, prior to her death, Decedent sought a restraining order against John-Paul,⁶ though it is believed the restraining order was ultimately not issued.

Conclusion

Therefore, based on the foregoing, the Petitioner respectfully requests that the Court issue an order appointing her as Special Administrator of the Decedent's estate.

Respectfully submitted,

THE FLOYD LAW FIRM PC



T. Jarrett Bouchette
S.C. Bar No. 101122
tjbouchette@floydlaw.com
Marissa N. Drost
S.C. Bar No. 104629
mndrost@floydlaw.com
P. O. Drawer 14607
Surfside Beach, SC 29587-4607
(p) 843-238-5141 (f) 843-238-9060

ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER

May 2, 2024
Surfside Beach, South Carolina

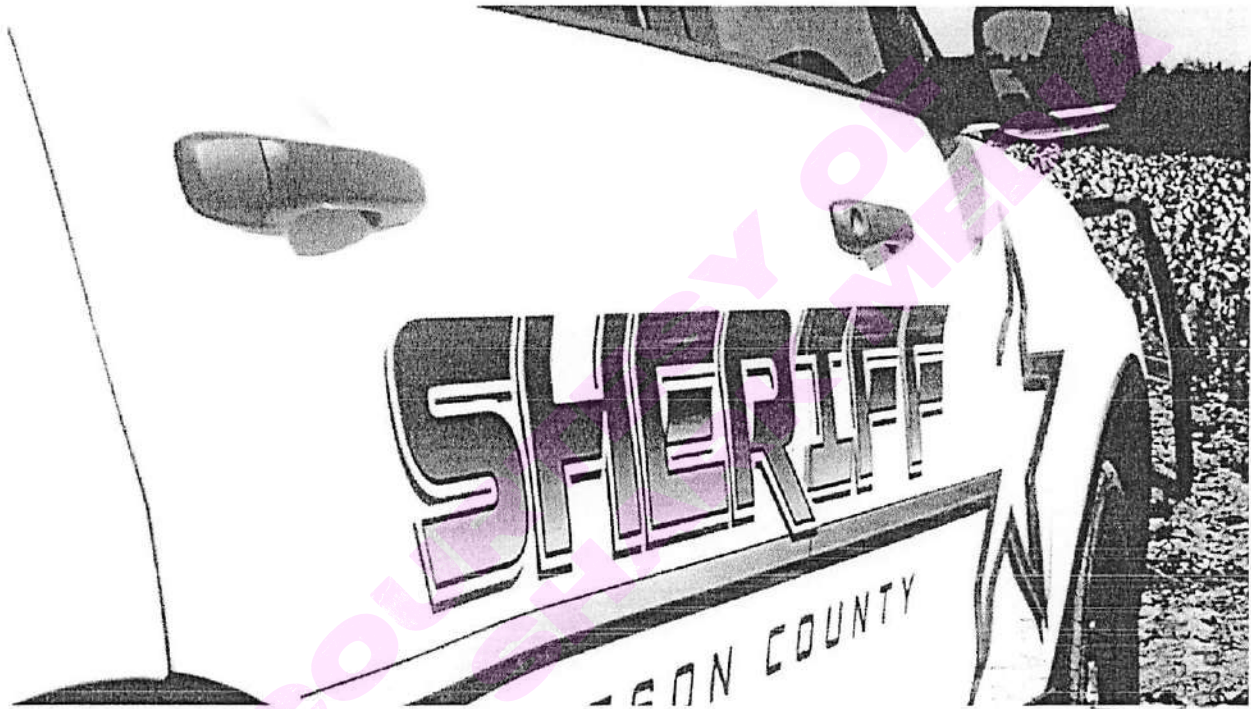
⁵ Attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit D and Exhibit E, respectively.

⁶ See attached Exhibit F.

Myrtle Beach woman's death under investigation in Robeson County



by Courtney Rowles
Thu, May 2nd 2024 at 11:15 AM



Robeson County Sheriff's Office patrol car. (RCSO)



STATE COURT
ROBESON COUNTY, S.C.
MAY - 3 A 9:39
JUDGE

ROBESON COUNTY, N.C. (WPDE) — Major Damien McLean with the Robeson County Sheriff's Office said they are actively investigating the death of 30-year-old Mica Miller.

McLean said Miller died last weekend in the Orrum community of Robeson County.

Miller's obituary said she's from the Myrtle Beach area

McLean added officers are in the process of gathering information from people in South Carolina and North Carolina as a part of their investigation into how Miller died.

He said, at this point, the investigation has not revealed any information that indicates there is a danger to the community following her death.

Miller's obituary reads:

Mica was energetic, affirming, adventurous, faithful, loving, giving, forgiving, talented, joyous, creative, assertive, bold, determined, authoritative, passionate, hardworking, a risk taker, and so much more.

She is survived by her husband, Pastor John-Paul Miller of Myrtle Beach.

A celebration of Miller's life will be held on Sunday at Solid Rock at Market Common.



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
 COUNTY OF HORRY)
)
 MICA A. MILLER,)
)
 Plaintiff,)
)
 v.)
)
 JOHN-PAUL MILLER,)
)
 Defendant.)

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF THE
 FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,

SUMMONS

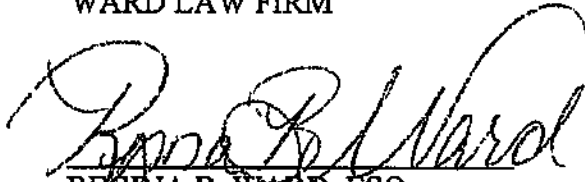
FILE NO.: 2024-DR-26-

PROBATE COURT
 HORRY COUNTY, S.C.
 2024 MAY - 3 A 9:39

TO THE DEFENDANT ABOVE NAMED:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to Answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer to the said Complaint on the subscriber, or subscribers, at her office at 9007 Hwy 544, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29588, within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to Answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, the Plaintiff in this action will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

WARD LAW FIRM


 REGINA B. WARD, ESQ.
 S.C. Bar No.: 73-718
 Attorney for Plaintiff

Law Firm of Regina B. Ward, LLC
 9007 Hwy 544
 Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29588
 O: 843-488-WARD (9273)
 F: 843-488-9272
www.AttorneyReginaWard.com

Date: 4/15/2024



NOTICE OF HEARING
(to be completed by scheduling clerk only)

A HEARING HAS BEEN SET IN THIS MATTER ON THE 5th DAY OF JUNE, 2024 AT 2:30pm BEFORE THE HONORABLE Jan Bromell Holmes IN FAMILY COURTROOM NUMBER T8D

Krystle Housand, Scheduling Clerk

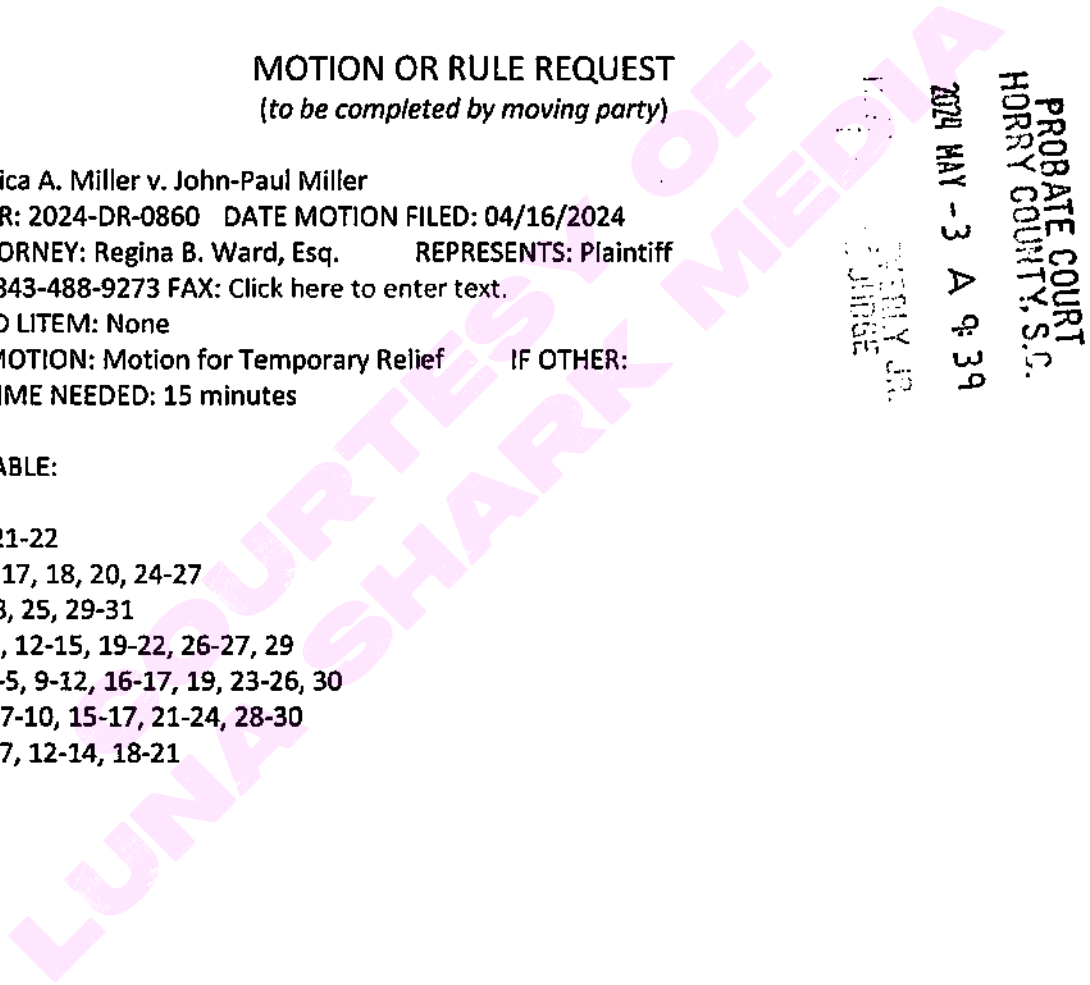


MOTION OR RULE REQUEST
(to be completed by moving party)

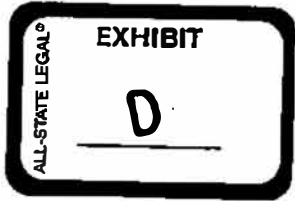
CAPTION: Mica A. Miller v. John-Paul Miller
CASE NUMBER: 2024-DR-0860 **DATE MOTION FILED:** 04/16/2024
MOVING ATTORNEY: Regina B. Ward, Esq. **REPRESENTS:** Plaintiff
TELEPHONE: 843-488-9273 **FAX:** Click here to enter text.
GUARDIAN AD LITEM: None
NATURE OF MOTION: Motion for Temporary Relief **IF OTHER:**
ESTIMATED TIME NEEDED: 15 minutes

DATES AVAILABLE:

- May: 13, 15, 21-22
- June: 4-6, 13, 17, 18, 20, 24-27
- July: 11, 15-18, 25, 29-31
- August: 1, 5-8, 12-15, 19-22, 26-27, 29
- September: 3-5, 9-12, 16-17, 19, 23-26, 30
- October: 1-3, 7-10, 15-17, 21-24, 28-30
- November: 4-7, 12-14, 18-21



PROBATE COURT
Horry County, S.C.
2024 MAY - 3 A 9:39
JEREMY JR.
CLERK



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF HORRY) Case no.: 2024-ES-26-_____

IN THE MATTER OF: ESTATE OF MICA A. MILLER

Sierra Francis,)
)
Petitioner.)

AFFIDAVIT OF SIERRA FRANCIS
(in support of Application for Appointment
of Special Administrator)

2024 MAR 29 9:39 AM
PROBATE COURT
HORRY COUNTY, S.C.

PERSONALLY appeared before me, Sierra Francis, who, after first being duly sworn, deposes and states as follows:

- 1. I am the Petitioner in the proceedings which are pending before the Probate Court as to the appointment of a Special Administrator for my sister's estate.
2. I am Mica's younger sister, having been raised by our parents, Michael Francis and Angelita Salas, with our siblings Nathaniel, Destinee, Anna and Abi.
3. We ultimately settled in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina in 2007, with our mom and step-dad.
4. I was aware of Mica's family dynamics and relationship with her husband, Respondent John-Paul Miller, and step-children, [redacted].
5. Mica and I spoke every few days, texting daily, so much as to even create playlists together. Mica would drive to visit me and my family in Gaffney, South Carolina at least once a month.
6. I know my sister to have expressed the abuse and violence against her by her husband to others, including family members and members of the church congregation.
7. Mica told me that there were people following her, keeping track of where she went. She thought that Mr. Miller hired people to follow her. Mr. Miller later confirmed this during a sermon I watched.
8. Mica confided in me that Mr. Miller was moving assets that were in his name, such as his vehicle, changing the Deed to their house to the church, transferring interest in Crocodile Rocks to one of his sons.
9. In February 2024, Mr. Miller removed my sister's personal items from the home they shared while she was admitted to Waccamaw Mental Health facility and left them at the apartment of [redacted]. My sister was not aware that her personal possessions had been removed from her residence until she was released from the hospital.
10. Prior to her admission to Waccamaw, Mica was gathering and sorting the evidence she had to


bring to an attorney for filing for divorce, to support her claims against Mr. Miller, and as to his abuse, character, his paramours, and associates he "paid off" or blackmailed. While at the facility, those documents, emails, files, etc., were removed from her phone, personal laptop, vehicle and purse and never recovered. Further, Mica was unable to access her iCloud account, email, or Facebook profile. Mr. Miller continued using at least one of Mica's accounts, causing any recipient to believe it was Mica's communications.

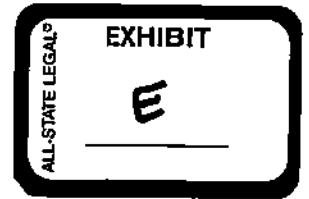
11. Mica talked about what she wanted her life to be like following her divorce from Mr. Miller. Having traveled for a church mission this past fall, from October 15 through October 27, 2023, Mica was intending to participate in additional missions, even to live part-time in Kenya. Mica recently shipped some of her personal items to Kenya in preparation of her stay there.
12. My sister was hopeful for her future after filing for divorce from John-Paul.
13. My sister also expressed to me that she was fearful that she would not make it to the divorce and that her life would be taken from her. It is my belief based on conversations with my sister that she told multiple people, including other family members.
14. Mica stated to me on many occasions "if I end up with a bullet in my head, it was not by me, it was JP".
15. Mica forwarded a family group text message notifying us that Mr. Miller was served the divorce papers on April 25, 2024.
16. On April 27, 2024, my sister, Mica A. Miller, was found dead as a result of a gunshot wound in Lumberton, North Carolina.
17. I have the full support of my family in my request to be appointed as Special Administrator. I take this request and my potential appointment in this role very seriously.

AND FURTHER AFFIANT SAITH NOT.

Sworn and subscribed before me this
2nd day of May 2024.


SIERRA FRANCIS


Print Name: Barbara A Yane
My Commission Expires: 11/29/2025



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) IN THE PROBATE COURT
)
 COUNTY OF HORRY) Case No.: 2024-ES-26-_____

IN THE MATTER OF: ESTATE OF MICA A. MILLER

Sierra Francis,)
)
 Petitioner.) AFFIDAVIT OF NATHANIEL FRANCIS
) (in support of Application for Appointment
) of Special Administrator)

PERSONALLY appeared before me, Nathaniel Francis, who, after first being sworn, deposes and states as follows:

1. I am the brother of Petitioner, Sierra Francis, and Decedent, Mica A. Miller, in the proceedings which are pending before the Probate Court as to the appointment of Sierra Francis as Special Administrator for my sister Mica's estate.
2. I am Mica's only brother, having been raised by our parents, Michael Francis and Angelita Salas with our siblings Destinee, Sierra, Anna, and Abi in Wichita, Kansas.
3. My mom and my siblings, apart from our oldest sister, Destinee, moved to Horry County in 2007.
4. I was aware of Mica's family dynamics and relationship with her husband, John-Paul Miller, and step-children, Asher, Selah, Eli, Zack, and Logan.
5. I saw Mica frequently, as we both lived in Horry County, and spoke to her on a weekly basis.
6. I was also a member of Solid Rock, where both John-Paul and Mica worked, for several years until I left the congregation due to the behaviors I observed.
7. Mica confided in me that John-Paul moved her belongings out of their marital residence and in with Dianna Niosi, so that he could "keep an eye on her." Following this, Mica then retained an attorney for the purposes of filing for divorce from her husband and joined a new church.
8. I have received communications in the past from John-Paul Miller, stating that he knew no reason for divorce, but wanted a separation and gave reasons why. The email I received on April 3, 2023, included a forwarded email from Mr. Miller to Mica dated April 1, 2023, to an email address that did not appear to be Mica's.¹ Just two (2) weeks later, Mica forwarded me an email from Mr. Miller dated April 15, 2023, to her correct email address, as shown.²

¹ Attached as Exhibit 1.
² Attached as Exhibit 2.

9. Mica told me of legal documents she prepared so that I would be able to make decisions for her well-being. However, those documents were not located. The only legal documents discovered appointed Mr. Miller as her power of attorney.
10. Mica made several police reports over the last few weeks of her tires being slashed and tracking devices being found on her car. In Mr. Miller's email forwarded to me, he apologizes to Mica for the tires and causing damage to her vehicle.
11. Mr. Miller's email to my sister continued to state that he was angry when Mica confided or "put her family before" him and that made him want to hurt her. In his words "When someone hurts me, I try to hurt them back rather than forgive." and "instead of me forgiving you.... I just attack and try to cause pain."
12. Mica told me on numerous occasions that she feared John-Paul and just wanted to escape him.
13. Our family is very supportive of one another, and especially in this time of grieving. I believe that my sister Sierra is the appropriate person to step into Mica's shoes and continue what was started by her, both to secure her assets, and to determine her portion of the marital estate.

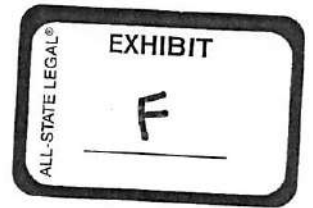
AND FURTHER AFFIANT SAITH NOT.

Sworn and subscribed before me this
2nd day of May 2024.



NATHANIEL FRANCIS

Barbara A. Vane
Print Name: Barbara A. Vane
My Commission Expires: 1/29/2025



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HORRY

Mica Miller



MAGISTRATE SUMMONS

You are hereby summoned to be and appear personally in the

Surfside Beach Magistrate Court
9630 Scipio Lane
Myrtle Beach, SC

on March 26, 2024 at 8:30 AM to serve as a party in a Bench Trial in the case of:

RE: Mica Miller

Vs John Paul Miller

PLAINTIFF(S)

DEFENDANT(S)

Civil Case Number: 2024OR2610400013, Restraining Order.

HEREIN FAIL NOT, ON PAIN OF FORFEITING THE LAWFUL PENALTY IN
SUCH CASE MADE AND PROVIDED.

m. Clayton / APD
JUDGE

Surfside Beach Magistrate Court
9630 Scipio Lane
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588
Phone: (843) 915-5291
Fax: (843) 915-6291

March 11, 2024