

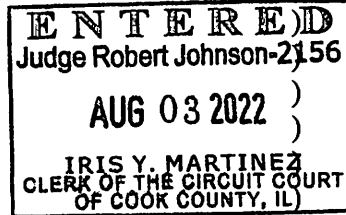
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
COUNTY DEPARTMENT, DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION

IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF )

PETER MATT, )  
Petitioner,

and

MEGAN MATT, )  
Respondent.



Case No. 2016 D 9534

**ORDER**

This cause coming before the Court for an evidentiary hearing on Peter Matt's Rule 137 Petition for Sanctions, both parties appearing remotely on July 5, 2022 and July 19, 2022, Peter Matt appearing with counsel, and the Guardian Ad Litem being present, both parties having an opportunity to present witnesses and evidence and provide closing arguments, and the Court being advised,

**THE COURT FINDS:**

- A. Megan Matt filed a Motion to Dismiss Peter Matt's February 9, 2022 Petition for Rule to Show Cause. The Motion to Dismiss makes allegations as contained in Peter Matt's Rule 137 Petition for Sanctions. The Motion to Dismiss was argued on April 4, 2022 and the motion was denied pursuant to a Court Order entered on April 4, 2022.
- B. Megan Matt admitted that she presented evidence in support of her Motion to Dismiss at the time that it was set for hearing and argued before the Court on April 4, 2022. Megan Matt did not present any evidence to refute Peter Matt's Rule 137 Petition for Sanctions at the evidentiary hearing, instead resting on her Motion to Dismiss and previously tendered exhibits.
- C. Megan Matt testified that she researched the basis for her allegations contained within the Motion to Dismiss and stands by said allegations.

- D. Megan Matt filed a Petition for Substitution of Judge (for cause) on November 31, 2021. The Petition for Substitution of Judge makes allegations as contained in Peter Matt's Rule 137 Petition for Sanctions. The Petition for Substitution of Judge was argued on January 11, 2022 and the petition was denied pursuant to a Court Order entered on January 11, 2022.
- E. Megan Matt admitted that she presented evidence in support of her Petition for Substitution of Judge at the time that it was set for hearing and argued before the Court on January 11, 2022. Megan Matt did not present any evidence to refute Peter Matt's Rule 137 Petition for Sanctions at the evidentiary hearing, instead resting on her Petition for Substitution of Judge and previously tendered exhibits.
- F. Megan Matt testified that she researched the basis for her allegations contained within the Petition for Substitution of Judge and stands by said allegations.
- G. Megan Matt filed a 36 page Petition to Transfer Venue in the Interest of Justice on February 16, 2022. The Petition to Transfer Venue in the Interest of Justice on February 16, 2022 makes allegations as contained in Peter Matt's Rule 137 Petition for Sanctions. The Petition to Transfer Venue in the Interest of Justice on February 16, 2022 was dismissed for want of prosecution after Megan Matt's refusal to engage in the hearing schedule for April 4, 2022 and pursuant to a Court Order entered on April 4, 2022.
- H. Megan Matt admitted that she presented evidence in support of her Petition to Transfer Venue in the Interest of Justice when she filed her petition and had the opportunity to argue the motion at the time that it was set for hearing and argued before the Court on April 4, 2022. Megan Matt did not present any evidence to refute Peter Matt's Rule 137 Petition for Sanctions at the evidentiary hearing, instead resting on her Petition to Transfer Venue in the Interest of Justice and her filed exhibits.

- I. Jillian Westerfield testified that she executed an affidavit on behalf of Megan Matt attached to the Petition to Transfer Venue in the Interest of Justice as Exhibit H. She testified that she attended two (2) court appearances, one before Judge Johnson and one before Judge Link. She admitted that she recorded the hearing before Judge Link on the Petition for Substitution of Judges and tendered the recording to Megan Matt before destroying same. She testified that she did not do any investigation into the action and signed the affidavit at the request of Megan Matt.
- J. Jillian Westerfield further testified that she is not an attorney, does not have any legal training, and works at the church where Megan Matt attends.
- K. Jillian Westerfield testified that the affidavit continuing her name and attached to the Petition to Transfer Venue in the Interest of Justice as Exhibit G was not signed by her, nor anyone else. She further testified that the affidavit contained her name as well as the name of Delane Haro but that she did not know Delane Haro.
- L. Megan Matt testified that she researched the basis for her allegations contained within the Petition to Transfer Venue in the Interest of Justice and stands by said allegations.
- M. Peter Matt testified that he caused responses to be filed to the pleadings identified in his Rule 137 Petition for Sanctions and incurred legal fees related to same.
- N. Peter Matt testified that he caused his counsel to participate in the hearings identified in his Rule 137 Petition for Sanctions and incurred legal fees related to same.
- O. Megan Matt signed each of the pleadings identified herein certifying that she read the documents, made reasonable inquiries into their basis, and believed that the statements contained therein were well grounded in fact and is warranted by existing law or a good-faith argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law, and that it is not

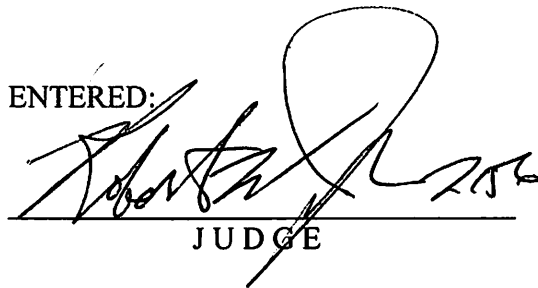
interposed for any improper purpose, such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay or needless increase in the cost of litigation.

- P. Peter Matt's Rule 137 Petition for Sanctions detailed numerous allegations related to the pleadings identified herein alleging that said pleadings were not well grounded in fact and were not warranted by existing law or a good-faith argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law as required by *Cretton v. Protestant Mem'l Med. Ctr., Inc.*, 371 Ill. App. 841, 864 (5<sup>th</sup> Dist. 2007).
- Q. Peter Matt's allegations contained within his Rule 137 Petition for Sanctions are found to be true and accurate.
- R. Peter Matt has met his burden of proof that Megan Matt's Motion to Dismiss, Motion for Substitution of Judge for Cause, and Petition to Transfer Venue in the Interest of Justice were signed in violation of Illinois Supreme Court Rule 137 and therefore an appropriate sanction may be imposed.
- S. Megan Matt did not present any evidence to refute the allegations contained in Peter Matt's Rule 137 Petition for Sanctions.
- T. Peter Matt was forced to pay attorney's fees to not only respond to the allegations in these pleadings, but also to litigate them. Megan Matt's Motion to Dismiss was denied and she was found in contempt of court following an evidentiary hearing on Peter Matt's Petition for Rule to Show Cause, her Petition for Substitution of Judge for Cause was denied, and she chose not to prosecute her Motion to Transfer Venue following the hearing on the Petition for Rule to Show Cause.
- U. Megan Matt's unsupported allegations are in violation of Rule 137 and sanctions are appropriate.

IT IS ORDERED:

1. Peter Matt's Rule 137 Petition for Sanctions is granted.
2. Megan's Matt's Motion to Dismiss, Motion for Substitution of Judge for Cause, and Petition to Transfer Venue in the Interest of Justice were signed in violation of Illinois Supreme Court Rule 137 and therefore an appropriate sanction may be imposed.
3. Megan Matt is sanctioned for violating Rule 137 and Peter Matt is entitled to attorney's fees and costs associated with the response and defense of Megan's Matt's Motion to Dismiss, Motion for Substitution of Judge for Cause, and Petition to Transfer Venue in the Interest of Justice.
4. Peter Matt is entitled to attorney's fees associated with the prosecution of his Rule 137 Petition for Sanctions.
5. Peter Matt shall tender to the Court and to Megan Matt all invoices associated with the attorney's fees incurred by Peter Matt related to Megan's Matt's Motion to Dismiss, Motion for Substitution of Judge for Cause, and Petition to Transfer Venue in the Interest of Justice within 28 days of entry of this order for the Court's consideration and determination on the total amount of the sanction.

ENTERED:



JUDGE

#35921  
Christopher D. Wehrman  
Katz, Goldstein & Warren  
410 N. Michigan Ave., Ste. 400  
Chicago, IL 60611  
847/317-9500  
Attorneys for Peter Matt  
[pleadings@kgwlaw.com](mailto:pleadings@kgwlaw.com)