

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA

HOLT MELODY SHARI, Plaintiff,)	
)	1 OF
V.) Case No.:	
HOLT MARTELL LAVOR,) 2
Defendant.		j	
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This cause comes before the Court on the Emergency Motion To Enforce Psychological Evaluation Of The Defendant Per Court Order, Counseling With The Minor Son, And Motion To Show Cause, and the Plaintiff was present with her counsel of record, the Defendant was present *pro* se and the guardian ad litem was present. Upon consideration of the testimony presented *ore tenus*, the Court makes the following findings:

- 1. Pursuant to this Court's Order entered on March 9, 2022, "the Defendant/Father, Martel Lavor Holt, shall get involved with counseling and participate with the son with his present counselor until further Order of the Court."
- 2. Pursuant to this Court's Order entered on September 6, 2022, "[t]here shall be **NO CORPORAL PUNISHMENT** administered to the children. For the father's edification, corporal punishment shall include spanking, slapping, pinching, pulling, twisting, hitting with an object or forcing a child to consume any unpleasant substance, such as soap, hot sauce, etc."

Additionally, "[p]ursuant to this Court's *pendente lit*e order, entered on March 7, 2022, the father was to "get involved with counseling and participate with the son with his present counselor until further Order of the Court." To date, the father hasn't started counseling and has only reached out to the counselor to schedule a meeting within the past few weeks, waiting until four months to act on this Court's Order. Therefore, the father shall begin counseling no later than September 20, 2022, and shall comply with the counselor's recommendations."

3. Pursuant to this Court's Order entered on September 15, 2022, "[f]or the father's edification, this Court's previous Order regarding the Father participating in counseling with his son is so that the counselor can observe the interaction between the Father and the son. The Father shall comply with the recommendations of the counselor."

- 4. Pursuant to this Court's Order entered on February 28, 2023, "[b]oth parents and the minor children shall continue therapy with Dominique Dillard."
- 5. Pursuant to this Court's Order entered on December 14, 2023, "[t]he Defendant, Martel Lavor Holt, shall make himself available for a psychological evaluation... and shall contact Dr. Rinn within fifteen (15) days of entry of this Order."
- 6. After the Plaintiff filed a Motion To Compel and pursuant to this Court's Order entered on May 9, 2024, "[t]he Defendant shall contact Dr. Roger Rinn no later than five (5) days of entry of this Order and provide written notification to this Court with the date/tim of his evaluation which shall occur no later than thirty (30) days of entry of this Order.
- 7. The Father has only participated in counseling on three occasions in 2022; specifically, November 29, 2022; December 4, 2022 and December 8, 2022. The Father has only participated in counseling on four occasions in 2023; specifically January 27, 2023; February 5, 2023; March 24, 2023; and May 3, 2023. The Father has only participated in counseling on two occasions in 2024; specifically January 3, 2024 and April 11, 2024.
- 8. Regarding the psychological evaluation, the Father did not contact Dr. Rinn until after the Plaintiff filed a Motion To Compel to secure the Father's compliance with this Court's Order. He contacted Dr. Rinn on May 14, 2024 and his first session was May 23, 2024 and he has yet to schedule his two (2) remaining sessions.
- 9. In as much as the Father believes that his acts of discipline are not corporal punishment, the Court is convinced that the Father has used corporal punishment on his minor children despite the Court's admonition against it.
- 10. The counselor, Dominique Dillard, a licensed psychotherapist, who was qualified without objection as an expert, testified that her recommendation has been and continues to be that the Father participate in counseling with more frequency; however the Father only wants to participate on an as-need basis. The counselor has requested additional sessions with the Father, who, in short, fails to comply with said request. The counselor recommends weekly individual counseling with the Father in addition to family sessions. Of note, during the five month period that the Father did not participate in counseling, the counselor noticed that the children reported emotional backlash.
- 11. Despite repeated efforts by this Court to secure the Father's compliance with this Court's Orders, the Father still flagrantly and willfully disobeys this Court's Orders.

Therefore, upon consideration of same, it is therefore **ORDERED**, **ADJUDGED**

and DECREED as follows:

- A) The Emergency Motion To Enforce Psychological Evaluation Of The Defendant Per Court Order, Counseling With The Minor Son, And Motion To Show Cause is hereby **GRANTED IN PART**.
- B) The Father shall pay to the Mother the sum of \$7,000.00 towards the Mother's attorney fees that have been expended by the Mother in order to secure the Father's compliance with this Court's Orders. The Court finds that the attorney fees are fair and reasonable. Judgment is entered in favor the Mother and against the Father in the amount of \$7,000.00 for which execution shall issue.
- C) The Father shall immediately comply with the counselor's recommendation of weekly individual counseling and twice monthly family counseling. The Father's failure to comply shall result in the Father's visitation with the minor children being suspended until the Father complies with this Court's Orders.
- D) The Father shall immediately schedule his two remaining appointments with Dr. Rinn.
- E) All other requested relief is reserved for final hearing.

DONE this 18th day of June, 2024.

/s/ ALISON S. AUSTIN CIRCUIT JUDGE

