

IN THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT
IN AND FOR SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MICHAEL T FLYNN,
Plaintiff,

v.

CASE NO. 2023 CA 004264 NC
DIVISION C CIRCUIT

JIM STEWARTSON,
RICK WILSON,
MEIDASTOUCH LLC,
Defendant.

INTERIM ORDER
ON PLAINTIFF'S EMERGENCY MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

This is not an emergency.

Having said that, the Court is not opposed to the entry of a confidentiality order. If Defendant does not believe a confidentiality order is necessary, then the Court suggests the parties schedule a quick case management conference. Please note: the Court will not enter any confidentiality order that attempts to alter the requirements of Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.420.

As it relates to today's deposition, the Court expects the parties to try to resolve this issue. Further, it is unclear to the Court the specific reason or reasons for the delay. Is it due to an unexpected work issue? Is it due to the confidentiality issue? Is it both? Is it something else? Because the parties did not address this issue until the morning of the deposition, the Court simply is not in a position to rule. Defendant has not had an opportunity to respond.

For those reasons, the Court does not address whether the deposition should or should not proceed today.

DONE AND ORDERED in Sarasota, Sarasota County, Florida, on April 28, 2025.


4/28/2025 9:27 AM 2023 CA
004264 NC
e-Signed 4/28/2025 9:27 AM 2023 CA 004264 NC

HUNTER W CARROLL
Circuit Judge

SERVICE CERTIFICATE

On April 28, 2025, the Court caused the foregoing document to be served via the Clerk of Court's case management system, which served the following individuals via email (where indicated). On the same date, the Court also served a copy of the foregoing document via First Class U.S. Mail on the individuals who do not have an email address on file with the Clerk of Court.

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**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION**

MICHAEL T. FLYNN,

Plaintiff,

v.

JIM STEWARTSON, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No.: 2023 CA 004264 NC

Division C Circuit

PLAINTIFF'S EMERGENCY MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

Plaintiff, Michael T. Flynn, by and through undersigned counsel, and pursuant to Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.280(c), hereby moves for a protective order and states:

1. On April 11, 2025, Defendant, Jim Stewartson, noticed Plaintiff's deposition for April 28, 2025.
2. Defendant previously noticed Plaintiff's deposition for March 4, 2025. At Plaintiff's request, Defendant rescheduled Plaintiff's deposition for March 25, 2025.
3. The parties re-engaged in settlement discussions. Defendant rescheduled Plaintiff's deposition for April 28, 2025.
4. Subsequently, undersigned counsel contacted defense counsel via email on multiple occasions to discuss the potential settlement. Defense counsel did not respond to those contact attempts. Plaintiff also attempted to receive dates of Defendant's availability for deposition, as well as dates for when defense

counsel was available for a hearing on Plaintiff's pending motion to compel. Defense counsel did not respond to these inquiries either.

5. On April 25, 2025, undersigned counsel notified defense counsel that Plaintiff would be unable to be in Florida on April 28, 2025. Plaintiff's presence in Washington, D.C. has been directed by his superiors.

6. Plaintiff's counsel offered to obtain future dates for the postponed deposition.

7. Undersigned counsel addressed with defense counsel that a protective order would need to be in place for Plaintiff to produce any documents and/or give any testimony that would be considered confidential. Undersigned counsel previously made defense counsel aware of this necessity, and defense counsel did not lodge any objections. On the April 25, 2025 call, however, defense counsel informed undersigned counsel that Defendant would not consent to any protective order protecting confidential documents and testimony.

8. Accordingly, Plaintiff moves this Court for an order directing the parties to prepare and execute a confidentiality agreement of Plaintiff's documents and testimony. Such an agreement is imperative in this case

9. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiff moves this Court for a protective order excusing Plaintiff's attendance from deposition on April 28, 2025, as good cause exists for granting this protective order.

10. Plaintiff will promptly provide dates of availability in May for deposition and confer with defense counsel to prepare a confidentiality agreement.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Michael T. Flynn, respectfully requests this Court enter a protective order excusing General Flynn's attendance from deposition on April 28, 2025.

Dated: April 25, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Stephen B. French

Stephen B. French

(Fl. Bar No. 0078761)

Jared J. Roberts

(Fl. Bar No. 1036550)

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Counsel for Michael T. Flynn

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on April 25, 2025, I have caused a true and accurate copy of the foregoing to be delivered to counsel of record via e-filing.

/s/ Jared Roberts

Jared J. Roberts
(Fl. Bar No. 1036550)

Counsel for Michael T. Flynn