

FILED

IN THE MATTER OF COMMON PLEAS, PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO
JUVENILE COURT

2025 AUG 21 AM 11:45

SHELLY R. HARSHA
JUVENILE COURT JUDGE
PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO

Jeffrey Garner

Plaintiff

Case Number: 20254102

-vs-

Justine Knight

Defendant

Attention: John Doe

Posted by: *Destiny Binkley*

Posting Date: 08/21/2025

Date Posting will be Removed: 09/29/2025

Removed by:

FILED

IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO
JUVENILE DIVISION

JEFFREY GARNER, ET AL.

Plaintiffs,

v.

JUSTINE KNIGHT, ET AL.

Defendants.

CASE NO: 2025-JUV-000102 CUS A

JUDGE HARSHA
MAGISTRATE CHARLES

MAGISTRATE'S ORDER
PERMITTING LEAVE TO
AMEND COMPLAINT

Upon consideration of Plaintiffs' Motion for Leave to Amend their Complaint, and for good cause shown, it is hereby ORDERED that the Motion is GRANTED. Plaintiffs shall file their Amended Complaint within 14 days of the date of this Entry.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Charles Charles

MAGISTRATE CHARLES

INSTRUCTIONS TO CLERK

Please cause a copy of Magistrate's Order for Permitting Leave to Amend Complaint to be served upon Pickaway County CPS, via their box located at the Clerk's office; Abbey M. Becca, counsel for Plaintiff, via regular mail at PO Box 130, Circleville, Ohio 43113; Jessica Wood, counsel for Defendant Justine Knight, via regular mail at 580 S High Street, Ste 230, Columbus, Ohio 43215; and upon Kristine Walkowicz, Guardian ad Litem, via her box located at the Clerk's office.

Abbey M. Becca

ABBEY M. BECCA (0097366)
BENJAMIN T. SWAIN (0082124)
KATHRYN M. McILROY (0104582)
STEBELTON SNIDER, L.P.A.
P.O. Box 130; 109 North Broad Street
Lancaster, OH 43130-0130
tel: (740) 654-4141
fax: (740) 654-2521
AMB@stebelton.com
Attorneys for Jeff Garner and Beth Garner

FILED

2025 AUG 21 AM 11:38

IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO
JUVENILE DIVISION

SHELLY R. HARSHA
JUVENILE COURT JUDGE
PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO

JEFFREY GARNER, ET AL.

CASE NO: 2025-JUV-000102 CUS A

Plaintiffs,

JUDGE HARSHA

v.

MAGISTRATE CHARLES

JUSTINE KNIGHT, ET AL.

Defendants.

MAGISTRATE'S ORDER FOR SERVICE

Upon Motion of Jeffrey Garner and Beth Garner and for good cause shown, it is hereby ORDERED that the Clerk's Office shall complete service by posting as follows:

1. Post a notice in the public notices located at pickawaycourt.com.
2. The notice shall contain the name and address of the Court, the case number, the name of the first party on each side, and the name and last known address, if any, of the person or persons whose residence is unknown. The publication also shall contain a summary statement of the object of the Amended Complaint and demand for relief, and shall notify the person to be served that he is required to answer within twenty-eight days after the last date of posting.
3. The notice shall be posted for six successive weeks.
4. After the last week of posting, the clerk shall note on the docket where and when notice was posted. Service shall be complete upon the entry of posting.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Charles

MAGISTRATE OF SAID COURT

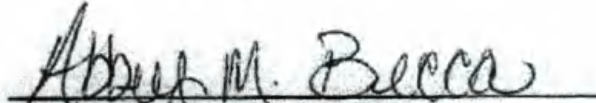
APPROVED BY:

Abbey M. Becca

ABBEY M. BECCA (0097366)
Attorney for Jeffrey and Beth Garner

INSTRUCTIONS TO CLERK

Please cause a copy of Magistrate's Order for Service to be served upon Pickaway County CPS, via their box located at the Clerk's office; Abbey M. Becca, counsel for Plaintiff, via regular mail at PO Box 130, Circleville, Ohio 43113; Jessica Wood, counsel for Defendant Justine Knight, via regular mail at 580 S High Street, Ste 230, Columbus, Ohio 43215; and upon Kristine Walkowicz, Guardian ad Litem, via her box located at the Clerk's office.



ABBEY M. BECCA (0097366)

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Attorneys for Jeff Garner and Beth Garner

FILED

2025 AUG 21 AM 9:54

IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO
JUVENILE DIVISION

SHELLY R. HARSHA
JUVENILE COURT JUDGE
PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO

JEFFREY GARNER, ET AL.

CASE NO: 2025-JUV-000102 CUS A

Plaintiffs,

JUDGE HARSHA

v.

MAGISTRATE CHARLES

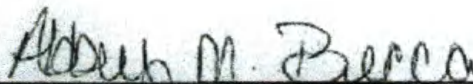
JUSTINE KNIGHT, ET AL.

MOTION FOR SERVICE BY
POSTING

Defendants.

Now come Plaintiffs, Jeff and Beth Garner, by and through their counsel, Abbey M. Becca, and hereby move this Court pursuant to Civ.R. 4.4(A)(2) for an Order to have Defendant, John Doe, served by posting. Plaintiffs' Motion is more fully supported by the affidavit attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Respectfully submitted,



ABBEY M. BECCA (0097366)

BENJAMIN T. SWAIN (0082124)

KATHRYN M. McILROY (0104582)

STEBELTON SNIDER, L.P.A.

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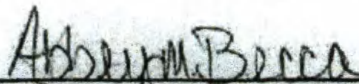
fax: (740) 654-2521

AMB@stebelton.com

Attorneys for Jeff Garner and Beth Garner

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned counsel hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing has been served upon Jessica Wood, counsel for Defendant Justine Knight, via electronic mail at jessica@woodlongfamilylaw.com and upon Kristina Walkowicz, Guardian ad Litem, via electronic mail at kristina@kristinawalkowiczlawllc.com on this 21 day of August, 2025.



ABBEY M. BECCA (0097366)

BENJAMIN T. SWAIN (0082124)

EXHIBIT A

STATE OF OHIO, COUNTY OF Fairfield, SS:

Jeff Garner being duly sworn do state the following:

1. I am the Plaintiff herein and the biological paternal grandfather of the minor child.
2. The biological father of the minor child has never been disclosed to me by my daughter, hence naming John Doe in this action.
3. I believe the only way to achieve service upon John Doe is by posting.

Further Affiant sayeth naught.

Jeff Garner

STATE OF OHIO, COUNTY OF Fairfield, SS:

Before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared the above-named Jeff Garner, who acknowledged that he did sign the foregoing instrument and that the same is his free and voluntary act and deed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Lancaster, Ohio this the 30th day of April, 2025.

NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF OHIO



MELODY D. HUMPHREYS
Notary Public, State of Ohio
My Commission Expires 05-25-2025

IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO
JUVENILE DIVISION

JEFFREY GARNER, ET AL.

Plaintiffs,

v.

JUSTINE KNIGHT, ET AL.

Defendants.

CASE NO: 2025-JUV-000102 CUS

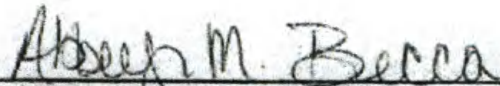
JUDGE HARSHA
MAGISTRATE CHARLES

MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE
AMENDED COMPLAINT

MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE AN AMENDED COMPLAINT

Now come Plaintiffs, Jeffrey Garner and Beth Garner, by and through their counsel, and hereby move the Court, pursuant to Civ.R. 15(A), for leave to amend the Complaint for Visitation for the reasons more fully set forth in the Memorandum in Support. A copy of Plaintiff's proposed Amended Complaint is attached hereto as Exhibit "A."

Respectfully submitted,



ABBEY M. BECCA (0097366)

BENJAMIN T. SWAIN (0082124)

KATHRYN M. McILROY (0104582)

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fax: (740) 654-2521

AMB@stebelton.com

Attorneys for Jeff Garner and Beth Garner

2025 AUG 21 AM 9:53
JUDGE HARSHA
JUVENILE COURT, OHIO
PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO

FILED

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

Plaintiffs filed their initial Complaint for Visitation on February 25, 2025. Since that time there has been newly discovered evidence that cause the Plaintiff's concern about the minor child while he is under Defendant's care. The minor child was removed temporarily from Defendant's care and placed with Plaintiffs because of concerns, but has since returned. However, many of the concerns may still exist and should be investigated by this Court. Plaintiffs now seek leave of court pursuant to Civ.R.15(A) to amend their Complaint due to the newly discovered evidence. Pursuant to Civ.R. 15(A), "A party may amend its pleading once as a matter of course within twenty-eight days after serving it or, if the pleading is one to which a responsive pleading is required within twenty-eight days after service of a responsive pleading or twenty-eight days after service of a motion under Civ. R. 12(B), (E), or (F), whichever is earlier." Civ.R. 15(A). Furthermore, "The court shall freely give leave when justice so requires." Civ.R. 15(A).

Plaintiffs have not been served with a pleading responsive to the initial complaint. Plaintiffs now seek leave of court to amend their Complaint to add a claim to be named the legal custodians of the minor child, should this Court deem fit. Further, no prejudice would occur to Defendant if Plaintiffs were permitted to amend their Complaint and add the additional claim. Furthermore, leave to plead should be freely given when justice so requires. As this information was not previously available and such amendment is in the best interest of the minor child, Plaintiffs should be permitted to amend their Complaint to assert all claims available to them in this matter.

Wherefore, Plaintiffs respectfully pray that this Court GRANT the Motion for
Leave to File an Amended Complaint.

Respectfully submitted,



ABBEY M. BECCA (0097366)

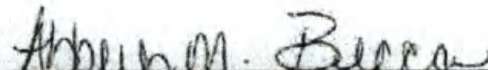
BENJAMIN T. SWAIN (0082124)

KATHRYN M. McILROY (0104582)

Attorneys for Jeff Garner and Beth Garner

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned counsel hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing has been served upon Jessica Wood, counsel for Defendant Justine Knight, via electronic mail at jessica@woodlongfamilylaw.com and upon Kristina Walkowicz, Guardian ad Litem, via electronic mail at Kristina@kristinawalkowiczlawllc.com on this 21 day of August, 2025.



ABBEY M. BECCA (0097366)

BENJAMIN T. SWAIN (0082124)

KATHRYN M. McILROY (0104582)

Attorneys for Jeff Garner and Beth Garner

FILED

IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO
JUVENILE DIVISION

2025 AUG 21 AM 9:54

SHELLY R. HARSHA
JUVENILE COURT JUDGE
PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO

JEFFREY GARNER
6127 Dietz Drive
Canal Winchester, OH 43110

CASE NO: 2025JUV000102

JUDGE HARSHA

and

MAGISTRATE CHARLES

BETH GARNER
6127 Dietz Drive
Canal Winchester, OH 43110

Plaintiffs,

v.

JUSTINE KNIGHT
5405 Hutchison Place
South Bloomfield, OH 43103

and

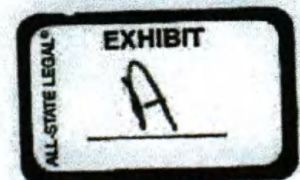
JOHN DOE

Defendants.

AMENDED COMPLAINT

Now comes Jeffrey Garner, natural maternal grandfather of the minor child, and Beth Garner, step-maternal grandmother of minor child, and hereby state in their Amended Complaint that:

- 1) Plaintiffs have been a resident of the State of Ohio for more than six (6) months preceding the filing of this Amended Complaint.
- 2) Minor child, Bentley Tristen Letourneau, born on July 20, 2010, is a minor child and has been a resident of the State of Ohio for more than six (6) months and a resident of Pickaway County for more than ninety (90) days immediately preceding the filing of this Amended Complaint. He is not a ward of any other Court.
- 3) Defendant, Justine Knight, is the biological mother of the minor child.



- 4) The father of the minor child has not been determined through an acknowledgment or an action under O.R.C. Chapter 3111. Response to inquiry with the Ohio Central Paternity Registry is attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- 5) The concerns have been raised to the grandparents that the minor child has been neglected by Defendant-Mother, and CPS had temporarily placed the child with Plaintiffs.
- 6) Complainants respectfully request custody of the minor child, should the same be determined to be in the best interest of the minor child, or, in the alternative, reasonable contact and companionship with the minor child, as well as any other relief this court may deem appropriate.

Wherefore, Plaintiffs respectfully requests that they be named the child's legal custodians or, in the alternative, be granted reasonable companionship or visitation rights with the minor child, and other relief that this Court deems equitable and in the child's best interest.

Respectfully submitted,



ABBEY M. BECCA (0097366)

BENJAMIN T. SWAIN (0082124)

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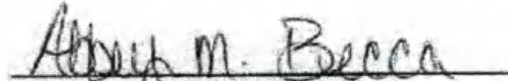
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AMB@stebelton.com

Attorneys for Jeff Garner and Beth Garner

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned counsel hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing has been served upon Jessica Wood, counsel for Defendant Justine Knight, via electronic mail at jessica@woodlongfamilylaw.com and upon Kristina Walkowicz, Guardian ad Litem, via electronic mail at Kristina@kristinawalkowiczlawllc.com on this 21st day of August, 2025.



ABBEY M. BECCA (0097366)

BENJAMIN T. SWAIN (0082124)

KATHRYN M. McILROY (0104582)

Attorneys for Jeff Garner and Beth Garner

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO
JUVENILE DIVISION

Jeffrey Garner

Plaintiff

-v-

Justine Knight

Defendant

FILED
AUG 04 2025
SHELLY R. HARSHA
JUVENILE COURT JUDGE
PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO

Case No. 20254102

NOTICE OF HEARING

The above case is set for _____ PRE-TRIAL ☒ STATUS CONFERENCE _____ PLEA
_____ TRIAL _____ OTHER: _____
in the Court of Common Pleas of Pickaway County, Juvenile Division on the 29th day of
Sept, 2025 at 10:00 o'clock 9 .m.

You must be present at that time. Failure to appear may result in a writ being issued to secure your appearance for hearing. Any request for a continuance must be in writing, stating the reason for the request. Continuance can only be approved by the Judge and will not be approved unless good cause is shown.

By signing this Notice of Hearing, I acknowledge receipt of a copy of the above notice and understand my obligation to appear and potential consequences of failure to appear.

Plaintiff

Abbey M. Becca
Counsel for Plaintiff

Kwaca
Guardian ad Litem

Other

Defendant

Joseph Wood
Counsel for Defendant

Other

Other

**IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO
JUVENILE DIVISION**

JEFFREY GARNER, ET AL.

Plaintiffs,

v.

JUSTINE KNIGHT, ET AL.

Defendants.

CASE NO: 2025-JUV-000102 CUS A

**JUDGE HARSHA
MAGISTRATE CHARLES**

**MAGISTRATE ORDER
WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

SHELLY R. HARSHA
JUVENILE COURT JUDGE
PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO

2025 JUN 27 AM 10:32

FILED

This matter was before the Court for an Oral Temporary Orders Hearing on June 9, 2025. The parties appeared with their counsel. Plaintiffs, Jeffrey and Beth Garner, were represented by Attorney Abbey M. Becca. Defendant, Justine Knight, was represented by Attorney Kelsi Robinson. The Guardian ad Litem, Kristina Walkowicz, was also present. The GAL provided an oral report and summary of her investigation. Following discussions with the Court, Counsel, and the GAL, the following orders and agreements were reached with regard to grandparent visitation time with the minor child, Bentley T. Letourneau (DOB: 7/20/2010). The Court finds the following orders to be in the best interest of the minor child. Accordingly, the Court hereby Orders as follows:

1. Plaintiffs, Jeff and Beth Garner, shall have visitation with the minor child, Bentley, every-other-Saturday beginning June 14, 2025. The days in June shall be for four (4) hours, and beginning in July the visitation shall be for eight (8) hours. Notwithstanding, the parties have adjusted the schedule and agree to the following days/times in June and July.
2. Plaintiffs, Jeff and Beth Garner, shall have visitation with the minor child on Saturday, June 14, 2025 and Saturday, June 21, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. through 8:00 p.m.
3. Plaintiff's, Jeff and Beth Garner, shall have visitation with the minor child on Sunday, July 13, 2025 and Sunday, July 27, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m.
4. Defendant, Justine Knight, shall make the child available for the visitations.
5. Unless the parties otherwise agree, in writing, Plaintiffs shall pick up and drop off the minor child outside of Mother's apartment building on the side of the stairs. Plaintiffs will stay in their vehicle for the exchange, and Mother shall remain in her apartment.
6. At all times, both at exchanges or in public places, the parties shall remain civil and respectful of each other. There shall be no arguing, threatening, or name-calling.
7. Neither party shall discuss this case, the documents filed in this case, or information disclosed by the Guardian ad Litem with the minor child of this

- matter. Further, neither party shall attempt to discuss this case at the exchanges or in the presence of the minor child.
8. This matter is scheduled for an in camera interview on August 4, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. Defendant, Justine Knight, shall ensure the child's attendance.
 9. This matter is further scheduled for a Status Hearing on August 4, 2025 at 2:30 p.m. All parties shall be present and appear.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE: 6/26/25

Carrie Char
MAGISTRATE CARRIE CHARLES

Submitted and Approved:

Abbey M. Becca
ABBEY M. BECCA (0097366)
Attorney for Plaintiffs

Per Email Approval 6/26/2025
JESSICA WOOD (0086720) / Kelsi Robinson
Attorney for Defendant Knight

Per Email Approval 6/26/2025
KRISTINA WALKOWICZ
Guardian ad Litem

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SERVICE

The Clerk of Court shall serve a copy of this entry upon the parties and their attorneys in accordance with Civil Rule 53(D)(2) and/or Juvenile Rule 40(D)(3). Specifically, the Clerk of Courts shall serve the parties or their attorneys with this Magistrate's Order by regular U.S. Mail no later than three (3) days after the Order is filed in the court record at the following addresses:

- **Abbey M. Becca**, Counsel for Plaintiff, 109 N. Broad St., Suite 200, P.O. Box 130, Lancaster, OH 43130
- **Jessica Wood**, Counsel for Defendant, 580 South High St., Suite 230, Columbus, OH 43215
- **Kristina Walkowicz**, Guardian ad Litem, by placing a copy in her mailbox at the Clerk's Office