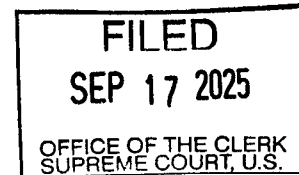


25-5807

ORIGINAL

No. \_\_\_\_\_



IN THE  
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

TAMATHA LYNN MELOM, PRO SE — PETITIONER  
(Your Name)

VS.

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI — RESPONDENT(S)

MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED *IN FORMA PAUPERIS*

The petitioner asks leave to file the attached petition for a writ of certiorari without prepayment of costs and to proceed *in forma pauperis*.

Please check the appropriate boxes:

☒ Petitioner has previously been granted leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* in the following court(s):

Circuit Court of Stone County (Case No. 66CI1:24-cr-00042-1), Supreme Court of Mississippi  
Court of Appeals of the State of Mississippi (Case No. 2024-KM-00782-SCT)

☐ Petitioner has **not** previously been granted leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* in any other court.

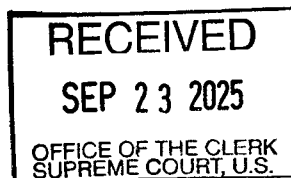
☒ Petitioner's affidavit or declaration in support of this motion is attached hereto.

☐ Petitioner's affidavit or declaration is **not** attached because the court below appointed counsel in the current proceeding, and:

☐ The appointment was made under the following provision of law: \_\_\_\_\_, or

☐ a copy of the order of appointment is appended.

Tamatha Melom  
(Signature)



**AFFIDAVIT OR DECLARATION  
IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED *IN FORMA PAUPERIS***

I, Tamatha Lynn Melom, am the petitioner in the above-entitled case. In support of my motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*, I state that because of my poverty I am unable to pay the costs of this case or to give security therefor; and I believe I am entitled to redress.

1. For both you and your spouse estimate the average amount of money received from each of the following sources during the past 12 months. Adjust any amount that was received weekly, biweekly, quarterly, semiannually, or annually to show the monthly rate. Use gross amounts, that is, amounts before any deductions for taxes or otherwise.

Income source	Average monthly amount during the past 12 months		Amount expected next month	
	You	Spouse	You	Spouse
Employment	\$ 0	\$	\$	\$
Self-employment	\$ 0	\$	\$	\$
Income from real property (such as rental income)	\$ 0	\$	\$	\$
Interest and dividends	\$ 0	\$	\$	\$
Gifts	\$ 0	\$	\$	\$
Alimony	\$ 0	\$	\$	\$
Child Support	\$ 0	\$	\$	\$
Retirement (such as social security, pensions, annuities, insurance)	\$ 0	\$	\$	\$
Disability (such as social security, insurance payments)	\$ 961.00	\$	\$	\$
Unemployment payments	\$ 0	\$	\$	\$
Public-assistance (such as welfare)	\$ 63.00 (new)	\$	\$	\$
Other (specify):	\$ 0	\$	\$	\$
<b>Total monthly income:</b>	<b>\$ 1,024.00</b>	\$	\$	\$

2. List your employment history for the past two years, most recent first. (Gross monthly pay is before taxes or other deductions.) N/A

Employer	Address	Dates of Employment	Gross monthly pay
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____

3. List your spouse's employment history for the past two years, most recent employer first. (Gross monthly pay is before taxes or other deductions.) N/A

Employer	Address	Dates of Employment	Gross monthly pay
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____

4. How much cash do you and your spouse have? \$ N/A

Below, state any money you or your spouse have in bank accounts or in any other financial institution.

Type of account (e.g., checking or savings)	Amount you have	Amount your spouse has
_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____	\$ _____

5. List the assets, and their values, which you own or your spouse owns. Do not list clothing and ordinary household furnishings. N/A

☐ Home  
Value \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Other real estate  
Value \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Motor Vehicle #1  
Year, make & model \_\_\_\_\_  
Value \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Motor Vehicle #2  
Year, make & model \_\_\_\_\_  
Value \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Other assets  
Description \_\_\_\_\_  
Value \_\_\_\_\_

6. State every person, business, or organization owing you or your spouse money, and the amount owed. N/A

Person owing you or your spouse money	Amount owed to you	Amount owed to your spouse
_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____	\$ _____

7. State the persons who rely on you or your spouse for support. For minor children, list initials instead of names (e.g. "J.S." instead of "John Smith"). N/A

Name	Relationship	Age
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

8. Estimate the average monthly expenses of you and your family. Show separately the amounts paid by your spouse. Adjust any payments that are made weekly, biweekly, quarterly, or annually to show the monthly rate.

	You	Your spouse
Rent or home-mortgage payment (include lot rented for mobile home)	\$ 600.00 (Rent and Water)	\$ _____
Are real estate taxes included? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No N/A		
Is property insurance included? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No N/A		
Utilities (electricity, heating fuel, water, sewer, and telephone)	\$ 60.00 (Phone)	\$ _____
Home maintenance (repairs and upkeep)	\$ Unknown	\$ _____
Food	\$ 200.00	\$ _____
Clothing	\$ 0	\$ _____
Laundry and dry-cleaning	\$ Unknown	\$ _____
Medical and dental expenses	\$ Medicaid	\$ _____

	<b>You</b>	<b>Your spouse</b>
Transportation (not including motor vehicle payments)	\$ <u>\$60.00</u>	\$ <u>          </u>
Recreation, entertainment, newspapers, magazines, etc.	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>          </u>
<b>Insurance (not deducted from wages or included in mortgage payments)</b>		
Homeowner's or renter's	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>          </u>
Life	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>          </u>
Health	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>          </u>
Motor Vehicle	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>          </u>
Other: <u>                                  </u>	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>          </u>
<b>Taxes (not deducted from wages or included in mortgage payments)</b>		
(specify): <u>                                  </u>	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>          </u>
<b>Installment payments</b>		
Motor Vehicle	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>          </u>
Credit card(s)	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>          </u>
Department store(s)	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>          </u>
Other: <u>                                  </u>	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>          </u>
Alimony, maintenance, and support paid to others	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>          </u>
Regular expenses for operation of business, profession, or farm (attach detailed statement)	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>          </u>
Other (specify): <u>PET FOOD/VET CARE</u>	\$ <u>Unknown</u>	\$ <u>          </u>
<b>Total monthly expenses:</b>	\$ <u>1,024.00</u>	\$ <u>          </u>

9. Do you expect any major changes to your monthly income or expenses or in your assets or liabilities during the next 12 months?

☐ Yes    ☒ No    If yes, describe on an attached sheet.

10. Have you paid – or will you be paying – an attorney any money for services in connection with this case, including the completion of this form?    ☐ Yes    ☒ No

If yes, how much? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, state the attorney's name, address, and telephone number:

11. Have you paid—or will you be paying—anyone other than an attorney (such as a paralegal or a typist) any money for services in connection with this case, including the completion of this form?

☐ Yes    ☒ No

If yes, how much? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, state the person's name, address, and telephone number:

12. Provide any other information that will help explain why you cannot pay the costs of this case.  
Income is below the poverty level in U.S.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on: September 12, 2025.

Jamathu Melom  
(Signature)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF STONE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

**FILED**

VERSUS

JUL 19 2024

CAUSE NO. 66CI1:24-cr-00042

TAMATHA MELOM

STONE COUNTY, MS  
JESSICA DAVIS, CIRCUIT CLERK  
B. Davis D.C.

**ORDER GRANTING *IN FORMA PAUPERIS* STATUS**

This cause is before the Court on Tamatha Melom's application to proceed *in forma pauperis*. On May 1, 2024, trial was held in the Justice Court of Stone County, Mississippi, on the charges that Tamatha Melom failed to have proper proof of vaccination of the five (5) dogs in her possession, and that all five (5) dogs qualify as dangerous or potentially dangerous under the Stone County, Mississippi, Ordinance governing and regulation ownership of dangerous and potentially dangerous dogs. Ms. Melom was found guilty of failing to have proof of proper vaccination for the five (5) dogs. Additionally, the Justice Court deemed all five (5) dogs as dangerous or potentially dangerous under the Stone County, Mississippi, Ordinance governing and regulation ownership of dangerous and potentially dangerous dogs. Said dogs were ordered to be impounded and euthanized.

On or about May 22, 2024, Ms. Melom appealed the judgment of the Justice Court to this Court. At that time, she was granted *in forma pauperis* status. This Court held a trial de novo on June 18, 2024. At the time of trial, this Court asked Ms. Melom if she was appealing the portion of the lower court judgment regarding proper vaccinations. Ms. Melom indicated that she was only appealing the determination of the five (5) dogs being dangerous or potentially dangerous, and their possible euthanization. An order was issued by this Court on July 1, 2024, finding Ms. Melom in violation of the Ordinance of Stone County, Mississippi, Regulating Ownership of Dangerous and

Potentially Dangerous Dogs. Further, the five (5) dogs were found to be dangerous or potentially dangerous, and disposition of them was part of the order.

On July 3, 2024, Ms. Melom filed her Notice of Appeal of the decision of this Court. Further Ms. Melom requested she continue to have *in forma pauperis* status. Having previously been declared indigent by the lower court, this Court finds that Ms. Melom's status has not changed, and her application should be granted. Tamatha Melom may appeal *in forma pauperis*.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Tamatha Melom may proceed *in forma pauperis*.

SO ORDERED AND ADJUDGED, this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024.



LAWRENCE P. BOURGEOIS, JR.  
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE



JUSTICE COURT OF STONE COUNTY

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

DOCKET: 204

VS

PAGE: 1538

MELOM TAMATHA LYNN

JUDGE'S ORDER

MELOM TAMATHA LYNN'S MOTION TO CONTINUE IN FORMA PAUPERIS  
WAS GRANTED ON 5/28/2024. MELOM'S 2 PERSON HOUSEHOLD INCOME WAS DETERMINED  
TO BE \$16,248.00 WHICH IS \$4,192.00 UNDER THE 2024 FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES  
RESULTING IN HER QUALIFYING FOR IN FORMA PAUPERIS & MOTION BEING GRANTED.

SO ORDERED THIS THE 28th DAY OF May, 2024 .

JUSTICE COURT JUDGE





ELECTRONICALLY FILED  
11/15/2022 3:33 PM  
02-DV-2022-000015.00  
DISTRICT COURT OF  
MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA  
JOJO SCHWARZAUER, CLERK

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA**

STATE OF AL EX REL ASHLEY M RICH  
DA,  
Plaintiff,

V.

MELOM TAMATHA,  
Defendant.

)  
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Case No.: DV-2022-000015.00

**ORDER**

AFFIDAVIT OF SUBSTANTIAL HARDSHIP filed by MELOM TAMATHA is hereby GRANTED.

**DONE this 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2022.**

**/s/ GEORGE N. HARDESTY, JR.**  
**DISTRICT JUDGE**