

Supreme Court, U.S.
FILED
APR 21 2026
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25A 1177

IN THE

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

ROHIT UPPAL,
Applicant,
v.
Ms. NEERA,
Respondent.

**EMERGENCY APPLICATION FOR STAY PENDING DISPOSITION OF PETITION
FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI - TRIAL DATE MAY 11, 2026 - IMMEDIATE RULING
REQUESTED**

To the Honorable Brett M. Kavanaugh,
Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States
and Circuit Justice for the Sixth Circuit

Petitioner Rohit Uppal, pro se, respectfully applies for a stay of all proceedings in Neera Uppal v. Rohit Uppal, Knox County Fourth Circuit Court, Case No. 159500, pending the filing and full disposition of the accompanying Petition for a Writ of Certiorari and Petitioner's claims under 42 U.S.C. Section 1983. App. 145a-148a, App. 156a-157a.

I. NOTICE OF IMMINENT AND IRREPARABLE HARM -- TRIAL DATE MAY 11, 2026

This application presents a genuine emergency requiring immediate action. The state trial court has scheduled trial for May 11, 2026 -- twenty days from the date of this filing-- in Neera Uppal v. Rohit Uppal, Knox County Fourth Circuit Court, Case No. 159500. At that trial, the court is expected to enter a final property division order that will result in the court-ordered sale of the marital residence at 7922 Knowledge Lane, Knoxville, Tennessee -- Petitioner's only home. Once that order is entered and the sale proceeds, Petitioner will be homeless and the property division will be permanently final. No subsequent order from this Court or any other can restore a sold home or unwind a completed property distribution. The harm that will occur on and after May 11, 2026 is not speculative. It is certain, imminent, and irreparable.

The irreparability of this harm is established beyond dispute by this Court's own precedents. The loss of constitutional rights -- including the right to a fair and impartial tribunal free from the bias documented in the accompanying petition -- "for even minimal periods of time constitutes irreparable injury." *Elrod v. Burns*, 427 U.S. 347, 373 (1976). An injury that a subsequent court order cannot undo is the paradigmatic case for emergency stay relief. *Ohio Citizens for Responsible Energy, Inc. v. NRC*, 479 U.S. 1312, 1313 (1986) (Scalia, J., in chambers) (irreparable harm exists where injury cannot be undone by subsequent court order). The forced sale of a family home under a final divorce decree is precisely that injury: once the deed transfers

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and proceeds are distributed, this Court's jurisdiction over the accompanying petition for writ of certiorari will be rendered entirely moot. "A court has the power to preserve its jurisdiction while its right to act is being decided." *Nken v. Holder*, 556 U.S. 418, 426 (2009). Without an immediate stay entered before May 11, 2026, that power will be extinguished by the passage of twenty days. Petitioner respectfully urges that this application be considered and decided on an emergency basis before May 11, 2026.

This Application presents a recurring and entrenched circuit split regarding the application of *Younger v. Harris* abstention to cases involving documented bad faith, harassment, and judicial bias. Given the importance of resolving this conflict and the need for a uniform standard, the full Court should have the opportunity to consider this Writ.

Petitioner Rohit Uppal, pro se, respectfully applies for a stay of all proceedings in *Neera Uppal v. Rohit Uppal*, Knox County Fourth Circuit Court, Case No. 159500, pending the filing and full disposition of the accompanying Petition for a Writ of Certiorari and Petitioner's claims under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. App. 145a-148a, App. 156a-157a.

The state trial court proceedings will result in the sale of the marital residence—*Petitioner's only home*—and the distribution of its proceeds. Once that sale is completed and funds are disbursed, the property division will be effectively final. This Court has long recognized that the loss of real property and the dissipation of assets constitute irreparable harm for which there is no adequate remedy at law. See *Ohio Citizens for Responsible Energy, Inc. v. NRC*, 479 U.S. 1312, 1313 (1986) (Scalia, J., in chambers).

Additionally, Petitioner has been deprived of his separate personal property (rings and watches) since March 21, 2024. The continuation of proceedings compounds this ongoing constitutional injury.

II. INTRODUCTION AND JURISDICTIONAL SPLIT

This case presents a clean vehicle to resolve a clear conflict among the circuits regarding the scope of the "bad faith" and "extraordinary circumstances" exceptions to *Younger* abstention. The Sixth Circuit's decision below applies *Younger* to a private divorce proceeding marred by documented judicial admissions of error, concealment of assets, and a warrantless arrest predicated on a false police report.

The Sixth Circuit's application conflicts with this Court's holding in *Sprint Communications, Inc. v. Jacobs*, 571 U.S. 69 (2013), which limited *Younger* to three narrow categories of state proceedings—none of which include a private divorce. It further conflicts with the Ninth and Third Circuits' strict application of *Sprint* and with this Court's precedent that abstention is inappropriate where state proceedings are initiated in bad faith or are used to harass. See *Gibson v. Berryhill*, 411 U.S. 564 (1973).

Without a stay, the state trial court will proceed to divide and sell the marital residence. That division will be irreversible, rendering any subsequent relief from this Court advisory and moot.

III. SUBSTANTIAL QUESTIONS PRESENTED AND LIKELIHOOD OF CERTIORARI

A. The Circuit Split on Younger Abstention and Bad Faith

The Sixth Circuit's application of Younger abstention in this case entrenches a direct conflict with this Court's precedent and the law of other circuits.

1. Conflict with Sprint Communications: This Court held unanimously that Younger abstention is limited to three specific categories: (1) state criminal prosecutions; (2) civil enforcement proceedings akin to criminal prosecutions; and (3) civil proceedings uniquely in furtherance of state courts' judicial functions (such as contempt). *Sprint*, 571 U.S. at 78-79. A private divorce proceeding does not fall within any of these categories. The Sixth Circuit's application of Younger here directly contravenes *Sprint*.

2. Conflict with Other Circuits: The Ninth Circuit has strictly adhered to *Sprint*, recognizing that "Younger abstention is an extraordinary and narrow exception to the general rule that federal courts have no more right to decline the exercise of jurisdiction which is given, than to usurp that which is not given." *Cook v. Harding*, 879 F.3d 1035, 1039 (9th Cir. 2018). The Third Circuit has similarly applied *Sprint*'s three-category limitation strictly. See *Borowski v. Kean Univ.*, 68 F.4th 844, 849 (3d Cir. 2023). The Sixth Circuit's broader application of Younger to this private divorce matter cannot be reconciled with these precedents.

3. Conflict Regarding the Bad Faith Exception: Even if Younger were applicable, the state proceedings here were initiated through a warrantless arrest predicated on a deliberately false police report and are being conducted by a trial judge who has admitted to "faulty recall" and apologized for the handling of the case. This Court has held that Younger does not bar federal intervention where state proceedings are brought in bad faith or with an intent to harass. *Gibson*, 411 U.S. at 577-79. The Sixth Circuit's refusal to recognize this exception in the face of documented evidence creates a conflict with this Court's precedent.

B. Due Process Violations and Objective Judicial Bias

The state trial judge's conduct further establishes the "extraordinary circumstances" exception to Younger. The judge has:

- Admitted judicial error ("faulty recall") in a written order and apologized for "the manner in which it was handled";
- Excused a demonstrably false motion on the ground that "motions are not filed under oath";
- Dismissed a false police report claim on a ground not found in the governing statute;
- Characterized the concealment of the marital home title and theft of separate property as no different than moving a couch, while simultaneously ordering the return of that same property; and
- Excluded self-authenticating notarized evidence in violation of Fed. R. Evid. 902(8).

The cumulative effect of these actions demonstrates an objective probability of bias that violates the Due Process Clause. *Caperton v. A.T. Massey Coal Co.*, 556 U.S. 868, 883-86 (2009). The

Sixth Circuit's refusal to address these facts on the merits leaves Petitioner in a procedural trap where no court has adjudicated his constitutional claims.

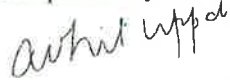
C. Good Cause for a Stay

A stay is necessary to preserve the status quo. Without a stay, the state court will order the sale of the marital home, rendering any relief from this Court moot. A temporary stay ensures that this Court's review is meaningful.

IV. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that this Court grant a stay of all proceedings in Neera Uppal v. Rohit Uppal, Knox County Fourth Circuit Court, Case No. 159500, including any order for the sale, transfer, or encumbrance of the marital residence at 7922 Knowledge Lane, Knoxville, Tennessee, pending the filing and full disposition of the Petition for a Writ of Certiorari and any subsequent proceedings on remand in Petitioner's claims under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

Respectfully submitted,

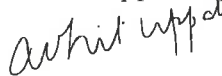


Rohit Uppal, Pro Se
7922 Knowledge Lane
Knoxville, TN
Email: ruppal45@gmail.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Rohit Uppal, the Petitioner pro se, hereby certify that on the date indicated below, I hereby certify that on April 22, 2026, I served a copy of this Emergency Application for a Stay to the Respondent by email addressed as follows:

Neera Uppal (Pro Se Respondent)
Email: nuppal40@gmail.com



Rohit Uppal, Petitioner Pro Se
7922 Knowledge Lane, Knoxville, TN 37938

IN THE FOURTH CIRCUIT COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

NEERA,
Plaintiff,
v
ROHIT UPPAL,
Defendant.
Case No. 159500

NOTICE OF FILING OF PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI AND MOTION TO STAY PROCEEDINGS PENDING SUPREME COURT IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS ON REMAND IN DEFENDANT'S CLAIMS UNDER 42 U.S.C. SECTION, 1983 DISPOSITION

Defendant Rohit Uppal, pro se, respectfully notifies this Court and moves as follows.

1. Notice of Supreme Court Filing.

Defendant will file a Petition for Writ of Certiorari with the United States Supreme Court, within next few days, seeking review of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit's order in *In re Uppal*, No. 25-5639 (6th Cir. Dec. 3, 2025), which affirmed abstention under *Younger v. Harris*, 401 U.S. 37 (1971).

2. Motion to Stay All Proceedings.

Defendant respectfully moves this Court for Stay to preserve the status quo and prevent the sale of the marital residence pending disposition of Petition for Writ of Certiorari. Maintain a stay of all proceedings in Knox County Fourth Circuit Court, Case No. 159500, including any trial, property division hearing, order for sale, transfer, or encumbrance of the marital residence at 7922 Knowledge Lane, Knoxville, Tennessee, pending the filing and full disposition of Defendant's Petition for Writ of Certiorari and any subsequent proceedings on remand in Defendant's claims under 42 U.S.C. Section 1983, to preserve the status quo.

3. Grounds for Stay.

A stay is warranted for the following reasons:

- The Supreme Court petition raises substantial federal constitutional questions concerning due process and judicial bias that directly affect these proceedings
- Defendant has simultaneously filed an Emergency Application for Stay with Justice Brett Kavanaugh as Circuit Justice for the Sixth Circuit
- Without a stay, the marital residence may be sold and property division finalized before the Supreme Court has an opportunity to consider the petition, rendering any relief from the Supreme Court meaningless and causing irreparable harm
- Defendant has been deprived of his separate property since March 21, 2024 and the marital home title has been *concealed*, causing ongoing prejudice
- A temporary stay preserves the status quo and causes no prejudice to Plaintiff, who remains in possession of the marital residence

4. The Court Has Inherent Authority to Stay.

This Court has inherent authority to stay its own proceedings where a higher court filing is pending and where continued proceedings would cause irreparable harm. A brief stay pending Supreme Court disposition is a routine exercise of that authority.

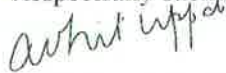
WHEREFORE, Defendant respectfully requests that this Court:

1. Take notice of the filing of the Petition for Writ of Certiorari with the United States Supreme Court

marital residence, pending the filing and full disposition of the Petition for Writ of Certiorari and any subsequent proceedings on remand in Defendant's claims under 42 U.S.C. Section 1983, to preserve the status quo and prevent rendering moot of any relief this Court may grant.

3. Set a status conference within 45 days of the Supreme Court's disposition of the petition
4. Grant such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,



Rohit Uppal, Pro Se
7922 Knowledge Lane
Knoxville, TN 37938
Email: ruppallul@gmail.com

Dated: April 16, 2026

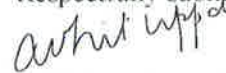
Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that I served a copy of the foregoing Notice of Filing of Petition for Writ of Certiorari and Motion to Stay Proceedings Pending full disposition of Defendant's Petition for Writ of Certiorari and any subsequent proceedings on remand in Defendant's claims under 42 U.S.C. Section 1983 upon the following individuals by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid or by EMail or delivered by hand:

Neera
nuppall40@gmail.com
X EMail
Served on: April ..17..., 2026

Hon. Gregory S. McMillan
Fourth Circuit Court for Knox County
City County Building, 400 Main St
Knoxville, TN 37902
X Delivered by hand
Served on: April ..16..., 2026

Respectfully submitted,



Rohit Uppal, Pro Se
7922 Knowledge Ln. Knoxville, TN,
Executed on: April ..16..., 2026

FILED
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

ROHIT UPPAL,
Defendant/Respondent

2025 JUL 24 AM 9:15

KNOX COUNTY
FOURTH CIRCUIT COURT
CLERK

NEERA UPPAL,
Plaintiff/Petitioner

**MOTION TO STAY DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS PENDING RESOLUTION OF
RELATED CRIMINAL MATTERS AND MOTION TO APPOINT FORENSIC
ACCOUNTANT AND DIGITAL INVESTIGATOR**

COMES NOW the Respondent, Rohit Uppal, pro se, and respectfully moves this Honorable Court, the Fourth Circuit Court for Knox County, Tennessee, to stay all proceedings in the above-captioned divorce case pending the resolution of three serious criminal allegations involving the Petitioner, Neera Uppal.

The Defendant, Rohit Uppal, and respectfully moves this Honorable Court on an emergency basis to appoint

- (1) A forensic accountant to investigate the fraudulent transfer of marital assets, and
- (2) A digital forensic expert to investigate identity theft involving the unauthorized use of Defendant's personal information.

In support thereof, Respondent states as follows:

1. The Petitioner, Neera Uppal, has been named in three criminal complaints involving: (a) filing of a false police report leading to wrongful arrest (Dec 2023), (b) fraudulent transfer of marital assets seven (7) days prior to filing for divorce (Mar 21, 2024), and (c) identity theft involving Respondent's financial and digital accounts (July 2024). These allegations were formally submitted to this Honorable Court on four occasions: May 2, 2024; December 19, 2024; February 10, 2025; and April 21, 2025. To the best of Respondent's knowledge, no action has yet been taken in response to these submissions.
2. These matters are materially related to the pending divorce proceedings, particularly with respect to credibility, equitable division of marital property, and potential misuse of legal process. The complaints have also been filed with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Office of the Tennessee Attorney General.
3. Tennessee courts recognize that proceedings may be stayed where parallel criminal proceedings bear directly on material issues in civil matters. See *Helton v. Lawson*, 649 S.W.2d 682 (Tenn. Ct. App. 1982); *Keisling v. Keisling*, No. E2003-03068-COA-R3-CV (Tenn. Ct. App.

2005) (affirming court's discretion to delay ruling in divorce where fraud allegations warranted further examination).

4. The integrity of this Court's process, as well as the equitable resolution of the divorce, requires that the aforementioned criminal allegations be fully resolved before this Court can assess matters including property division, spousal conduct, and evidentiary credibility.

5. Furthermore, proceeding with the divorce in the interim risks irreparable harm and prejudice to the Respondent, who has already suffered unlawful arrest and dispossession due to Petitioner's misconduct.

Supplemental Statement Regarding Criminal Complaint Submissions and Delivery Confirmations

6. In further support of this Motion, Respondent affirms that the aforementioned criminal complaints were not only submitted to this Honorable Court, but also formally dispatched to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Office of the Tennessee Attorney General via trackable mail. These submissions were made in good faith and in pursuit of lawful remedy.

7. Delivery of each complaint was confirmed through USPS and FedEx tracking receipts, which are attached hereto as Exhibits 4 through 6. These receipts establish that the respective agencies received the materials regarding the Respondent's allegations concerning false police reporting, fraudulent transfer of marital assets, and identity theft.

Legal Authority and Precedent Supporting Stay of Civil Proceedings Pending Criminal Resolution

8. It is well established that courts have inherent authority to stay civil proceedings pending resolution of parallel criminal matters where the outcome of the criminal process may bear directly on the issues raised in the civil case. In *Helton v. Lawson*, 649 S.W.2d 682, 684 (Tenn. Ct. App. 1982), the Tennessee Court of Appeals affirmed the propriety of staying a civil case pending a criminal prosecution, holding that "[t]he trial court may exercise discretion to stay civil proceedings where the interests of justice so require, particularly where the issues in the civil case may be influenced by the outcome of criminal proceedings." This principle is rooted in fundamental fairness and judicial efficiency, ensuring that civil discovery is not abused to gain premature access to evidence in a criminal investigation and that a party's right against self-incrimination is preserved. See also *United States v. Kordel*, 397 U.S. 1, 12 (1970).

9. In divorce actions involving serious allegations of fraud, misconduct, or criminal behavior, Tennessee courts have also recognized the necessity of delay to prevent miscarriage of justice. In *Keisling v. Keisling*, No. E2003-03068-COA-R3-CV, 2005 WL 639134 (Tenn. Ct. App. Mar. 16, 2005), the Court upheld the trial court's discretion in delaying equitable distribution until resolution of related allegations of fraud and bad faith transfers. Similarly, federal courts applying abstention principles under *Colorado River Water Conservation District v. United States*, 424 U.S.

800 (1976), have emphasized the need to avoid piecemeal litigation and conflicting outcomes between civil and criminal courts. Where, as here, the civil case implicates criminal conduct directly tied to asset concealment, identity fraud, and abuse of process, proceeding without prior resolution of the criminal matters would fundamentally prejudice Respondent and undermine the integrity of the divorce proceedings.

WHEREFORE, Respondent respectfully requests that this Honorable Court grant this Motion to Stay all further proceedings in this divorce case until the conclusion of the following matters:

- (a) Resolution of the criminal complaint concerning the false police report and wrongful arrest;
- (b) Determination regarding the fraudulent transfer of marital assets by appointing a qualified forensic accountant to trace and evaluate the transfer of marital assets;
- (c) Investigation and findings concerning identity theft allegations by appointing a digital forensic expert to investigate Plaintiff's alleged unauthorized use of Defendant's identity;

This motion is filed without waiving any jurisdictional objections, as the Defendant's Writ of Mandamus remains pending before the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature: _____

Rohit Uppal

Rohit Uppal

7922, Knowledge Ln., Knoxville, TN - 37938

Email Address: ruppallul@gmail.com

Date: July 24, 2025

EXHIBITS:

Exhibit 1: Screenshot of text message showing false police report motive (Already on file)

Exhibit 2: Bank statement showing unauthorized asset transfer ((Already on file)

Exhibit 3: Email chain showing unauthorized access to digital accounts (Already on file)

Exhibit 4: FedEx Receipt confirming delivery of criminal complaint package to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), dated Jun 5, 2025.

Exhibit 5: USPS tracking confirmation showing delivery of complaint to the Tennessee Attorney General's Office, dated July 14, 2025.

Exhibit 6: FedEx Receipt showing delivery of complaint to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI), dated Jun 5, 2025.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Motion has been served upon to all counsel for parties at interest in this cause by placing a copy of same in United States mail, postage prepaid, in a properly addressed envelope, or by delivering each such attorney as follows:

Ms. Neera

nuppal40@gmail.com

X EMail

Served on: July 25, 2025

Hon. Gregory S. McMillan


Fourth Circuit Court for Knox County

City County Building, Knoxville, TN 37902

X Delivered by hand

Served on: July 24, 2025

Respectfully submitted,



Rohit Uppal,

7922 Knowledge Ln. Knoxville, TN

IN THE FOURTH CIRCUIT COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Ms. NEERA,)
Petitioner,)
v.) No. F-24-159500
ROHIT UPPAL,)
Respondent.)

DEFENDANT'S COMPREHENSIVE SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO
PETITIONER'S SUPPLEMENT TO MOTION FOR TEMPORARY INJUNCTION AND ASSET
PRESERVATION

COMES NOW the Defendant, Rohit Uppal, pro se, and respectfully files this Comprehensive Supplemental Response in Opposition to Petitioner's Supplement to Motion for Temporary Injunction and Asset Preservation. In support thereof, Defendant states as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

Petitioner's Supplement to her Motion for Temporary Injunction is factually misleading, legally deficient, and procedurally improper. It seeks an asset freeze based on incomplete information, mischaracterizes Defendant's actions, and fails to meet the legal standards required for injunctive relief under Rule 65 of the Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure.

Critically, Petitioner omits the fact that Defendant has already sought Court approval for the \$8,000 withdrawal via his Emergency Motion filed March 17, 2026—a motion that remains pending before this Court. Petitioner's Supplement creates a false narrative of secretive conduct when, in truth, Defendant has acted transparently and in full compliance with the statutory "necessities of life" exception.

Moreover, Petitioner seeks equitable relief while coming to this Court with unclean hands. She has herself engaged in far greater dissipation and fraudulent concealment: multiple international trips to India after separation costing may be more than three to five times the total dating service expenses (which occurred more than one year after filing); fraudulent transfer of valuable assets (including Title of the Home and Defendant's separate property) from a jointly owned safe box just seven days before filing for divorce; and failure to disclose those assets in her List of Assets filed on November 4, 2024. These actions constitute dissipation, concealment, and fraud on the court—barring her from seeking an injunction.

II. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

1. On March 17, 2026, Defendant filed an Emergency Motion for Interim Relief, Request for Authorization to Withdraw Lump Sum from 401(k) Account for Necessary Living Expenses (hereinafter "Defendant's Emergency Motion"), seeking Court approval for a net withdrawal of \$8,000 for basic living expenses. That motion is still pending before this Court.
2. In his Emergency Motion, Defendant explicitly disclosed that a withdrawal had already occurred and sought retroactive Court authorization. (See Defendant's Emergency Motion filed March 17, 2026).
3. Petitioner's Supplement, filed March 30 or 31, 2026, fails to acknowledge the existence of Defendant's pending Emergency Motion, instead suggesting that Defendant acted without disclosure or Court oversight. This omission is material.
4. The trial in this matter is scheduled for May 11, 2026—just over one month away. However, due to the repeated delays caused by Petitioner's interpreter unavailability, Defendant has been unable to obtain rulings on several pending motions, necessitating a continuance of the trial date.

III. FACTUAL RESPONSES TO PETITIONER'S ALLEGATIONS

Petitioner's Allegation-Defendant's Response

"Respondent has already withdrawn \$8,000 from a retirement account" ADMITTED. However, Petitioner fails to disclose that Defendant has sought Court approval for this withdrawal via his Emergency Motion

3. Petitioner's Supplement, filed March 30 or 31, 2026, fails to acknowledge the existence of Defendant's pending Emergency Motion, instead suggesting that Defendant acted without disclosure or Court oversight. This omission is material.

4. The trial in this matter is scheduled for May 11, 2026 — just over one month away. However, due to the repeated delays caused by Petitioner's interpreter unavailability, Defendant has been unable to obtain rulings on several pending motions, necessitating a continuance of the trial date.

III. FACTUAL RESPONSES TO PETITIONER'S ALLEGATIONS

Petitioner's Allegation Defendant's Response

"Respondent has already withdrawn \$8,000 from a retirement account" ADMITTED. However, Petitioner fails to disclose that Defendant has sought Court approval for this withdrawal via his Emergency Motion filed March 17, 2026.

"Respondent is now seeking Court approval for withdrawals he has already undertaken, suggesting an attempt to retroactively justify depletion" DENIED. Seeking Court approval for necessary living expenses is the exact procedure contemplated by Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-4-106(d)(1)(A). It demonstrates transparency, not bad faith.

"Respondent has made additional deposits into accounts" ADMITTED. However, Petitioner offers no evidence linking these deposits to marital misconduct or dissipation.

"Respondent's spending includes dating-related services" DENIED AS MISLEADING. **These expenses occurred more than one year after Petitioner filed for divorce** (filed March 28, 2024). Defendant never used dating services during the marriage. These expenses were incurred after the marriage had irretrievably broken down, as Defendant attempted to move on with his life. Under Tennessee law, post-separation expenditures for reasonable activities are not dissipation, particularly when de minimis. **Moreover, Petitioner cannot complain about these expenses while she may have spent more than THREE to FIVE times that amount on international travel to India after legally separated in at least three trips and fraudulently concealed from the Court. The doctrine of unclean hands bars her from selectively objecting to Defendant's minimal post-separation spending while concealing her own far greater dissipation.**

Additional Disclosure Regarding the \$8,000 Withdrawal: Defendant further discloses that a portion of the withdrawn funds — \$1,916.92 and \$148.75 — was used to pay property taxes on the marital home after Defendant received a tax notice, and Fourth Circuit court fees, respectively. Defendant had no other source of funds to pay these taxes and fees. **Paying property taxes on the marital home is not dissipation; it preserves the marital asset for both parties and falls squarely within the "necessities of life" exception to the automatic injunction.** Mizell v. Mizell, No. W2017-00564-COA-R3-CV, 2018 WL 1832867, at *6 (Tenn. Ct. App. Apr. 17, 2018) (payment of property taxes and mortgage from marital funds is not dissipation). This disclosure demonstrates Defendant's good faith effort to preserve, not dissipate, the marital estate.

---IV. PETITIONER'S OWN CONDUCT CONSTITUTES FAR GREATER DISSIPATION AND CONCEALMENT

A. Petitioner's Multiple International Trips to India Constitute Dissipation of Marital Assets

Petitioner has traveled to India at least three times in the past two years. These trips occurred after separation — unlike Defendant's dating expenses, which occurred more than one year after filing. These international trips — including airfare and associated expenses — may have cost more than three to five times the total amount Defendant spent on dating services and fraudulently concealed from the Court.

Petitioner's India trips therefore represent dissipation of marital assets many times greater than the expenses she now objects to.

Under Tennessee law, dissipation includes spending marital funds on "extravagant gifts or vacations." *Larsen-Ball v. Ball*, 301 S.W.3d 228, 232 (Tenn. 2010) (dissipation occurs when spouse "wastes marital property" or uses funds "for a purpose unrelated to the marriage"). International travel — particularly when one spouse claims financial hardship and seeks to freeze the other spouse's assets — is quintessential dissipation. **Petitioner cannot, in equity, accuse Defendant of spending on dating services more than one year after the marriage ended while she may have spent many times that amount on wasteful international travel after separation.**

B. Petitioner Fraudulently Transferred Assets from Jointly Owned Safe Box Seven Days Before Filing for Divorce

Most critically, approximately seven days prior to filing her Complaint for Divorce (filed March 28, 2024), Petitioner removed valuable assets from a jointly owned safe box without Defendant's knowledge or consent. These assets include:

- **Title of home (marital property)**
- **Defendant's separate property (including gold rings and watches)**

Petitioner failed to disclose these assets in the list of marital assets filed with the Court on November 4, 2024. This constitutes concealment of marital assets.

Tennessee law is clear: "Tennessee law does recognize fraud on the court when marital assets are intentionally hidden during a divorce." The Tennessee Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act provides mechanisms for identifying fraudulent transfers and recovering concealed assets. Moreover, the statutory injunction triggered by the filing of a divorce complaint explicitly forbids "transferring, assigning, borrowing against, concealing, dissipating or disposing without the other party's consent any marital property."

Petitioner's pre-filing transfer of assets from the jointly owned safe box — occurring just days before she invoked the court's jurisdiction — is a textbook violation of her duties under Tennessee law. A transfer made "with intent to deprive" a spouse of their share of marital property may be set aside as fraudulent. *Norma Simpson v. Faye Fowler*, No. E2011-02611-COA-R3-CV (Tenn. Ct. App. Aug. 28, 2012).

Petitioner Concealed marital property must be brought before the court so that the marital estate can be divided as Tennessee law requires. Petitioner's failure to disclose these assets in her November 4, 2024 filing is a separate and independent violation of her disclosure obligations.

C. Petitioner Has Contributed NOTHING Toward Maintenance, Preservation, or Taxes on the Marital Property

Notwithstanding her claim that Defendant's withdrawal from the 401(k) threatens the marital estate, Petitioner has not spent one penny on the maintenance, preservation, or property taxes of the marital home. She has contributed NOTHING toward:

- **Property taxes (which Defendant paid \$1,916.92);**
- **Repairs or upkeep of the home;**
- **Utilities or other carrying costs.**

Under Tennessee law, both spouses have a duty to preserve marital assets pending equitable division. A party who contributes nothing toward preserving the marital home while seeking to freeze the other party's only source of funds for such necessities is acting in bad faith. See, e.g., *Crabtree v. Crabtree*, No. M2007-00369-COA-R3-CV, 2008 WL 442594, at *5 (Tenn. Ct. App. Feb. 14, 2008) (court may consider parties' relative contributions to preservation of marital property in dividing assets). **Petitioner's complete failure to contribute to the preservation of the marital home further demonstrates that her request for an asset freeze is not motivated by a good-faith desire to protect the marital estate, but rather to deprive Defendant of the means to maintain the home and meet basic necessities.**

C. Pending Criminal Charges Further Support Denial of Petitioner's Request

Defendant has filed four unresolved criminal charges against Petitioner, which are currently pending before the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in Defendant's Petition for Rehearing and Rehearing En Banc (Case No. 25-5639). These charges include:

- **Fraudulent Transfer (relating to the safe box assets)**
- **Fraud on the Court**
- **Identity Theft**
- **FPR (False Police Report)**

These charges have been pending for approximately 121 days without resolution. The existence of these serious allegations further undermines Petitioner's credibility and her ability to seek equitable relief from this Court. A party who has engaged in fraudulent conduct cannot simultaneously invoke the court's equitable powers.

V. LEGAL ARGUMENT

A. Petitioner Has Failed to Establish a Prima Facie Case of Dissipation

Under Tennessee law, the party alleging dissipation bears the initial burden of establishing a prima facie case that marital funds have been dissipated. *Pair v. Pair*, No. M2014-00659-COA-R3-CV, 2015 WL 3755222, at *5 (Tenn. Ct. App. June 15, 2015). The burden is not satisfied by "arguing that 'since he or she does not know how the money was spent, dissipation must have occurred.'" *Id.*

Petitioner has presented no evidence that Defendant's \$8,000 withdrawal was used for anything other than basic living expenses. She has offered no sworn testimony and no authenticated financial records demonstrating frivolous or wasteful spending. Her claim of dissipation is therefore speculative and insufficient as a matter of law.

If Petitioner wishes to pursue a dissipation claim, the burden will shift to Defendant only after Petitioner establishes a prima facie case. *Trezevant v. Trezevant*, 568 S.W.3d 595, 617 (Tenn. Ct. App. 2018). Because Petitioner has failed to make a prima facie showing, her dissipation claim fails.

B. Withdrawals for Necessities of Life Are Not Dissipation

The automatic injunction under Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-4-106(d)(1)(A) expressly prohibits transfers or dispositions of marital property "**except in the usual course of business or for the necessities of life**" (emphasis added). Defendant is unemployed and without income. Basic living expenses — housing, food, utilities, medical care, taxes — are neither frivolous nor unrelated to the marriage.

As the Tennessee Court of Appeals has held, "dissipation occurs when one spouse uses marital property 'frivolously and without justification, for a purpose unrelated to the marriage.'" *Altman v. Altman*, 181 S.W.3d 676, 682 (Tenn. Ct. App. 2005). Food and shelter are not frivolous.

C. Petitioner Cannot Seek Equitable Relief With Unclean Hands

The doctrine of unclean hands bars a party from seeking equitable relief when that party has engaged in misconduct related to the subject matter of the litigation. Petitioner's fraudulent transfer of assets from the jointly owned safe box — occurring just days before filing for divorce — and her failure to disclose those assets in her List of Marital Assets constitute precisely the type of misconduct that bars equitable relief.

The concealment of assets is a direct violation of the automatic statutory injunction and warrants denial of Petitioner's requested injunction.

D. Petitioner Has Not Shown Irreparable Harm as Required Under Rule 65

Petitioner seeks a temporary injunction freezing Defendant's retirement assets. Under Tennessee Rule of Civil Procedure 65.04(2), a temporary injunction may be granted only if "the movant's rights are being or will be violated by an adverse party and the movant will suffer immediate and irreparable injury, loss or damage pending a final judgment in the action." Tenn. R. Civ. P. 65.04(2).

Petitioner has shown no immediate or irreparable injury. The trial is scheduled for May 11, 2026—just

over one month away. Any claimed injury can be remedied through the equitable distribution of marital property at trial. Monetary harm, by definition, is not irreparable when it can be compensated through a monetary award. See, e.g., *State v. Beaty*, No. 03A01-9607-CV-00229, 1997 WL 288635, at *2 (Tenn. Ct. App. June 2, 1997) (injunctive relief requires showing that monetary damages would be inadequate).

Moreover, the doctrine of laches bars Petitioner's requested relief. Petitioner filed her original Motion for Temporary Injunction on February 17, 2026—nearly seven weeks ago. Her own delays, including the unavailability of her interpreter, caused the hearing to be rescheduled multiple times. She cannot now claim "immediate and irreparable harm" when she has sat on her rights for nearly two months.

E. The Requested Asset Freeze Is Overbroad and Improper

Petitioner requests that Empower Retirement be ordered to "freeze" Defendant's 401(k) account. This relief is grossly overbroad. A 401(k) account is the only liquid asset available to Defendant for living expenses. Freezing it entirely would leave Defendant without any means to pay for housing, food, medical care, or taxes—precisely the situation the "necessities of life" exception was designed to prevent.

Furthermore, Tennessee courts have recognized that "injunctions must be narrowly tailored to prevent the specific harm alleged." *Doe v. Doe*, No. M2010-02235-COA-R3-CV, 2011 WL 4825867, at *6 (Tenn. Ct. App. Oct. 11, 2011) (quashing overbroad restraining order provisions). A complete freeze of Defendant's 401(k) is not narrowly tailored; it is a nuclear option that would cause Defendant severe hardship.

F. The Dating-Related Expenditures Are De Minimis, Occurred Long After Separation, and Are Outweighed by Petitioner's Own Conduct

Petitioner's inclusion of dating-related expenditures from March 2025 and September 2025–January 2026 — **more than one year after she filed for divorce** — is an attempt to prejudice the Court. However, these expenditures are legally insignificant for several reasons.

First, under Tennessee law, dissipation is typically measured from the date of separation or the filing of the complaint. *Mizell v. Mizell*, No. W2017-00564-COA-R3-CV, 2018 WL 1832867, at *6 (Tenn. Ct. App. Apr. 17, 2018) (noting that expenditures after separation are scrutinized differently than those during the marriage). While post-separation spending can still constitute dissipation if it is frivolous and intended to deprive the other spouse, de minimis expenditures for social activities — especially more than one year after filing — do not rise to that level.

Second, the total amount at issue is **de minimis compared to the marital estate and compared to Petitioner's own spending on international travel**. Tennessee courts have held that trivial expenditures do not warrant dissipation findings. See, e.g., *Sullivan v. Sullivan*, No. M2008-02280-COA-R3-CV, 2010 WL 748179, at *8 (Tenn. Ct. App. Mar. 4, 2010) (court declined to find dissipation where amounts were relatively small).

Third, Defendant never used dating services during the marriage. These expenses were incurred after the marriage had irretrievably broken down, as Defendant attempted to move on with his life. Petitioner cannot reasonably expect Defendant to remain in suspended animation indefinitely while divorce

litigation drags on for years — **especially when Petitioner herself has traveled internationally multiple times.**

Fourth, **Petitioner's reliance on these expenses is hypocritical given her own conduct. She may have spent more than three to five times that amount on international travel to India after separation and fraudulently concealed from the Court.** A party who has engaged in far greater dissipation cannot seek to penalize the other party for minimal, post-separation expenditures.

Accordingly, these dating-related expenses do not support Petitioner's request for an asset freeze and should be disregarded by the Court.

Petitioner's inclusion of dating-related expenditures in her Supplement appears designed to prejudice the Court against Defendant. Critically, Petitioner has not explained why this Court should consider expenditures from March 2025 (nearly 13 months ago) as evidence of ongoing dissipation requiring emergency relief with trial only one month away.

G. Petitioner Cannot Show Likelihood of Success on the Merits

To obtain a temporary injunction, Petitioner must demonstrate a likelihood of success on the merits of her underlying claim. Tenn. R. Civ. P. 65.04(2). She cannot do so.

First, her dissipation claim fails as a matter of law because the \$8,000 withdrawal falls squarely within the "necessities of life" exception. Second, she has not complied with her own discovery obligations, making any claim of irreparable harm self-inflicted. Third, the automatic injunction has been in effect since March 28, 2024—over two years—and Petitioner has presented no evidence that Defendant has violated its terms. Her speculation about "further withdrawal" does not constitute a likelihood of success.

VI. THE TRIAL DATE SHOULD BE CONTINUED UNTIL THE SIXTH CIRCUIT REHEARING PETITION IS RESOLVED

Defendant has pending before the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit a Petition for Rehearing and Rehearing En Banc, Case No. 25-5639, which has been pending for approximately 121 days. That petition directly challenges matters affecting this Court's proceedings, including the recusal of the Fourth Circuit Court judge.

Proceeding to trial on May 11, 2026 while the Sixth Circuit petition remains unresolved creates a substantial risk of inconsistent rulings, unnecessary expenditure of judicial resources, and prejudice to Defendant. The trial court has broad discretion to grant a continuance in the interest of justice, including when related federal proceedings are pending.

Applicable Law and Precedent:

- Landis v. North American Co., 299 U.S. 248, 254-55 (1936) (the power to stay proceedings is "incidental to the power inherent in every court to control the disposition of the causes on its docket with

economy of time and effort for itself, for counsel, and for litigants").

- Clinton v. Jones, 520 U.S. 681, 706-07 (1997) (district court has discretion to stay civil proceedings pending resolution of related matters).

- State v. McKenry, No. M2015-01387-CCA-R3-CD, 2016 WL 4540855, at *3 (Tenn. Crim. App. Aug. 30, 2016) ("The trial court has wide discretion in granting or denying continuances, and its decision will not be reversed absent an abuse of discretion.").

- In re Estate of Baird, No. M2010-01129-COA-R3-CV, 2011 WL 3294939, at *5 (Tenn. Ct. App. Aug. 1, 2011) (trial court may continue a case in the interest of justice when circumstances warrant).

- State v. Carney, No. 03C01-9707-CR-00283, 1998 WL 743700, at *3 (Tenn. Crim. App. Oct. 26, 1998) (continuance properly granted pending resolution of related proceeding in another court).

Fundamental fairness requires that Defendant not be forced to trial while a higher federal court considers issues that could materially affect the state court proceedings. Defendant therefore requests that the trial be continued to a date after the Sixth Circuit issues a final ruling on his Petition for Rehearing and Rehearing En Banc, or until such further time as the Court deems just.

VII. DEFENDANT RENEWS HIS REQUEST FOR A CONTINUANCE OF THE TRIAL DATE DUE TO REPEATED DELAYS CAUSED BY PETITIONER'S INTERPRETER UNAVAILABILITY

The current trial date of May 11, 2026 does not allow Defendant adequate time to prepare or to obtain rulings on his several pending motions, which have been delayed for months due to circumstances entirely caused by Petitioner.

As documented in Defendant's prior filings (including his Response in Opposition filed April 2, 2026, and the exhibits attached thereto):

· On February 13, 2025, Judicial Assistant Rachel King informed the parties that the March 14, 2025 hearing had to be reset because the Hindi interpreter was unavailable. Ms. King stated: "I cannot find another Hindi interpreter in or around Knoxville. Would April 25th work for you?" (Exhibit B to Defendant's April 2 Response). This caused a delay of over two and a half months from Defendant's February 10, 2025 motion filing.

· In March, 2026, the interpreter notified the Court that he was unavailable first for the March 6, 2026, and then, March 27, 2026 hearing. (Exhibit C).

· On March 26, 2026, Ms. King informed Defendant that the March 27 hearing was being rescheduled to April 24, 2026. (Exhibit D).

These delays are solely attributable to Petitioner, who is the party requiring the interpreter. Defendant has been ready to proceed at every scheduled hearing and has repeatedly objected to the continuances. (See Defendant's February 16, 2025 email, Exhibit E: "**Please note that it would be two and half months after the filing date.**")

Due to these delays, several of Defendant's motions remain pending without having been heard, including but not limited to:

- Defendant's motion filed February 10, 2025 (delayed by the interpreter unavailability);
- Defendant's Emergency Motion for Interim Relief filed March 17, 2026 (impacted by the March 2026 interpreter cancellation);
- Defendant's Motion to Object to Repeated Continuances, Continue Trial, and Quash Restraining Order filed March 26, 2026.

Tennessee Rule of Civil Procedure 40.01 grants the Court discretion to continue a trial to prevent unfair disadvantage. *Sims v. State*, 1988 Tenn. App. LEXIS 456 (holding that proceeding without adequate preparation due to delays violates due process). **A continuance is necessary here because the repeated rescheduling of hearings — through no fault of Defendant — has disrupted Defendant's ability to prepare for trial, preserve evidence, and respond to pending motions.**

Furthermore, the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and Article I, Section 8 of the Tennessee Constitution guarantee every litigant a meaningful opportunity to be heard at a meaningful time and in a meaningful manner. *Mathews v. Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319, 333 (1976). Being forced to proceed to trial while several of Defendant's motions remain unresolved — motions that were delayed by Petitioner's interpreter issues — would violate Defendant's fundamental right to due process.

Defendant therefore respectfully renews his request, previously made in his March 26, 2026 Motion, that the trial date be continued to a fair date that allows:

- The Court to hear and rule on Defendant's pending motions;
- Defendant adequate time to prepare for trial after those rulings; and
- Both parties an equal opportunity to present their cases without prejudice from the delays.

VIII. CONCLUSION AND REQUEST FOR RELIEF

For the foregoing reasons, Defendant respectfully requests that this Court:

1. DENY Petitioner's Supplement to Motion for Temporary Injunction and Asset Preservation in its entirety;
2. DENY Petitioner's request for an asset freeze on Defendant's 401(k) account;
3. GRANT Defendant's pending Emergency Motion for Interim Relief, filed March 17, 2026, authorizing Defendant to withdraw a net amount of \$8,000 from his 401(k) account for necessary living expenses;
4. GRANT Defendant's request for a continuance of the trial date (currently set for May 11, 2026) to a fair date that permits the Court to hear Defendant's pending motions and allows Defendant adequate time to

prepare for trial following those rulings;

5. ORDER Petitioner to produce a full accounting of all assets removed from the jointly owned safe box prior to the filing of the Complaint for Divorce, including title of home, gold, jewelry, watches, and other valuable property;

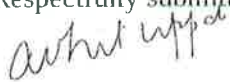
6. ORDER Petitioner to amend her November 4, 2024 financial disclosure to include all assets removed from the safe box and all expenditures related to her international travel to India;

7. ORDER that Defendant's payment of \$1,916.92 toward property taxes shall be credited to him in the equitable distribution of marital property;

8. In the alternative, ORDER that any withdrawal from Defendant's 401(k) account pending trial shall be subject to full accounting at the final hearing, with appropriate credit or offset to Petitioner in the equitable distribution; and

9. Grant such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,



Rohit Uppal, Pro Se Defendant
7922 Knowledge Ln., Knoxville, TN 37938
ruppalul@gmail.com
Dated: April 16, 2026

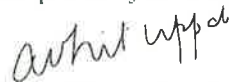
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 16th day of April, 2026, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Defendant's Comprehensive Supplemental Response in Opposition to Petitioner's Supplement to Motion for Temporary Injunction and Asset Preservation was served upon the following:

Ms. Neera
nupal40@gmail.com
X EMail
Served on: April 17, 2026

Hon. Gregory S. McMillan
Fourth Circuit Court for Knox County
City County Building, 400 Main St
Knoxville, TN 37902
X Delivered by hand
Served on: April 16, 2026

Respectfully submitted,



Rohit Uppal, Pro Se Defendant



MIKE HAMMOND
CLERK OF THE CRIMINAL, GENERAL SESSIONS,
CRIMINAL & FOURTH CIRCUIT COURT



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Lead Plaintiff: NEERA UPPAL
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Event: TRIAL (TRI)
Court Date: 05/11/2026 09:00:00
Docket: F-24-159500

