

26-5320

ORIGINAL

No. _____

Supreme Court, U.S.
FILED

APR 13 2026

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

IN THE

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

Linh Tran Stephens — PETITIONER

VS.

Child Support Services of Oklahoma
Department of Human Services et. al.

— RESPONDENT(S)
Without Costs/Fees

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):

— Oklahoma Supreme Court cases No. DF 128049; DF-120612→CI-120847&DF-120848; DF-120849, DF-121149→PR-121200; MA 121255; DF-121254; DF-122022

— court appointed standby counsel STATE OF OKLAHOMA vs. Linh Tran Stephens for contempt of court child support (under case No FD-2015-2228)

— Federal Court U.S. District Court Northern District of Oklahoma (Cases No. 24-CV-216-JDR-CDL)

☐ 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.

Where an indigent parent seeks review of a judgment severing her relationship with her child, the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses forbid conditioning that review on her ability to pay. *M.L.B. v. S.L.J.*, 519 U.S. 102 (1996). That is precisely this case. "There can be no equal justice where the kind of [review] a man gets depends on the amount of money he has." *Griffin v. Illinois*, 351 U.S. 12, 19 (1956). And where judicial process is the only avenue to the relief sought, a fee that closes the courthouse door is a denial of due process, not a mere inconvenience. *Boddie v. Connecticut*, 401 U.S. 371 (1971).

Without prejudice
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OFFICE OF THE CLERK
SUPREME COURT, U.S.

AFFIDAVIT OR DECLARATION Without Costs/Fees
IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED[IN FORMA PAUPERIS]

I, Linh Tran Stephens, 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	N/A due to prenup Spouse
Employment	\$ 0.00 (zero)	\$ N/A	\$ 0.00 (zero)	\$ N/A
Self-employment	\$ 0.00 (zero)	N/A	0.00 (zero)	N/A
Income from real property (such as rental income)	\$ 0.00 (zero)	\$ N/A	\$ 0.00 (zero)	\$ N/A
Interest and dividends	\$ 0.00 (zero)	\$ N/A	\$ 0.00 (zero)	\$ N/A
Gifts	\$ 0.00 (zero)	\$ N/A	\$ 0.00 (zero)	\$ N/A
Alimony	\$ 0.00 (zero)	\$ N/A	\$ 0.00 (zero)	\$ N/A
Child Support	\$ 0.00 (zero)	\$ N/A	\$ 0.00 (zero)	\$ N/A
Retirement (such as social security, pensions, annuities, insurance)	\$ 0.00 (zero)	\$ N/A	\$ 0.00 (zero)	\$ N/A
Disability (such as social security, insurance payments)	\$ 0.00 (zero)	\$ N/A	\$ 0.00 (zero)	\$ N/A
Unemployment payments	\$ 0.00 (zero)	N/A	\$ 0.00 (zero)	\$ N/A
Public-assistance (such as welfare)	\$ 0.00 (zero)	\$ N/A	\$ 0.00 (zero)	\$ N/A
Other (specify): <u>N/A</u>	\$ 0.00 (zero)	\$ N/A	\$ 0.00 (zero)	\$ N/A
Total monthly income:	\$ 0.00 (zero)	\$ N/A	\$ 0.00 (zero)	\$ N/A

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

Employer	Address	Dates of Employment	Gross monthly pay
NONE	N/A	N/A	\$ 0.00 (zero)
N/A	N/A	N/A	\$
N/A	N/A	N/A	\$

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.)

Employer	Address	Dates of Employment	Gross monthly pay
N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ N/A

4. How much cash do you and your spouse have? \$ 50 dollars or less

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
checking	\$ 0.00 (zero)	\$ N/A
N/A	\$ N/A	\$ N/A
N/A	\$ N/A	\$ N/A

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

☐ Home
Value N/A

☐ Other real estate
Value N/A

☐ Motor Vehicle #1
Year, make & model N/A
Value N/A

☐ Motor Vehicle #2
Year, make & model N/A
Value N/A

- ☒ Other assets

Description Schwab IRA Rollover acct. ending xxx2605 and other retirement accounts from another marriage was liquidated and seized unlawfully by OKDHS 05/07/2024; present balance \$0.00; ownership and lawfulness of seizure contested
Value \$0.00 (zero)

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

Person owing you or your spouse money	Amount owed to you	Amount owed to your spouse
N/A	\$ N/A	\$ N/A
N/A	\$ N/A	\$ N/A
N/A	\$ N/A	\$ N/A

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").

Name	Relationship	Age
N/A		

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)	\$ N/A	\$ N/A
Are real estate taxes included? ☐ Yes ☐ No N/A		
Is property insurance included? ☐ Yes ☐ No N/A		
Utilities (electricity, heating fuel, water, sewer, and telephone)	\$ N/A	\$ N/A
Home maintenance (repairs and upkeep)	\$ N/A	\$ N/A
Food	\$ N/A	\$ N/A
Clothing	\$ none (i wear donations)	\$ N/A
Laundry and dry-cleaning	\$ N/A	\$ N/A
Medical and dental expenses	0.00 (zero), cannot \$ afford private insurance since 10/2020 unemployment laid off no fault of my own	\$ N/A

	You	Your spouse
Transportation (not including motor vehicle payments)	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>N/A</u>
Recreation, entertainment, newspapers, magazines, etc.	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>N/A</u>
Insurance (not deducted from wages or included in mortgage payments)		
Homeowner's or renter's	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>N/A</u>
Life	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>N/A</u>
Health	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>N/A</u>
Motor Vehicle	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>N/A</u>
Other: _____	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>N/A</u>
Taxes (not deducted from wages or included in mortgage payments)		
(specify): _____	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>N/A</u>
Installment payments N/A		
Motor Vehicle	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>N/A</u>
Credit card(s)	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>N/A</u>
Department store(s)	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>N/A</u>
Other: _____	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>N/A</u>
Alimony, maintenance, and support paid to others	inability to pay the \$ <u>fraudulently alleged</u> child support	\$ <u>N/A</u>
Regular expenses for operation of business, profession, or farm (attach detailed statement)	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>N/A</u>
Other (specify): _____	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>N/A</u>
Total monthly expenses:	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>N/A</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: a pending six-month term of incarceration pursuant to the May 8, 2025 order, and an outstanding August 21, 2025 contempt citation issued by the Tulsa County District Court of Oklahoma — the lower court continues to summarily disregard Petitioner's preserved jurisdictional challenges, non-consent, and express refusal to enter into a contractual nexus.

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? N/A

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

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? N/A

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

12. Provide any other information that will help explain why you cannot pay the costs of this case.
I cannot afford this case's costs. Malicious prosecution for whistle-blowing destroyed my career; my medical license was improperly reprimanded and its renewal denied, and my practice was forced to close during a 60-day wrongful imprisonment ordered by Tulsa County District Court. From 2020 to 2021 I subsisted on \$2,000 per month in unemployment benefits from Cherokee Nation; those benefits ended, and I have had no income since. I have exhausted all credit, and passport revocation has cut off my access to family support from Vietnam. My hardship is compounded by the unlawful May 2024 seizure of the \$64,445.92 retirement of my subsequent marriage, taken by OKDHS for an obligation arising from a prior marriage; acct was liquidated in full on 05/07/2024; its present balance is \$0.00, I have no access to it and derive no income from it, and its seizure is the subject of Question Presented 7. I have debts of \$150,000 in legal fees before June 2022 and have represented myself since. I remain under contested debt of ongoing \$2,360.24/month in fraudulently-alleged child support, plus \$150/hour for "supervised visitation all of which I cannot afford. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on: July 15, 2026

without prejudice
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