IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF LAFAYETTE COUNTY MISSISSIPPI

Robert Sullivant Sr., Plaintiff	
V.	
Robert Sullivant Jr., Defendant.	
	Case No. 2021-612(W)
Robert Sullivant Jr., Third-Party Plaintiff, v.	INTERROGATORIES TO DR. FRANK PERKINS PURSUANT TO M.R.C.P 26(a)(A)(ii)
Robert Sullivant Sr. and Evelyn Stevens, Third-Party Defendants	

Defendant and Third-Party Plaintiff Robert Sullivant Jr., ("JR") requests that Dr. Frank Perkins respond to the following set of interrogatories pursuant to Miss. R. Civ. Proc. 26(a)(A)(ii), within 30-days of the date of service.

Counsel for Robert Sullivant Sr., Mr. Alford, as well as Mr. Freeland, have both asserted that Dr. Perkins is an expert witness pursuant to Miss. R. Civ. Proc. 26(a)(A)(ii), and not a court-appointed expert witness pursuant to Miss. R. Civ. Proc. 35, and Miss. R. Evid. 706, JR disagrees. However, since this is the position of both attorneys, than they must also agree that Rule 26(a)(A)(ii) applies to Dr. Perkins. It is either one or the other, Mr. Alford and Mr. Freeland do not dictate new rules for Dr. Perkins.

Therefore, JR is requesting responses to the following interrogatories per the proceeding instructions.

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. If any of these interrogatories is not substantively answered due to a claim of privilege or exemption, you are to identify with particularity the privilege or other reason for refusing to answer and to produce all information necessary to evaluate the claim of privilege, including the date of the communication or document and the subject matter thereof and the identity of all persons to whom any portion of the communication or document has been disclosed. *See* Miss. R. Civ. Proc. 26(a)(6)(A)).
- 2. If you do not know the answer to the interrogatory or to any portion thereof, state the reason or reasons that you do not have the information requested, all efforts which you have made to obtain the information, and further state the identity of any person or entity in possession of, or any location where, the desired information may or might be obtained.
- 3. If any parts of the interrogatory cannot be answered in full, please answer to the extent possible and specify the reason for your inability to answer the remainder. If the interrogatory is only partly objectionable, answer the remainder of the questions as required by these instructions.
- 4. The singular of all definitions and terms also includes the plural of such definitions and terms whenever such a change would result in any additional information being responsive to a request.
- 5. "And" and "or" should be construed either disjunctively or conjunctively as necessary to bring within the scope of these discovery requests any response that otherwise might be construed to be outside their scope.

DEFINITIONS

- 1. "**Testamentary Capacity**" refers to the ability of a person to make a valid Will.
- 2. **"Report"** refers to the medical examination report issued by you, Dr. Frank Perkins, on January 27, 2023, and attached hereto as Exhibit 1.
- 3. "IME" refers to the Independent Medical Exam of Robert Sullivant Sr.

	4.	"Plaintiff" refers to Plaintiff Robert Sullivant Sr.
	5.	"Testing" refers to any medical testing or procedure.
		INTERROGATORIES
1.	witnes	e state how many times (other than this case), that you have testified as an expert ess.
2.	Please RESP	list any publications you have authored in the past ten years. ONSE:
3.	Please RESP	state the hourly rate you charge as a medical doctor. ONSE:
4.	Please RESPO	state the number of patients currently under your care. ONSE:
5.	Please i	identify anyone who assisted in responding to these interrogatories. ONSE:
6.	Did you	examine the Plaintiff in this matter for "testamentary capacity" at his

7. If the answer to Interrogatory No. 6 is "Yes", please state why you did not include this information in your report. (Exhibit 3).

RESPONSE:

examination on January 17, 2023?

RESPONSE:

8.	If the answer to Interrogatory No. 3 is "Yes", please state when you communicated your opinion to Sr's testamentary capacity to Sr's counsel. RESPONSE:
9.	If the answer to Interrogatory No. 6 is "No", please state why you informed the court that you did examine him for such, as evidenced by the attached transcripts. RESPONSE:
	Please state the physical location where you allegedly examined the Plaintiff on the morning of and just prior to the May 9, 2023, hearing. RESPONSE:
	Are you aware that the court's order of appointment does not instruct you to examine the plaintiff for testamentary capacity? (<i>Exhibit 2</i>). RESPONSE:
(Have you examined any patient for "testamentary capacity" and formally expressed an opinion of your examination at any point in the past five years? RESPONSE:
)	Please provide your exact policy on being deposed as an expert witness that you stated you have in your testimony. (Exhibit 1 Pg numbered 31-33). RESPONSE:
14. P <u>F</u>	Please state when you created these policies on being deposed. RESPONSE:
11	Please state whether or not you have retained J. Hale Freeland to represent your interests a this matter. RESPONSE:

16. If the answer to question 15 is yes, please state what day, time of day and by what communication medium did you engage Mr. Freeland's legal representation.

RESPONSE:

17. When (date & time of day) did you contact Swayze Alford concerning the Deposition Subpoena you received on 06/05/2023?

RESPONSE:

18. In your report dated 01/27/2023, in the "Comments on Mental Health" you state in reference to SR that "He has an awareness and ability to voice his wishes but due to his impaired cognitive function does not have the capacity to consistently execute those wishes and needs. There are lucid intervals of his illness that enable him to inform those assisting with his affairs of his wishes, but due to the nature of his illness ne cannot consistently provide that direction nor appropriately engage or execute contracts." Did you mean for any part of this statement to interpreted as SR having testamentary capacity? (Exhibit 3)

RESPONSE:

19. In your report, in the Evaluation section titled "other family", you checked the box noting that the relationships were "close". Please state how you concluded that the plaintiff was "close" with "other family". (Exhibit 3)

RESPONSE:

20. Your report concludes that the plaintiff is "functionally limited" in the following areas: managing money, taking medications, managing his property, making daily living decisions; and that he struggles with both short- and long-term memory impairments, as well as being "unable to consistently provide direction off his wishes." (Exhibit 3)

Please state which, if any of these factors were considered by you, when you concluded that the plaintiff had the capacity to change his Will.

RESPONSE:

21. Pursuant to Miss. R. Civ. Proc. 26(a)(4)(i), please provide a detailed by transaction statement for all compensation you will receive and have received in this case. This disclosure is mandatory.

RESPONSE:

- 22. Do you consider yourself an independent witness in this case? (*Exhibit 2*) **RESPONSE:**
- 23. What was the purpose of your appointment to this case according to the Court's Order? (*Exhibit 2*)

RESPONSE:

DOCUMENT REQUESTS/REQUESTS FOR EVIDENCE

Miss. R. Civ. Proc. 26(a)(4)(A)(i), states that a requesting party may, *through interrogatories*, require any other party to identify any witness whom the responding party expects to call as a witness at trial *to present evidence* under Mississippi Rule of Evidence 702, 703, or 705.

Please note that pursuant to Miss. R. Civ. Proc. 26(a)(4)(A)(ii), the following information is discoverable from Dr. Frank Perkins; a summary of the grounds for each opinion; the facts or data considered by Dr. Perkins in forming the opinions, regardless of when and how the facts or data were made known to the him; any exhibits that will be used to summarize or support the opinions; Dr. Perkins' qualifications, including a list of all publications authored by the him in the previous ten years; a list of cases in which, during the previous ten years, the Dr. Perkins testified as an expert at trial or by deposition; and, for retained experts, a statement of the compensation to be paid for the study and testimony in the case.

Please also note that pursuant to Miss. R. Civ. Proc. 26(a)(4)(B), a party may discover facts known or opinions held by an expert who has been retained or specially employed by another party in anticipation of litigation or preparation for trial and who is not expected to be called as a witness at trial only upon a showing of exceptional circumstances under which it is impracticable for the party seeking discovery to obtain facts or opinions on the same subject by

other means. Dr. Perkins refusal to be deposed or communicate with JR has led these interrogatories to be the only option he has to obtain the relevant documents.

All instructions and definitions assigned to the Interrogatories remain in full force for these requests for evidence.

REQUESTS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF EVIDENCE

1. Provide any and all billing records submitted to SR or his counsel regarding the IME, the alleged examination of SR on May 9, 2023, your expert testimony, and any other efforts you have put forth in this matter.

RESPONSE:

- 2. Provide receipts for the payment of said billing described in Request No. 1. **RESPONSE:**
- 3. Provide all of your notes in reference to the IME of SR on January 17, 2023. **RESPONSE:**
- 4. Provide all of your notes in reference to the alleged examination of SR on May 9, 2023. **RESPONSE:**
- 5. Provide any written or email communications between yourself and Mr. Alford and/or his law firm.

RESPONSE:

Dated: September 15, 2023

Robert Sullivant JR. 1002 Crawford Cir.

Oxford, MS 38655.

robert@steelandbarn.com.

(512) 739-9915

going on five years. Q. All right. Have you been qualified as an 2 3 expert before in the state courts of Mississippi? 4 Α. Yes, sir. 5 MR. SWAYZE ALFORD: All right. Your 6 Honor, we would offer Dr. Perkins as an 7 expert in his stated specialty of 8 psychiatry. 9 HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: Any 10 objection to that, Mr. Sullivant, Jr.? 11 MR. ROBERT SULLIVANT, JR.: I'm 12 sorry, I was reading the report. 13 HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: All 14 right. He's asked to offer him as a 15 forensic psychiatrist and --16 MR. ROBERT SULLIVANT, JR.: No, I 17 have no objection to that. 18 HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: You 19 have no objection to the stipulation of 20 his qualifications? 21 MR. ROBERT SULLIVANT, JR.: No, I do 22 not. 23 HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: All 24 right. He will be -- Dr. Perkins will be 25 stipulated as a board certified 26 psychiatrist, a forensic psychiatrist. 27 Is that correct? 28 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 29 HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: All

15 1 right. BY MR. SWAYZE ALFORD: 3 Dr. Perkins, were you appointed by court order in this matter to do an Independent Medical Examination on Mr. Robert Sullivant, Sr.? 5 6 Α. I was. 7 And did you do that? Q. A. 8 I did. 9 Do you remember when that occurred? I evaluated him on the 17th of January of 10 A . this year, and then I finalized a report on I 11 believe it was the 27th. 12 13 All right. Let me hand you a medical affidavit and ask you if you recognize that. 14 Yes, this is my report that I formulated 15 A . 16 in this matter. 17 And so when you are court ordered to do Q. the Independent Medical Examination for an 18 individual under the GAP Act, can you tell the Court 19 how you go about doing that? 20 A. So I begin off with having just a verbal 21 conversation with the individual and doing what is 22 considered a psychiatric evaluation, which is a 23 standardized process for which that we do. 24 25 And then I follow that with any appropriate testing that would be necessary to help 26

someone might have.

If that individual -- if either the court

clarify diagnosis and level of impairment that

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order or the individual raises other issues during my interview, such as testamentary capacity, I may ask those questions at that time as well.

- Q. So in that evaluation of Mr. Sullivant in January, did you make those determinations or evaluations on testamentary capacity then?
 - A. I did.

- Q. And what was your opinion about his testamentary capacity?
- A. That at that time he did -- he did retain the capacity to form testament.
- Q. And what were the reasons that you went into that with Mr. Sullivant, Sr.?
- A. So from a forensic psychiatric standpoint, which is where mental health and the law interact, where we have been trained and where I have been taught is the things that we pay attention to is due to mental illness or dementia or any cognitive impairment is there an impairment in the ability to know who ones natural heirs are, what the assets that they hold are, what would happen without a will in place, and who they want to formulate the will.

It is less important about the why that they want to formulate the will, as long as they don't have a psychotic disorder that would make their reasonings outside of reality.

So it is most important that they have the capacity to know the facts of what a testament or a will would be, and then have -- do they have the

ability to manipulate that information to formulate however they want their will to be made.

- Q. Did Mr. Sullivant, Sr. express that to you?
 - A. He did.

- Q. In what context? How did that come up, as far as devising his estate or will?
- A. So during our interview, during the -before I did any of the testing when we were just
 having a conversation, we were talking about his
 family, he spontaneously raised that he wanted to
 change his will.

And so that then sparked the conversation with me to asking him, well, you know, do you currently have a will? Which, at that time, he did.

Who is in your will? Without a will, who would that flow to? Which would be his son, and in the will it did flow to his son. And what assets he had.

He's not able to provide the exact numbers to the assets, but he is able to say, These are where the assets are held. So with cognitive aids, he is able to identify what his assets are.

When it's concerning to me is when someone would identify assets as I either have \$5,000.00 when they have more than that, or they identify that they have large wealth and they do not have it.

So he's able to appropriately gauge his assets, and then he's able to gauge who he wanted

his assets to flow to. And then -- so at that time, 1 he had it intact.

- Q. He informed you that he had a will in place at the time that had his son as the heir?
 - Α. Correct.

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- So what did he tell you about that?
- He said he didn't want his son to be his Α. heir anymore.
- Q. Did y'all go into that at all, or where he wanted to leave it?
- A. He raised some issues regarding a property sale and some money, but I did not get into the 12 13 depths of that.
 - I just $\operatorname{--}$ because when it comes to testamentary capacity, as I said, it's less important the why for me and more important the, you know, being able to meet those prongs of testamentary capacity.
 - Q. And did he at that time disclose to you what his desires were or how he wanted to direct his estate?
- 22 A. At that time, he said that he had a church that he had identified, but he didn't have it 23 formally planned out as to who all he wanted -- or 24 how he wanted it devised. He just said that he 25 26 wanted to change it.
- 27 All right. I think you said a moment ago that this was a spontaneous comment by Mr. 28
- Sullivant, Jr. (sic.) when you were doing your IME 29

in January?

- A. Correct.
- Q. And just to be clear, this is not something you and I even talked about?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. Now, coming forward to today and talking about Mr. Sullivant and his testamentary capacity, have you had a chance to talk with him again today?
- A. Yes. We met for 20 to 30 minutes this morning before coming over to the courthouse.
- Q. And, again, in your opinion, he has the testamentary capacity to execute a will to devise his property where he wants it to go?
- A. He does. He does. He'll -- if given freeform speech, he will spiral off and kind of go down rabbit holes and kind of miss the topic of the conversation.

But with redirection, he is still able to demonstrate capacity and retention of the ability to identify those prongs of testamentary capacity.

- Q. And, again, in your opinion, he is aware of what his estate is?
 - A. Yes. Yes.
- Q. And he can articulate and express to you how he wants that estate to be devised by a will?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. You put in your report, I believe, you know, that he does have an awareness and an ability to voice his wishes and needs, I think, was

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something you stated?
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         Α.
               I did.
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               So in terms of knowing what he wants and
    how to express that, he can do that?
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         Α.
              Yes.
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              What you said was that he needs --
    sometimes he needs somebody to help carry out what
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    he wants to do?
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         Α.
             Correct. Correct.
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              And as it relates to his will, he was able
    to express that awareness and that desire? He was
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    able to express that to you?
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         Α.
             Yes, sir.
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              Do I understand, it's in your report --
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    and Judge Whitwell has already appointed a
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    conservator.
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              But your opinion was a conservator but one
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   that was independent?
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         Α.
             Correct.
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         Q.
             And someone that would be neutral?
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         Α.
             Correct.
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             I think you heard Judge Whitwell appoint
   Chancery Clerk, Sherry Wall, in that capacity.
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             And I'm assuming you would agree that that
   is somebody who is neutral and independent and they
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   could do --
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             Very common appointee, the chancery clerk.
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   Very common.
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MR. SWAYZE ALFORD:

Tender the

1 witness, Your Honor. 2 HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: Okay. Cross-examination, Mr. Sullivant, Jr.? 3 4 MR. ROBERT SULLIVANT, JR.: Excuse 5 me, sir? 6 HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: T 7 said, cross-examination --8 MR. ROBERT SULLIVANT, JR.: All 9 right. Thank you. 10 HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: -- Mr. 11 Sullivant, Jr. 12 That's the only way I know how to 13 distinguish you. 14 MR. ROBERT SULLIVANT, JR.: I know. 15 I just couldn't hear you. I'm sorry. 16 Well, first, I would like to say that having Dr. Perkins here as a witness was a 17 18 complete surprise to me. 19 It wasn't mentioned anywhere in the 20 motion that he would be a witness, so I 21 haven't really had a chance to prepare to 22 cross-examine him, but I did have some 23 questions I did want to ask him. 24 As a matter of fact, I tried to 25 depose Dr. Perkins, but he was very 26 uncooperative in the -- in the deposition 27 process. 28 And that was one of the other things 29 I was going to amend or wanted to postpone

the trial was for the conservatorship, but 1 2 since I had filed that emergency petition, 3 I didn't think that would be needed. 4 But I have attempted to depose 5 Dr. Perkins because I found his report to 6 be a little bit unusual, and I wanted to 7 ask him some more about it. And I was 8 denied that opportunity. 9 He did contact Mr. Alford, and he 10 would not contact me but said I had to contact Mr. Alford in order to depose him, 11 12 which I think that is improper. 13 So I'm really caught today without 14 any basis to ask these questions. 15 HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: You've 16 had his report; have you not? 17 MR. ROBERT SULLIVANT, JR.: I have 18 his report right here. 19 HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: 20 you have had it for some time? 21 MR. ROBERT SULLIVANT, JR.: I have had it for some time, but I didn't come 22 23 prepared today knowing that he would be 24 here. 25 I wanted to ask him questions about 26 it, but I didn't come here today -- it 27 wasn't in a motion, and this was a 28 complete surprise to me. 29 But I will go ahead and ask some

1 questions. 2 HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: If you 3 want to, you can cross-examine him. 4 MR. ROBERT SULLIVANT, JR.: Okay. 5 Thank you. 6 CROSS-EXAMINATION 7 BY MR. ROBERT SULLIVANT, JR.: Q. First thing in your report, you go to the 8 fact that -- if I can turn to the report that -- if 10 I can find it here again. 11 As I said, this has really caught me by 12 surprise. 13 HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: All 14 right. I have heard enough of that, Mr. 15 Sullivant --16 MR. ROBERT SULLIVANT, JR.: I'm 17 sorry. 18 HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: 19 just proceed to ask your questions. 20 BY MR. ROBERT SULLIVANT, JR.: Q. Well, you mentioned that my father would 21 need an independent conservator; is that correct, in 22 23 your opinion? 24 A. It was my opinion that he needed a conservator, and that an independent, neutral 25 26 conservator would be the most appropriate. 27 Why would that be opposed as to the 28 conservatorship code? It prefers somebody of his family to be his conservator. 29

Why would that be better?

A. Because when both the individual and the family member are in the same lane and in agreement with how things should move forward, it works well.

But when they're opposed on issues about how things should move forward, a lot of times it can lead to a lot more difficulty and has a lot more stress on the elderly individual that needs the conservator.

And so it is better for their care if it's just an independent person to do the financial things.

- Q. Okay. Good enough. In your experience of doing this when a family member does petition the court or goes forward with the process of putting their parents into a conservatorship, do you find it common that the parent becomes angry with the child?
- A. Not all. All sorts of different things happen.
 - Q. Does that ever happen?
 - A. It does, but not all the time.
 - Q. Okay. How often?

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Let's say on a percentage basis, how often would a parent be upset that their child is going to put them into a conservatorship?

- A. Less than half the time in my experience.
 - Q. How much less than half?
- A. I don't know. I can't provide a specific number.

Q. So you would say about half?

A. I said less than half.

Q. Okay. But you didn't say how much less

than half?

HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: He said he didn't know.

MR. ROBERT SULLIVANT, JR.: Okay. I just want to be clear that it was -- he said a half, but somewhere below that but wasn't sure because that's a very wide range of percentages.

12 BY MR. ROBERT SULLIVANT, JR.:

- Q. Now, you also stated when it came to his testamentary capacity that you didn't ask, you know, why would you want to change your will. You were just concerned that he was able to change his will?
- A. I was concerned that he met the bar for capacity to have testamentary capacity.

Testamentary capacity doesn't look at why someone is doing it. It's just whether they can.

- Q. Okay. Would that not conflict with the rest of the report that you said that he needs a conservatorship, that he cannot handle his own financial choices?
- A. So capacity is a fluid assessment that changes based on time and based on the level of functioning and the decision at that time.

So, for example, somebody can have capacity to decide whether they want to be DNR,

whether they want to have chest compressions, but they can't decide whether they want to have cancer treatment because those are two very difficult conversations.

One being more a simplistic if you're in the throes of death, do you want to die, or do you want us to try to keep you alive, or here is all of these risks, here's these benefits, here's the chances that it will work. It's a very much more difficult idea to understand treatment versus just do you want chest compressions.

In a similar way, when it comes to financial things, you know, there's a lot of contracts, a lot of opportunities that people can take advantage of adults that they need assistance with.

But when it comes to testamentary capacity, that's not as complex of an issue as signing a, you know, contract for a lease or buying a house, or something like that where there is a lot more that goes into it that you have to be aware to protect yourself.

- Q. I see. But you said there was an exception to you don't wonder why, and that is if his reasoning was outside of reality?
- A. So if you had a psychotic illness. He does not have a psychotic illness in my opinion.
- Q. Did you receive the information that I sent to you prior to his examination of him?

1 Α. No. 2 0. You did not receive that? 3 A. (Nodding head negatively). 4 I did send some information to your office, and it was the same exact information that I 5 had sent to a Dr. Thomas, who did the first IME. 7 And just -- so, therefore, you did not get that information? 9 Α. (Nodding head negatively). 10 Q. All right. So in that --11 HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: The 12 answer was no? 13 THE WITNESS: No. No. I apologize, 14 Judge. I know, I just --15 BY MR. ROBERT SULLIVANT, JR.: Q. Okay. I believe in -- I'm sorry. That 16 information that I would have sent I think did show 17 that his reasoning was outside of reality, and I 18 wish you would have gotten it and were aware of that 19 20 before you had examined him. 21 And just to clarify, he just spontaneously said in the meeting in your examination he wanted to 22 23 change his will? A. While we were talking about his family and 24 25 things like that, yes. Q. And he just -- and he just -- he mentioned 26 27 that first?

What is your thoughts if my father is

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Q.

A. Yeah. Yes, sir.

under undue influence of somebody else? 2 Would he have the testamentary capacity if 3 he is under undue influence of another person? A. So undue influence is a very, very 5 large -- a very different area, okay, and I would 6 need a lot more information as to whether someone was in -- under undue influence. Having reviewed the will that -- or having 8 had him tell me, you know, who he intends to have profit from his will, it would seem like it would be 10 the church that would be the most -- the person that 11 would be the cause of it, because that seems to be 12 13 where most of his assets are flowing. So I don't understand how undue influence 14 15 has anything to do with it. 16 Q. Well, he has not done a new will yet, so we're not certain that the church will be that person -- well, will be the entity that receives all 18 19 of his assets. A. Okay. I mean, I have no information that 20 he's under undue influence in my interview with him. 21 There is usually -- during an IME if someone is 22 23 exerting undue influence on someone, there is 24 typically signs of it. 25 Q. Right. 26 A. I did not get any of those while I was 27 there talking to him. 28 Q. But you are stating that undue influence

could affect his testamentary capacity?

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              I'm not going to say one way or the other
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    because that is a very loaded statement, and I would
    need more specifics before I say whether it can or
    can't in his situation.
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         Q. Okay. Have you ever ran into that case
    before when a person, say, a caregiver was close to
    the person and had exerted undue influence upon a
    person, did you find that in those cases it would
    affect their testamentary capacity?
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                   HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: Well,
              first of all, you asked two questions.
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                   MR. ROBERT SULLIVANT, JR.: Okay.
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                   HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: He
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             asked you first had you ever run into that
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             before?
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                   THE WITNESS: I have had cases that
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             I've been involved in that undue influence
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             was an issue.
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                  HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: All
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             right. Now, go to your second question.
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   BY MR. ROBERT SULLIVANT, JR.:
           Okay. And in those cases, was it your
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   opinion that that undue influence affected their
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   testamentary capacity?
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             There is a lot of nuance to undue
        Α.
   influence and undue influence evaluations. And in
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   some cases it has, and in some cases it has not.
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But, typically, in those situations when

those wills have been drawn up, those wills were

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drawn up outside of the setting of a courtroom where a judge had not ruled one way or the other whether a will could be exercised.

- Q. When did you first see my father's will?
- A. I have never seen his current will because testamentary capacity is not determined by past wills.
- Q. Right. But you had said you -- I might have misunderstood you, but I thought you said that you had reviewed his will?
- A. Today he told me, he was able to tell me what his plans were for the will --
- Q. Today?

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- 14 A. -- for his new will when I assessed him.
- Q. Good enough. But he did not indicate to you just -- although, it's not important, but he did not indicate to you why he wanted to change his will?
 - A. He started going down a road about some money over the proceeds of some property sale or something, but I did not explore that and I didn't care to explore it.
 - Q. Did you take notes to that effect?
 - A. No, I don't think so.
- Q. And you didn't -- you don't -- is that the only thing that you recall about that?
- That's the only specifics that you recall that he said?
- A. I steered the conversation in a different

direction when he started going down that road because that was not important to me to know.

- Q. So it wasn't -- so you decided at that point that his reason why just wasn't important, so you steered the conversation or the examination in a different direction?
- A. I steered the examination towards the prongs of testamentary capacity because he doesn't have a psychotic illness, so I wasn't concerned about his reasonings why. It was just a matter of whether he could.
- Q. And how did you reach the conclusion that he did not have a psychotic disease or illness?
 - A. During my IME.

- Q. All right. When I did contact you, do you recall me trying to call you and -- at all to --
- A. My staff was sending me messages. And the way that I have interacted in all courts was having the other party go through the retaining attorney that retained me to schedule things.
 - Q. Really?
 - A. Uh-huh (Indicating yes).
- Q. Okay. So, therefore, you just didn't feel the need to respond to me at all?
- A. I did not. It was not that I didn't need to respond to you, it was that the most appropriate road by which to schedule a deposition with me was through Mr. Alford.
 - Q. Okay. So is that, as you understand it,

the Rules of Civil Procedure, or is this a 1 medical -- a medical standard? 3 MR. SWAYZE ALFORD: Your Honor, I've 4 tried to let Mr. Sullivant, Jr. ask 5 whatever questions he wants to ask, but I 6 think we are getting pretty far abroad 7 here, so I object to this line of 8 questioning. 9 HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: Well, 10 it seems to me that that's the policy of 11 Dr. Perkins, and he hasn't quoted any rule 12 or anything else. That's just been his 13 policy and his ways that developed through 14 the years of people scheduling 15 depositions. 16 I'm going to sustain the objection. You're going down the wrong path here with 17 18 that. 19 MR. ROBERT SULLIVANT, JR.: Okay. 20 Yes, Your Honor. 21 HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: 22 told you he didn't get back to you because 23 he thought you should go through Mr. 24 Alford. 25 That was his policy, so that's what 26 he did. 27 MR. ROBERT SULLIVANT, JR.: I 28 understand. 29 HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: If you

were having trouble with Mr. Alford getting a date, you would come to me and file a motion to require it if you wanted a deposition and if he wasn't cooperative.

We're here today, and that's where we are. Let's move on.

BY MR. ROBERT SULLIVANT, JR.:

Q. Okay. So what pronouncements do you follow on the medical side when you issue one of these opinions?

Is there pronouncements that you follow like I had to follow as a CPA? When I issued an opinion, I had to follow certain pronouncements and guidance from my professional body?

- A. I don't understand what you mean when you say pronouncement.
- Q. Okay. Is there any guidance that you get from the entities that accredit you as an expert, do they give you any guidance saying what you can issue an opinion on and what you cannot issue an opinion on?
- A. So there is no accrediting body for expert witness, expert testimony, you know, it's basically a court-by-court basis where you're either tendered an expert or not as to whether you can weigh an expert witness.
 - Q. Right.
- A. As to this document and this affidavit and report, you know, this is the product of the GAP

Act. This was created by, basically, a workgroup from the legislature after the legislature created -- passed the GAP Act Law.

And so even though there are, you know, templates for IMEs for evaluations for conservatorships and things like that, you know, this is created by our state. So it is kind of a this is what you're supposed to use in our state.

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- Q. In the GAP Act, does it state that the physician or medical professional should exert an opinion on what type of conservator should be appointed, be it independent or a family member?
- A. I don't think it gives any steering one way or the other.
- Q. So does the GAP Act rely upon professional expert opinion on what type of conservator to appoint?
- A. So to my understanding -- which I'm not an attorney. But to my understanding, it's the judge's choice as to who the conservator is.

My role in this is not to be the one picking the conservator, not to be the one picking anything. I'm just trying to help the court with this information.

And so if there is information that I feel 26 is helpful the court, I include it in my affidavit. And if the court doesn't want to listen to me, they don't have to.

> Q. Okay. I understand.

1 MR. ROBERT SULLIVANT, JR.: All 2 right. That's all the questions I have. 3 HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: Okay. 4 Any redirect? 5 MR. SWAYZE ALFORD: Just quickly, 6 Your Honor. 7 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SWAYZE ALFORD: 9 Q. Just to be clear, I think we said this, Dr. Perkins, but Mr. Sullivant, Jr. asked you a lot 10 of questions about undue influence. 11 12 Just to be clear in Mr. Sullivant, Sr.'s case, you didn't detect or observe any presence of 13 14 undue influence by anyone? 15 A. I had -- had, have no inkling, no suspicion of undue influence in this case at all. 16 17 MR. SWAYZE ALFORD: And, Your Honor, I think Dr. Perkins -- I think his report 18 19 is probably already in the court record, 20 but I guess I will just out of an 21 abundance of caution make it -- offer it 22 as an exhibit. 23 HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: I have 24 seen it, I think, in the attachments, but 25 it's not a part of this record. 26 MR. SWAYZE ALFORD: I think I will 27 just go ahead and make it --28 HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: Any 29 objection to it?

1	MR. ROBERT SULLIVANT, JR.: No, Your
2	Honor.
3	HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: It
4	will be marked as Exhibit 1 and admitted
5	into evidence.
6	(WHEREUPON, THE SAME, DR. PERKINS'S
7	REPORT, WAS MARKED AND ADMITTED AS EXHIBIT
8	NUMBER 1.)
9	HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: Are
10	you done with Dr. Perkins?
11	MR. SWAYZE ALFORD: Yes, Your Honor.
12	HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: You
13	are free to go.
14	THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.
15	HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: Do you
16	need to retain him? He's not under
17	subpoena, is he?
18	MR. SWAYZE ALFORD: No, sir.
19	HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: You're
20	free to go whenever you get ready.
21	THE WITNESS: All right.
22	HONORABLE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL: Thank
23	you for your time.
24	THE WITNESS: You're welcome.
25	(WHEREUPON, THE WITNESS WAS EXCUSED
26	FROM THE WITNESS STAND.)
27	MR. SWAYZE ALFORD: I call Robert
28	Sullivant, Sr. to the stand.
29	THE WITNESS: I get around slow.

Exhibit 2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF LAFAYETTE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

ROBERT SULLIVANT, SR.

PLAINTIFF

VS.

200 JAN 10 A 0 35

CAUSE NO.: 2021-612(W)

ROBERT SULLIVANT, JR.

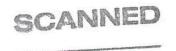
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DEFENDANT

AGREED ORDER FOR INDEPENDENT MEDICAL EXAM

THIS COURT, having been made aware of an agreement of the parties, now enters this Agreed Order for Independent Medical Exam:

- Pending before this Court is the Counterclaim of the Defendant and a part of the Counterclaim raised the issue of capacity. Plaintiff disputes the allegation that he lacks capacity.
- 2. On account of this issue of capacity, the parties agreed that two IMEs under Rule 35 shall take place. Two examinations were conducted pursuant to this Court's order. However, the parties subsequently agreed to strike one of the expert's opinion and further agreed to seek an additional IME.
- 3. The examination will be conducted by Dr. Frank Perkins and must be completed within 30 days of the date of this Order.
- 4. Pursuant to Section 93-20-401(2), the conservatorship statute, the examinations will also address whether Plaintiff is "unable to manage property or financial affairs because of a limitation in the adult's ability to receive and evaluate information or make or communicate decisions, even with the use of appropriate supportive services or technological assistance" and whether appointment is necessary to "avoid harm to the adult or significant dissipation of the property of the adult."



SO ORDERED, this the 10 day of January , 2023.

CHANCELLOR

AGREED:

Swayze Alford, Esq. (MSB #8642) Kayla Ware, Esq. (MSB #104241)

Counsel for Plaintiff

Robert Sullivant, Jr.

Pro Se

Exhibit 3

MEDICAL AFFIDAVIT

Please complete this form to the best of your knowledge and ability.

Today's Date: 1/27/2023	the control has also considerative to decrease polices and			1		eneroneis esemente describis entre en la companya de la companya de la companya de la companya de la companya d	PP (PARALE) and through the property of the Company
			and from the second of the	Referring Court: Lafayette			
		E	XAMINER INFORM	MATION			
Examiner's Last Name: Perkins		First: Frank		Middle: N		Specialty: Psy	chiatry
Hospital / Medical Group Affiliation: P	recise For	ensic Servic	es, PLLC	Years Practicing	: 7	State of Licensur	e: MS
Address: 3531 Lakeland Drive	e, Suite 10	060 Flowood	, MS 39232	Designation: M.D. Ph.D.	. Ø b.o.	□ N.P. □	P.A. 🗆
§§ 93-20-305 & 407	- The second	The second secon	a desperience de la companya del companya de la companya del companya de la companya del la companya de la comp		termonioni, rementententente (papa dago a signi		e Andrewski i se selle i se kind kind kuje kulkupa kusa (im. je ji kindekski kuje
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93-20-301			,	,			
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		PA'	TIENT INFORMAT	ION			
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Yes 🗆 No				11/19/1933 89 ☑ N			
^{dress:} 100 Azaela Drive Ap	t 153 Ox	ford, MS 38	3655	er er en er en		The second secon	
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	in the last six months, has the patient had:	Therapy or Tr	eatment or Psychiatric Tes	tina	☐ YES Ø NO					
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Own person under § 93-20-301 or financial affairs under § 93-20-401, and is in need of a Guardian and / or Conservator (check all that apply): Guardian (Person)	Diagnosis Based on the foregoing evaluation: Diagnosis Diagnosis Based on the foregoing evaluation: Diagnosis Diagnos		☑ In Person ☐ Via Audiovisual ☐ Other: If via Telemedicine, who assisted y	l Telemedic	ine	spital / Medical Office	Your I	Mississippi License Number:
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	dation was completed on (date) 01/27/2023 at (time) 1500
	contained in this report, are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Pri	signature Frank Perhins MD Date 1/27/2023