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FAYETTE LEGAL JOURNAL

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ESTATE NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that letters testamentary or of administration have been granted to the following estates. All persons indebted to said estates are required to make payment, and those having claims or demands to present the same without delay to the administrators or executors named.

Third Publication

KENNETH LEE BELL, a/k/a KENNETH L. BELL, late of Washington Township, Fayette County, PA (3)

Executrix: Jennifer Lee Metikosh 254 Chickee Lane Belle Vernon, PA 15012 c/o Shire Law Firm

1711 Grand Boulevard

Park Centre

Monessen, PA 15062 Attorney: Bernard S. Shire

LORA A. HAUGER, a/k/a LORI A. HAUGER, late of South Union Township,

Fayette County, PA (3)

Administrator: James Gregory Hauger c/o Nakles and Nakles 1714 Lincoln Avenue Latrobe, PA 15650

JAMES M. HODDO, late of Redstone

Attorney: Ned J. Nakles, Jr.

Township, Fayette County, PA (3)

Executor: Anthony Dominick
c/o 51 East South Street
Uniontown, PA 15401
Attorney: Anthony S. Dedola, Jr.

ROBERT MARKUTSA, a/k/a ROBERT EUGENE MARKUTSA, late of Fairchance,

Fayette County, PA (3)

Executor: Francis Markutsa 4 Jeffrey Lane Fairchance, PA 15436 c/o Bootay, Bevington & Nichols, LLC 6 Clairton Boulevard Pittsburgh, PA 15236

KATHRYN A. MENNI, late of Uniontown,

Attorney: Travis J. Dunn

Fayette County, PA (3)

Personal Representative: Barbara M. Juriga c/o Davis & Davis 107 East Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: Gary J. Frankhouser

MARY CATHERINE CAMPBELL SPEGAR, a/k/a MARY C. CAMPBELL SPEGAR, late of Chalk Hill, Fayette County,

PA (3)

Administrator: Michael J. Spegar, III 465 Mountain Road Uniontown, PA 15401 c/o Bassi, Vreeland & Associates, P.C. 62 East Wheeling Street Washington, PA 15301-4804 Attorney: Thomas O. Vreeland

Second Publication

PAUL RICHARD CHESS, a/k/a PAUL R.

CHESS, late of Georges Township, Fayette County, PA (2)

Administrator: Craig S. Chess c/o PO Box 622 Smithfield, PA 15478 Attorney: Charity Grimm Krupa

JOHN J. HRUTKAY, late of Brownsville,

Fayette County, PA (2)

Personal Representative: Carol L. Baniak 220 Raymond Avenue Brownsville, PA 15417 c/o P.O. Box 488 California, PA 15419 Attorney: Lisa J. Buday

STEPHEN RAYMOND, late of North Union

Township, Fayette County, PA (2)

Executrix: Deborah Raymond
c/o Adams & Adams
55 East Church Street, Suite 101
Uniontown, PA 15401

Attorney: Jason F. Adams

EMILY JEAN LINCOLN, late of South Union

Township, Fayette County, PA (2)

Co-Executors: Sara Dell Metz and
Ronald Mark Metz
c/o P.O. Box 622
Smithfield, PA 15478
Attorney: Charity Grimm Krupa

MILLIE (NMI) ROBINSON, late of

Connellsville, Fayette County, PA (2)

Personal Representative: Henry Robinson
c/o 815A Memorial Boulevard
Connellsville, Pa 15425

Attorney: Margaret Zylka House

BARBARA H. SHOEMAKER, late of

Brookville, Jefferson County, PA (2)

Executrix: Mary Ann Brown
c/o Fitzsimmons & Barclay
55 East Church Street, Suite 102
Uniontown, PA 15401

Attorney: James N. Fitzsimmons, Jr.

First Publication

DAVID KEISTER, a/k/a DAVID ALLEN KEISTER, late of Georges Township, Fayette County, PA (1)

Administratrix: Kim Keister c/o Fitzsimmons & Barclay 55 East Church Street, Suite 102 Uniontown, PA 15401

ERMINIA LASCALA, late of Newell

Borough, Fayette County, PA (1)

Executor: Jason F. Adams
c/o Adams & Adams
55 East Church Street, Suite 101
Uniontown, PA 15401
Attorney: Jason F. Adams

CHARLES R. MADORE, late of Dunbar

Township, Fayette County, PA (1)

Personal Representative: Barbara A. Madore
c/o Watson Mundorff Brooks & Sepic, LLP
720 Vanderbilt Road
Connellsville, PA 15425

Attorney: Charles W. Watson

PATRICK J. RUCK, late of Bullskin

Township, Fayette County, PA (1)

Personal Representative: Susan A. Ruck
c/o Watson Mundorff Brooks & Sepic, LLP
720 Vanderbilt Road
Connellsville, PA 15425

Attorney: Charles W. Watson

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA NO. 1406 OF 2017

BAYVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC Vs.
CECIL BARNHART, SR, KIMBERLY BARNHART, UNKNOWN HEIRS, SUCCESSORS, ASSIGNS, AND ALL PERSONS, FIRMS, OR ASSOCIATIONS CLAIMING RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST FROM OR UNDER LYDIA N. BARNHART A/K/A LYDIA BARNHART A/K/A LYDIA M. BARNHART, DECEASED

NOTICE TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS, SUCCESSORS, ASSIGNS, AND ALL PERSONS, FIRMS, OR ASSOCIATIONS CLAIMING RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST FROM OR UNDER LYDIA N. BARNHART A/K/A LYDIA BARNHART A/K/A LYDIA M. BARNHART, DECEASED NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

Being Premises: 111 WEST BLAKE AVENUE, CONNELLSVILLE, PA 15425-1607 Being in CONNELLSVILLE TOWNSHIP, County of FAYETTE, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 06040022

Improvements consist of residential property.

Sold as the property of CECIL BARNHART, SR, KIMBERLY BARNHART, UNKNOWN HEIRS, SUCCESSORS, ASSIGNS, AND ALL PERSONS, FIRMS, OR ASSOCIATIONS CLAIMING RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST FROM OR UNDER LYDIA N. BARNHART A/K/A LYDIA BARNHART A/K/A LYDIA M. BARNHART, DECEASED, LYDIA MARKLE, RANDY BARNHART and ROY BARNHART

Your house (real estate) at 111 WEST BLAKE AVENUE, CONNELLSVILLE, PA 15425-1607 is scheduled to be sold at the Sheriff's Sale on 05/03/2018 at 02:00 PM, at the FAYETTE County Courthouse, 61 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, to enforce the

Court Judgment of \$32,961.94 obtained by, BAYVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC (the mortgagee), against the above premises.

PHELAN HALLINAN DIAMOND & JONES, LLP Attorney for Plaintiff

JUDICIAL OPINION

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA CRIMINAL DIVISION

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

:

V.

:

KENNETH JOHN NICHOLS,

Defendant. : No. 483 of 2017

OPINION IN SUPPORT OF ORDER

Wagner, P.J.

Before the Court is an Omnibus Pretrial Motion seeking habeas corpus relief and suppression of incriminating statements. Defendant is now charged with Possession with Intent to Deliver marijuana, Possession of a Small Amount of Marijuana, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and, in violation of the Motor Vehicle Code, Turning Movements and Required Signals. A hearing on this matter was held on September 15, 2017, at which time the evidence established:

On September 15, 2016, Pennsylvania State Troopers Reaghard and Zoller, acting on an anonymous tip, visited Defendant's residence to conduct an interview with him. After knocking on the front door, but receiving no answer, the police officers walked around to the back door and knocked again to see if anyone would answer that door. After walking to the back of the house, Trooper Zoller noticed a security camera attached to the residence and pointed toward a windowless work trailer parked on Defendant's property. When the troopers approached the trailer, they noticed a strong odor of marijuana. Neither officer entered the trailer, but they walked all around it. They then moved away from it so Trooper Reaghard could use his telephone. After the trooper finished his phone call, the officers then left Defendant's property and drove into the neighborhood.

At some later time, the officers saw Defendant driving in that vicinity, whereupon they drove behind him. When Defendant violated the Motor Vehicle code by failing to use a tum signal, Trooper Reaghard effectuated a traffic stop. Upon approaching the vehicle during the stop, he detected an odor of marijuana which led him to question Defendant about the odor they smelled at the work trailer. As the traffic stop was concluding, Defendant consented to a search of the work trailer by the troopers which in tum led to the discovery of a large, nine-pound bag of marijuana inside. A later consensual search of Defendant's bedroom in his residence revealed a small amount of marijuana, and when Trooper Reaghard subsequently searched Defendant's vehicle, he found a

scale with suspected marijuana residue thereon.

Defendant now seeks suppression of all evidence obtained by the police officers following the traffic stop of his vehicle because probable cause for a search warrant and/ or his arrest did not exist prior to the time when they allegedly trespassed into his curtilage while they visited his residence only for investigatory purposes after the receipt of an anonymous tip.

The Court has carefully considered the applicable law, as well as the memoranda provided by both the Defendant and the Commonwealth. "It is axiomatic that the 'physical entry of the home is the chief evil against which the wording of the Fourth Amendment is directed." Commonwealth v. Berkheimer, 57 A.3d 171, 177 (Pa.Super.2012) quoting Welsh v. Wisconsin, 466 U.S. 740, 748, 104 S.Ct. 2091, 80 L.Ed.2d 732(1984). The Fourth Amendment and Article I, Section 8 of the Pennsylvania Constitution protect not only the inside of a home, but also the curtilage surrounding it. Commonwealth v. Gibbs, 981 A.2d 274 (Pa.Super.2009). Thus for constitutional purposes, entering the curtilage is indistinguishable from entering the home. See Commonwealth v. Cihylic, 486 A.2d 987 (Pa.Super.1985). The curtilage has been defined by the United States Supreme Court as an area which extends intimate activities of the type associated with the "sanctity of a man's home and privacies of life." Oliver v. United States, 466 U.S. 170, 104 S.Ct. 1735, 80 L.Ed.2d 214 (1984). To determine whether an area is within the curtilage, a court must analyze factors that indicate whether an individual reasonably may expect that the area immediately adjacent to his home will remain private. Commonwealth v. Simmen, 58 A.3d 8 I 1 (Pa.Super. 20I 2). An area next to the house but exposed to public view and used by the public to access the house is not considered to be within the curtilage. Id. However, the troopers' entry into the back yard so as to view and access the back door, and their walking around the house and through the back yard to the work trailer constitutes trespassing in the curtilage and offends the constitutional protection against unreasonable searches and seizures. See Commonwealth v. Lee, 972 A.2d I, 4 n. 2 (Pa.Super. 2009). Such entrance into the curtilage by the officers required probable cause and the existence of an exception to the warrant requirement. Id. It is beyond dispute that the troopers lacked probable cause relative to their trespassing, and even if probable cause had existed, a warrant would still be required since no exigent circumstances existed.

However, this matter does not end here. When the troopers later, from a lawful vantage point, observed Defendant commit a traffic violation by failing to use his tum signal several times when he was required to do so, they effectuated a valid traffic stop based thereon. A forcible traffic stop constitutes an "investigative detention" and triggers Fourth Amendment

constitutional protections. Commonwealth v. Clinton, 905 A.2d 1026 (Pa.Super. 2006). However, a police officer's question, posed during the stop, is not coercive simply by being asked. Trooper Reaghard's question to Defendant herein, asking about the smell of marijuana and whether they could search his trailer and home, did not constitute custodial interrogation that would have necessitated Miranda warnings. At the time the

trooper made his inquiry of Defendant, the traffic stop bad only begun, Defendant bad not even produced his registration papers and insurance information, the stop was made along a public roadway, no one threatened Defendant nor had he been transported or physically restrained, and the question was direct and to the point, it was not likely to lead to an incriminating answer, but rather could have been answered with a simple "no." See Clinton. Defendant instead answered the trooper's question affirmatively, thus voluntarily and knowingly consenting to the search that followed, which in tum led to the discovery of the alleged marijuana and paraphernalia giving rise to the instant criminal charges.

In summary, although the troopers' entry into the curtilage of Defendant's residence was a constitutionally infirm trespass, such action does not invalidate a later lawful traffic stop based on the troopers' personal observation of an alleged violation of the Motor Vehicle Code. Defendant's consent to the subsequent search of his work trailer and residence was voluntarily given during the said lawful traffic stop, and it is the consensual search, not the earlier unconstitutional warrantless entry into Defendant's backyard, which led to the discovery of the incriminating evidence. Therefore, there is now no need to suppress any of the physical evidence seized during the search.

Accordingly, the Court enters the following:

ORDER

AND NOW, November 6, 2017, in light of the discussion in the foregoing Opinion, the within Omnibus Pretrial Motion seeking the suppression of evidence is hereby DENIED.

BY THE COURT, WAGNER, P.J.

ATTEST: Clerk of Courts

CLE

The Importance of the ALTA/NSPS Land Title Survey

Tuesday, March 20, 2018 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus Room: CTC Eberly 116

This workshop was designed to provide insight into why these surveys are needed and would be beneficial to the legal community, bankers, surveyors, engineers, and developers.

> Presenter: Gary Kent, PS

Cost:
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Registration:
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Terry McMillen Jr.
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