FAYETTE LEGAL JOURNAL

VOL. 87 AUGUST 24, 2024 NO. 34



FAYETTE LEGAL JOURNAL

The FAYETTE LEGAL JOURNAL is published weekly by the Fayette County Bar Association, 45 East Main Street, Suite 100, Uniontown, Pennsylvania 15401, 724-437-7994. Legal advertisements should be submitted online at www.fcbar.org no later than 12:00 noon on Friday for publication the following Saturday. No date of publication is promised, however. Legal notices are published exactly as submitted by the advertiser. Copyright 2001 Fayette County Bar Association. All rights reserved.

Co-Editors: Garnet L. Gordon and Melinda Deal Dellarose

Cover Design by Marvin R. Mayle, 207 Lick Hollow Road, Hopwood, PA

FAYETTE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION Board of Directors

President: Gretchen A. Mundorff **President Elect:** Sheryl R. Heid **Vice-President:** Michelle L. Kelley

Secretary: Anne N. John

Treasurer: Louise D. Monaghan Past President: John A. Kopas, III Executive Director: Garnet L. Gordon

Directors
Jennifer M. Casini
Rachel A. Clark
Sarah E. Connelly
Jeremy J. Davis
James E. Higinbotham, Jr.

Sean M. Lementowski

ETHICS HOTLINE

The Ethics Hotline provides free advisory opinions to PBA members based upon review of a member's prospective conduct by members of the PBA Committee on Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility. The committee responds to requests regarding, the impact of the provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct or the Code of Judicial Conduct upon the inquiring member's proposed activity. All inquiries are confidential.

Call (800) 932-0311, ext. 2214.

Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers

Our assistance is confidential, non-judgmental, safe, and effective

To talk to a lawyer today, call: 1-888-999-1941 717-541-4360

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

ROSE MARIE ADAMSKY, late of Dunbar,

Fayette County, PA (3)

Executrix: Judith Lynn Chappel

136 Rinehart Lane

Waynesburg, PA 15370

c/o 54 South Washington Street

Waynesburg, PA 15370 *Attorney*: David Pollock

CAROLYN CICIRETTI, a/k/a CAROLYN J. CICIRETTI, late of Dunbar Township, Fayette

County, PA (3)

Executrix: Jeananne M. Collins 791 Homestead Avenue

791 Holliestead Avenue

Scottdale, PA 15683 c/o Tremba Kinney Greiner & Kerr

1310 Morrell Avenue, Suite C

Connellsville, PA 15425

Attorney: John Greiner

JANET I. DANIELS, late of Ohiopyle, Fayette

County, PA (3)

Co-Executrixes: Brenda L. Lear and

Vicki Hayden

c/o 45 East Main Street, Suite 400

Uniontown, PA 15401

Attorney: Charles C. Gentile

KRISTEN GEEHRING, late of South

Connellsville, Fayette County, PA (3)

Administrator: Travis C. Scanner
10369 Madison Avenue
Irwin, PA 15342
c/o Lupetin & Unatin, LLC
Grant Building
310 Grant Street, Suite 3204

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Attorney: Gregory Unatin

ANNA BARBARA KELLY, late of German

Township, Fayette County, PA (3)

Administratrix: Barbara Ann Gibel
c/o Monaghan & Monaghan
57 East Main Street
Uniontown, PA 15401
Attorney: Gary D. Monaghan

DAVID MATTHEWS, late of Uniontown,

Fayette County, PA (3)

Administrator: Zachary Matthews

262 Weavers Road

Greensburg, PA 15601

MARVIN MCCORMICK, a/k/a MARVIN MCCORMICK, late of South Union Township,

Fayette County, PA (3)

Executor: Tammy Yekel

c/o 9 Court Street

Uniontown, PA 15401

Attorney: Vincent J. Roskovensky, II

Second Publication

RALPH KEVIN BUCCI, late of Belle Vernon,

Fayette County, PA (2)

Executrix: Dianne Lee Bucci

c/o Julian Gray Associates

954 Greentree Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15220

Attorney: Karen S. Timko

DAVID PANKRATZ, a/k/a DAVID JOHN PANKRATZ, late of Brownsville, Fayette

County, PA (2)

Executrix: Donna Pankratz

c/o Entrusted Legacy Law

P.O. Box 130

Bradford Woodds, PA 15015

Attorney: Ashley Sharek

CHARLES PITMAN, a/k/a CHARLES PITMAN, JR., late of Acme, Fayette County, PA (2)

Administratrix: Nancy A. Tebell 11421 Donnington Ct Manassas, Virginia 20111 c/o King Legal Group 114 North Maple Avenue

Greensburg, PA 15601

Attorney: Bradley A. King

MARYANN REAGGLE, late of North Union,

Fayette County, PA (2)

Administrator: Jeremiah Ditmore 1 Lucille Avenue Uniontown, PA 15401

ELSIE M. WEBB, a/k/a ELSIE MATILDA WEBB, late of Dunbar Township, Fayette

County, PA (2)

Personal Representative: Anna E. Webb c/o 208 South Arch Street, Suite 2 Connellsville, PA 15425 Attorney: Richard A. Husband

First Publication

RONALD LEE BAIRD, late of Lower Tyrone

Township, Fayette County, PA (1)

Executrix: Rachel Louise Baird Alahmad c/o Davis & Davis 107 East Main Street

Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: Jeremy J. Davis

MARILYN BULLOCK, a/k/a MARILYN FRANCES BULLOCK, late of Silver Spring,

Montogomery County, Maryland (1)

Executrix: Cynthia J. Conte 4623 Warrington Drive Orlando, Florida 32826 c/o 4 West Manilla Avenue, Suite 10 Pittsburgh, PA 15220 Attorney: Joan Shinavski

JAMES W. BUSH, a/k/a JAMES W. BUSH,

JR., late of Perry Township, Fayette County, PA Executrix: Natalie King Bush (1)

8 Railroad Street

Dawson, PA 15428

c/o Jones Gregg Creehan & Gerace, LLP 20 Stanwix Street, Suite 1100

Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Attorney: Branden A. Fulciniti

LAWRENCE R. DENNIS, late of Menallen

Township, Fayette County, PA (1)

Administratrix: Elizabeth W. Dennis c/o 51 East South Street
Uniontown, PA 15401
Attorney: Webster & Webster

SHIRLEY B. EVANS, a/k/a SHIRLEY ANN EVANS, late of Springhill Township, Fayette

County, PA (1)

Executrix: Patricia Heidt c/o 4 North Beeson Boulevard Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: Sheryl R. Heid

GERALDINE M. GEBADLO, late of Dunbar

Township, Fayette County, PA (1)

Personal Representative: Timothy J. King c/o Watson Mundorff, LLP 720 Vanderbilt Road Connellsville, PA 15425 Attorney: Timothy J. Witt

HOWARD JOSEPH GILLOTT, a/k/a HOWARD T. GILLOTT, late of Bullskin

Township, Fayette County, PA (1)

Executor: Howard Justin Gillott
1505 Breakneck Road
Connellsville, PA 15425
c/o Henderson Law Offices, PC
319 Pittsburgh Street
Scottdale, PA 15683
Attorney: Kevin Henderson

VINCENT LOUIS GRLOVICH, a/k/a VINCENT L. GRLOVICH, late of Redstone

Township, Fayette County, PA (1)

Executrix: Mary Ann Grlovich, a/k/a
Mary Ann Plisko-Grlovich
495 Twin Hills Road
Grindstone, PA 15442
c/o 96 East Main Street
Uniontown, PA 15401
Attorney: Anne N. John

ROSEMARY S. KALASKY, a/k/a ROSEMARY SUSAN KALASKY, late of

North Union Township, Fayette County, PA

Executor: Andrew M. Kalasky and
Joseph A. Kalasky (1)
31 Phillippi Avenue
Uniontown, PA 15401
c/o Newcomer Law Offices
4 North Beeson Boulevard
Uniontown, PA 15401
Attorney: Ewing D. Newcomer

JUDY M. LIVENGOOD, late of South Union

Township, Fayette County, PA (1)

Co-Executors: Aleta Held and Richard A. Livengood II

c/o 51 East South Street

Uniontown, PA 15401

Attorney: Anthony S. Dedola, Jr.

PHILLIP JOHN MICHAEL, late of South

Union Township, Fayette County, PA (1)

Administratrix: Tricia Carbonara-Michael

c/o Proden & O'Brien

99 East Main Street

Uniontown, PA 15401

Attorney: Wendy L. O'Brien

SHIRLEY K. MUNDEL, late of South Union

Township, Fayette County, PA (1)

Personal Representatives:

Benjamin Mundel and Jeffrey W. McCabe

c/o Watson Mundorff, LLP

720 Vanderbilt Road

Connellsville, PA 15425 *Attorney*: Timothy J. Witt

CHARLES HENRY PITMAN, late of Acme

Township, Fayette County, PA (1)

Administratrix: Nancy A. Tebell

11421 Donnington Court

Manassas, VA 20111

c/o King Legal Group, LLC

114 North Maple Avenue

Greensburg, PA 15601

Attorney: Bradley A. King

JOEL C. REBOVICH, late of Perryopolis

Borough, Fayette County, PA (1)

Executrix: Dana J. Rebovich

536 Liberty Street

Perryopolis, PA 15473

c/o Bassi, Vreeland & Associates, P.C.

P.O. Box 144

111 Fallowfield Avenue

Charleroi, PA 15022

Attorney: Bradley M. Bassi

YVONNE J. URBAN, late of Perryopolis

Borough, Fayette County, PA (1)

Executor: Kenneth R. Urban

232 Todd Farm Road

Belle Vernon, PA 15012

c/o Moore Becker Smarto & Acosta, P.C.

121 West Second Street

Greensburg, PA 15601 *Attorney*: Elizabeth A. Becker

CHARLES W. WATSON, late of Dunbar

Township, Fayette County, PA (1)

Personal Representative: Aaron C. Watson

c/o Watson Mundorff, LLP

720 Vanderbilt Road

Connellsville, PA 15425

Attorney: Timothy J. Witt

MORRIS WEBB, JR., late of Dunbar

Township, Fayette County, PA (1)

Administratrix: Anna E. Webb

c/o 208 South Arch Street, Suite 2

Connellsville, PA 15425

Attorney: Richard A. Husband

ANNA P. WHITE, a/k/a ANNA PEARL

WHITE, late of Dunbar Township, Fayette

County, PA (1)

Executor: Duane L King

P.O. Box 732

Vanderbilt, PA 15486

c/o Lederach Law

201 North Chestnut Street

P.O. Box 342

Scottdale, PA 15683

Attorney: James S. Lederach

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to James Johnson that on the 8th day of March, 2024, a Petition for Involuntary Termination of Parental Rights was filed in the Fayette County Court of Common Pleas, regarding the minor children, P.J., at Docket Number 19 ADOPT 2024; and C.J. at Docket Number 20 ADOPT 2024. Hearing has hereby been scheduled for the 19th day of September, 2024, at 11:00 a.m., at the Fayette County Courthouse.

PECK LAW OFFICES

By: Brent Eric Peck, Esquire 111 East Main Street

Uniontown, PA 15401 Ph: 724-430-0514

NOTICE OF VOLUNTARY DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given by Marcus, Inc. located at 1166 National Pike Hopwood, South Union Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, a Pennsylvania business corporation, that it is winding up its affairs in the manner prescribed by section 1975 of the Business Corporation Law of 1988, and that its corporate existence ceased upon the filing of Article of Dissolution in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on August 5, 2024

Webster & Webster 51 East South Street Uniontown, PA 15401

DiBella Weinheimer Geer McAllister Best Coco Lloyd Whalen



Holly Whalen O Amy Coco O Bethann Lloyd

INSIST UPON OUR EXPERIENCED TEAM

LAWYERS DEFENDING LAWYERS

- · Disciplinary Board
- Legal Malpractice
- Security Fund / IOLTA
- Ethics & Conflict Analysis
- Subpoena Assistance
- Licensure
- Conflict Resolution

WWW.DIBELLA-WEINHEIMER.COM 412 261-2900

Registers' Notice

Notice by JEFFREY L. REDMAN, Register of Wills and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Orphans' Court Division of the Court of Common Pleas

Notice is hereby given to heirs, legatees, creditors, and all parties in interest that accounts in the following estates have been filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Orphans' Court Division of the Court of Common Pleas as the case may be, on the dates stated and that the same will be presented for confirmation to the Orphans' Court Division of Fayette County on

Monday, September 2, 2024, at 9:30 A.M.

Estate Number	Estate Name	Accountant
2623-0289	Sheila M. Orlandi	Anthony S. Dedola, Jr., Executor
2622-0401	James Hayden	Zoe Claire Hayden, Executor
2622-0437	Barbara Anne Terry	Maryland A. Reyer, Executor

Notice is also hereby given that all of the foregoing Accounts will be called for Audit on

Monday, September 16, 2024, at 9:30 A.M.

in Courtroom No. 5 of the **Honorable Judge Joseph M. George, Jr.** or his chambers, Third Floor, Courthouse, Uniontown, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, at which time the Court will examine and audit said accounts, hear exceptions to same or fix a time therefore, and make distribution of the balance ascertained to be in the hands of the Accountants.

JEFFREY L. REDMAN
Register of Wills and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Orphans' Court Division (2 of 2)

WARMAN ABSTRACT & RESEARCH LLC

JOHN F. WARMAN 518 Madison Drive Smithfield, PA 15478 724-322-6529

johnfranciswarman@gmail.com

COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL/CURRENT OWNER/MINERAL TITLE

A DECADE OF EXPERIENCE E&O INSURED WILL TRAVEL ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS

Professional Office Space for Lease

Newly remodeled professional office space for lease in Uniontown, PA. 750 sq ft of office space with 400 sq ft common area. Only 3 blocks from the courthouse, perfect for an attorney. Would also be ideal for an accountant, real estate agent, mortgage broker, insurance agent, etc. Street parking in front and parking lot in back. All utilities are included except electric. Equipped with Cat 5 Ethernet cable. \$950/mo plus security deposit. Long term lease available with option to expand to more office space in the future.

Contact: Benjamin Haines

724-984-5204

benhaines@zoominternet.net

Location: 11 West Church Street, Uniontown, PA 15425













JUDICIAL OPINION

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

BURHANS-CROUSE FUNERAL HOME, CATHY CROUSE, and CRYSTAL CROUSE, Plaintiffs,

v. COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.,:

Defendant. : No. 1203 of 2024

OPINION AND ORDER

LESKINEN, P.J. July 16, 2024

Before the Court is the Motion for Preliminary Injunction filed by Plaintiffs, Burhans-Crouse Funeral Home ("Burhans-Crouse"), Cathy Crouse, and Crystal Crouse. Upon the consideration of the Plaintiffs' Motion, Defendant's Brief in Opposition to the Motion, and the evidence and arguments presented at a hearing on July 11th, 2024, the Court issues this Opinion and Order dissolving the Preliminary Injunction continued by the Order dated July 5th, 2024, and denying the Motion for an ongoing injunction.

Plaintiffs filed a Complaint for Injunctive Relief on June 17th, 2024, which is predicated in part on an Application for Approval of Abandonment of Natural Gas Service filed by Defendant, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. ("Columbia Gas") with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ("PUC") in October of 2022. The Application sought the approval of the PUC to terminate natural gas service to Burhans-Crouse. The PUC ultimately granted the Application, and that decision is currently on appeal to the Commonwealth Court at Docket No. 500 CD 2024. The Complaint in this matter raises common law claims of intentional interference with contractual relations and intentional interference with prospective contractual relations based on the impact the termination of service would have on the Plaintiffs.

"Any preliminary injunction is an extraordinary, interim remedy that should not be issued unless the moving party's right to relief is clear and the wrong to be remedied is manifest." Ambrogi v. Reber, 932 A.2d 969, 974 (Pa. Super. 2007). A plaintiff seeking an injunction must establish:

- 1. Relief is necessary to prevent immediate and irreparable harm;
- 2. A greater injury will occur from refusing the injunction rather than granting it;
- 3. The injunction will restore the parties to the status quo;
- 4. The alleged wrong is manifest and the injunction is reasonably suited to abate it; and
- 5. The plaintiff's right to relief is clear.

Id, at 976. Every one of these prerequisites must be established to issue a preliminary injunction; if the plaintiff fails to establish one element, there is no need to address the others. Lee Publications, Inc. v. Dickinson School of Law, 848 A.2d 178, 189 (Pa.

Cmwlth. 2004). The requirement that a plaintiff's right to relief be "clear" requires that it be more than merely "viable" or "plausible" but does not require that the party seeking the injunction show that they are guaranteed to prevail. Ambrogi, at 980. Rather the party must show that "substantial legal questions must be resolved to determine the rights of the respective parties." Id.

The matter before this Court is not a challenge to the PUC's grant of Columbia Gas' Application for Approval to Abandon. The sole claims raised in Plaintiffs' Complaint are tort claims against Columbia Gas for intentional interference with contractual and prospective contractual relations, and therefore any consideration of an injunction is limited to these two counts as they were pled in the Complaint for Injunctive Relief {1}. The elements of a cause of action for interference with contractual relations are as follows {2}:

- 1. A contractual relationship between the plaintiff and a third party;
- 2. An intent on the part of the defendant to harm the plaintiff by interfering with that contractual relationship;
- 3. The absence of privilege or justification on the part of the defendant; and
- 4. The occasioning of actual damage as a result of defendant's conduct.

Foster v. UPMC South Side Hosp., 2 A.3d 655, 665 (Pa. Super. 2010). The contractual relationships identified in the Complaint at ¶18 are "arrangements with customers for pre-paid funeral arrangements/services which it would be unable to honor should Columbia Gas terminate service prematurely to the Premises." The only reference to prospective contractual relationships is the averment in ¶21 that "Columbia Gas has intentionally interfered with Burhans-Crouse's prospective contractual relations with potential customers." Though Cathy Crouse and Crystal Crouse are named as Plaintiffs in their individual capacities, there are no averments of any contracts or prospective contracts other than those of the funeral home.

The absence of privilege is an element of the cause of action that must be pled and proven by the plaintiff, not an affirmative defense. Salsgiver Communications, Inc. v. Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc., 150 A.3d 957, 963, 966, n.8A (Pa. Super. 2016). The courts have equated "the absence of privilege or justification on the part of the defendant" with the term "improper." Id. at n.8. Section 1102(a)(2) of the Public Utility Code ("Code") requires that a utility must first apply for and obtain a certificate of public convenience prior to any abandonment of utility service to the public. Borough of Duncannon v. Pennsylvania PUC, 713 A.2d 737, 739 (Pa. Cmwlth. 1998). The PUC, which has the sole power to regulate utilities pursuant to 66 Pa. C.S.A. §1501, is bound by the standards of Section 1103(a) of the Code and the standards established in West Penn Rys. Co. v. PUC, 15 A.2d 539, 544 (Pa. Super. 1940) in determining whether to grant a certificate.

^{1} Columbia Gas filed Preliminary Objections to the Complaint on 7/10/24 with a Notice to Plead, raising objections of lack of subject matter jurisdiction, failure to join a necessary party (the PUC), and a demurrer for a failure to plead sufficient facts to establish the elements of the causes of action for tortious interference.

^{2} The elements for intentional interference with prospective contractual relationships are similar, with the first element referencing a prospective contractual relationship and the second element a purpose or intent to harm the plaintiff by preventing the relation from occurring. The remaining two elements are the same for both torts.

Columbia Gas was granted a certificate after a full hearing through the PUC in which Burhans-Crouse participated and which is currently on appeal to the Commonwealth Court. Absent some authority to the contrary (which Plaintiffs have not cited and this Court has not found), the approval of the PUC through a statutory process would clearly constitute privilege or justification for Columbia Gas's actions. Since a lack of privilege is a required element of both causes of action, the Motion for Injunction would also fail as Plaintiffs cannot establish a clear right to relief. {3}

Plaintiff has also failed to establish irreparable harm. The Complaint is limited to tort claims for intentional interference with contractual relationships. A party seeking injunctive relief must establish that the relief sought is necessary to prevent immediate and irreparable harm which cannot be compensated by damages. T.W. Phillips Gas and Oil Co. v. Peoples Natural Gas Co., 492 A.2d 776, 780 (Pa. Cmwlth. 1985). Here, the existing contractual relationships Plaintiffs cite are pre-paid funeral contracts which they currently hold. If Burhans-Crouse was unable to fulfill those contracts, the damages would be easily ascertainable, either by the express terms of the contracts or by the cost of obtaining an equivalent contract from another facility. Similarly, the potential loss of any prospective pre-paid contracts could be estimated based on historical data from existing contracts. These losses could be compensated by damages.

Though the abandonment of the gas service to the funeral home may cause other irreparable harm to the business, to which this Court is certainly sympathetic, that is not the matter the Plaintiffs have placed at issue in their Complaint here. Nor is this an equivalent situation to the facts of T.W. Phillips, where an injunctive remedy is uniquely situated and necessary to preserve issues for the adjudication of the PUC. In this matter, the PUC has already entered a final order and Plaintiffs have not exhausted the remedies available to them under that process.

WHEREFORE, the Court issues the following Order:

ORDER

AND NOW, this 16th day of July, 2024, upon consideration of the Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction, Defendant's Brief in Opposition to the Motion, and the evidence and arguments presented by the parties at a hearing on July 11th, 2024, the Court ORDERS and DIRECTS that for the reasons set forth in the attached Opinion, the Temporary Injunction that was continued by this Court's prior Order dated July 5th, 2024, is hereby DISSOLVED, and Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction is DENIED, without prejudice. The Court shall enter a separate Order addressing the dissolution of the bond posted by Plaintiffs once the period for appeal of this Order has expired.

BY THE COURT: STEVE. P. LESKINEN, PRESIDENT JUDGE

ATTEST: PROTHONOTARY

^{3} This conclusion is not intended to be a ruling on Defendant's Preliminary Objections. The Plaintiffs still have the opportunity to file responsive pleadings and briefs or to amend their Complaint, which the Court shall consider at the appropriate time.

Quality...Experience...Results... It's what your clients deserve.

Medical Malpractice • Auto Accidents • Personal Injury



Gismondi

& ASSOCIATES

412-281-2200

www.gislaw.com

700 Grant Bldg., 310 Grant St., Pgh., PA 15219