

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION

CHRISTOPHER HANSON, individually
and as attorney for himself and attorney/
next friend for his minor children,

Plaintiffs/Petitioners,

v.

Case No.: 25-CA-010255
Division: B

THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, et al.

Defendants/Respondents.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CCC
MAY 5 2026 PM1:04

ORDER ON DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER TO STAY
DISCOVERY

THIS CAUSE came before the Court on Defendants' "Motion for Protective Order to Stay Discovery," filed on April 1, 2026. Upon review of the record, the applicable law, and the arguments presented, the Court finds the following:

1. On March 18, 2026, Plaintiff filed "Plaintiff's First Combined Discovery Requests to Defendants (Interrogatories, Requests for Production, and Requests for Admission)."
2. In response, on April 1, 2026, Defendants, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court, Court Administrator of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Chief Judge Christopher C. Sabella, Judge Kelly Ayers, and Judge Matthew Felix, filed the instant "Motion for Protective Order to Stay Discovery."
3. On April 13, 2026, the Court conducted a hearing via Zoom.
4. During the hearing, Plaintiff represented that this case is ripe for final disposition.
5. The very next day, Plaintiff filed "Plaintiff's Motion for Summary Final Order Compelling Production of Public Records and Entry of Peremptory Writ of Mandamus with

Incorporated Memorandum of Law,” asserting that the question of whether to issue a writ of mandamus is ripe for decision. *See id.*, paragraphs 136-138.

6. Based on the parties’ representations, the Court finds that this matter should be set for a final evidentiary hearing.

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED AND ADJUDGED:** Defendants’ “Motion for Protective Order to Stay Discovery” is **GRANTED IN PART AND DENIED IN PART**, as follows:

- (a) The Motion is **GRANTED** to the extent that all discovery, except for Plaintiff’s Request for Admission, is stayed, including taking depositions and Defendants’ responsibility to respond to Plaintiff’s Request for Production and Request for Interrogatories.
- (b) The Motion is **DENIED** to the extent that Defendants are ordered to respond to Plaintiff’s Requests for Admission.
- (c) To the extent Defendants intend to assert a privilege, confidentiality, or exemption, Defendants are ordered to produce, no later than **ten (10) days** prior to the final hearing, a privilege log containing sufficient detail to place Plaintiff on adequate notice of the basis for each claim and to allow the Court to rule with specificity.
- (d) Any documents sought to be withheld based on privilege, confidentiality, or exemption may be subject to an *in-camera* review and must be brought to the hearing and labeled in a manner that allows the Court to conduct its review in an orderly fashion and announce its ruling with specificity. (e.g., Bates stamping or a similar identifying system).
- (e) The Court anticipates that the matters can be fully heard during a single day of proceedings. The nature of the proceedings are such that they shall be held in person at the Pinellas County Justice Center. All parties shall submit by email to chambers each date from May

18, 2026 to June 19, 2026 on which they are available to appear for the full day so that the Court can schedule the final hearing expeditiously.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers in Clearwater, Pinellas County, Florida, this 28th day of April 2026. A true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished to the parties listed below.



SHERWOOD COLEMAN
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

Copies furnished to:

Plaintiff
cahanson77@yahoo.com

Defendant Clerk
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Attorney General
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