

KATHRYN COPELAND
Plaintiff,

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V.

KELLY DECKER,
individually
And d/b/a **KELLY DECKER LAW,**
PLLC, and formerly d/b/a/ **DECKER**
POOLE,
jointly and severally,
Defendants.

236TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

OF TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS

ORDER DECLARING KATHRYN COPELAND A VEXATIOUS LITIGANT

On January 15, 2026, the Court considered Defendants' Motion for Vexatious Litigant Relief & Motion for Sanctions and Plaintiff's Response to Defendants' Motions. Due and proper notice of the hearing was given and received as required by the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure and Texas Civil Practices and Remedies Code chapter 11. Based upon the pleadings on file, testimony, evidence admitted and the argument of counsel and the written submissions, **the Court FINDS** as follows:

Appearances:

Plaintiff, having received proper and sufficient notice, did not appear in person.

Plaintiff's counsel, John Allen Douglas, was subpoenaed to appear and did not appear.

Defendants Kelly Decker, Individually and Kelly Decker Law, PLLC attended in person and was represented by Kelly Decker.

Findings

After considering the Motion, the evidence, and the arguments, the Court makes the following further findings:

1. Plaintiff Kathryn Copeland meets the criteria to be declared a vexatious litigant under Texas Civil Practices and Remedies Code Chapter 11.
2. There is no reasonable probability that Plaintiff Kathryn Copeland will prevail in the litigation filed against Defendants Kelly Decker, Individually, Kelly Decker Law, PLLC and formerly d/b/a Decker Poole, PLLC (hereinafter "Defendants").
3. That Plaintiff Kathryn Copeland has previously been declared to be a vexatious litigant in an action or proceeding based on the same or substantially similar transaction, or occurrence as the present one.
4. That the security required herein is an undertaking by the Plaintiff Kathryn Copeland to assure payment to Defendants of their reasonable expenses incurred in or in connection with the litigation commenced, caused to be commenced, and maintained, or caused to be maintained by the Plaintiff, including costs and attorney's fees.
5. That Plaintiff is a vexatious litigant.

Orders

THEREFORE, the Court GRANTS the Motion and declares Kathryn Copeland a vexatious litigant.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT Plaintiff shall comply with the January 21, 2025 Order in Cause No.231-686108-20, In the Interest of [REDACTED], Minor Children requiring her to obtain permission from the Local Administrative Judge to maintain this matter on or before March 19, 2026. She is FURTHER ORDERED to timely comply with any conditions placed by the administrative judge to maintain this litigation. Failure to timely comply with the January 21, 2025 Order, this Order and any other Order established by the Local Administrative Judge shall result in the dismissal of this case.

Plaintiff Kathryn Copeland is FURTHER ORDERED to furnish security in the amount of TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$20,000.00) by March 21, 2026, to proceed and maintain this matter. The purpose of this security is to assure payment of Defendants' reasonable attorney's fees in connection with this litigation including expert fees. Failure to furnish security as ordered shall result in the dismissal of this case.

Kathryn Copeland is prohibited from filing, pro se, any new litigation in any court in this State without the written permission of the appropriate local administrative judge in the jurisdiction where Ms. Copeland attempts to file such litigation.

If Kathryn Copeland violates this pre-filing order, she will be subject to contempt of court in addition to the other remedies afforded under Chapter 11 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

The Clerk of the Court is directed to notify the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System ("OCA") of this Court's declaration of Kathryn Copeland as a vexatious litigant by delivering a copy of this order to the OCA at the following address:

Office of Court Administration
Attention: Judicial Information
P.O. Box 12066 Austin, Texas 78711-2066
JudInfo@txcourts.gov

SIGNED on February 26, 2026.


JUDGE PRESIDING