

VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HENRICO COUNTY

MYRNA NICOLE MARIE MORRISSEY,

[REDACTED]

Plaintiff.

v.

JOSEPH DEE MORRISSEY,

[REDACTED]

Defendant.

NO. _____

SERVE: Joseph Dee Morrissey

[REDACTED]

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MAY 18 2023

CLERK'S OFFICE
HENRICO CIRCUIT COURT

COMPLAINT
(DIVORCE)

COMES NOW the Plaintiff, MYRNA NICOLE MARIE MORRISSEY, and respectfully submits this Complaint for Divorce against JOSEPH DEE MORRISSEY, the Defendant, and respectfully represents unto the Court as follows:

1. The Plaintiff, MYRNA NICOLE MARIE MORRISSEY ("WIFE") is domiciled in and is and has been an actual *bona fide* resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia for at least six months preceding the commencement of this suit.

2. The Defendant, JOSEPH DEE MORRISSEY ("HUSBAND") and the Wife, last cohabited as husband and wife in Richmond, Virginia. The Husband resides in Henrico County and jurisdiction and venue is proper in Henrico County.

3. The parties are over the age of eighteen years, and neither is an active-duty member of the Armed Services of the United States of America.

4. The parties were lawfully married on June 11, 2016, in Henrico, Virginia.

5. There were three children born of the marriage: SEE PRIVATE ADDENDUM.

6. The parties met in April 2013, when the Wife was seventeen (17) and the Husband was fifty-five (55).

7. The Wife was newly graduated from high school and the Husband had been an attorney since the 1980's, and was a sitting Delegate in the Virginia House.

8. The parties met at the Wife's place of employment – a doctor's office – and the Husband only saw her there in April 2013 and June 2013 before he offered her a job when he saw her in July 2013.

9. In July 2013, the Husband, over his assistant's objection, offered the Wife a job at his law office, starting on or about August 1, 2013.

10. The Wife had no legal training or skills relevant to a legal profession.

11. In the second week of the Wife working at the law office, the Husband texted the Wife, insisting that she provide him naked pictures of herself.

12. The Wife was still 17 at the time and the Husband was still 55. Wife felt alternately complimented and pressured by the Husband's advances.

13. In the Wife's second week of employment, the Husband began requesting explicit photos.

14. In the Wife's third week of her employment, the Husband took the Wife to a political dinner. After dinner, the Husband took the Wife back to the law office where he lured her into a sexual encounter.

15. At the end of the third week, the Husband took the Wife to dinner and then back to his house for sex. While there, the police came to the Husband's door demanding that the Wife return home to her parents – as she was still a minor and their dependent.

16. Once the Wife returned home, she was worried that the Husband would get in trouble for their sexual relationship, the Wife told her parents that there was no sexual relationship. The Wife was afraid of ramifications and relied on the Husband's superior position professionally to guide her.

17. The next morning, a Henrico detective visited the Wife to discuss her relationship with the Husband. During the conversation, the detective asked the Wife if she had ever sent naked photos to the Husband.

18. The same day the detective met with the Wife, she later called the Husband to tell him a detective stopped by and asked about naked photos being sent to him. The Husband then instructed the Wife to destroy any evidence and "throw your phone in the river."

19. The Wife did not destroy the phone as directed by the Husband, and the next day the police seized her phone. The Wife informed the Husband.

20. The Husband then had his Legislative Assistant at the time purchase "burner" phones for him and the Wife so that they could keep contact and the Wife could him informed about the investigation and who was saying what. Husband did not reveal the existence of these telephones to the authorities.

21. Prior to the Wife's fourth week of employment, the Husband told the Wife that she could no longer work at the law office, because he was worried about how it would affect him if it came out that the two were having a sexual relationship.

22. The Husband attempted, without success, to find the Wife a job at one of his friends' local businesses.

23. In early 2014, the Wife began to pull away from the Husband and started to have a life without him.

24. Sensing she was pulling away, the Husband convinced the Wife to go with him to Wintergreen for the weekend of her 18th birthday. He began to woo her with promises of a married and great life with him. The Wife was flattered and influenced by the Husband's tales of his great influence and power.

25. After the trip, the Husband kept regular contact with the Wife, and in June 2014, she became pregnant with their first child.

26. In response to learning he was to be a father, the Husband said, "Do you think you could put the baby off on one of your male friends?" because he was worried about how it would look being there was an ongoing criminal investigation into their sexual relationship. Husband did not want to publicly admit paternity of the child.

27. To further conceal the pregnancy, the Husband forced the Wife to move to Georgia in August 2014. The Husband began paying for all of the Wife's expenses.

28. In December 2014, the Husband was facing charges for the crimes committed by having sex with a minor and soliciting and receiving child pornography, as related to his relationship with the Wife. During the prosecution, the Husband was offered a plea deal, and he asked the Wife if he should take it.

29. The Wife told him he should take the deal if he wanted to be present for his child that would be born that spring.

30. The Husband took the plea deal – made an Alford plea, and had the Wife to move back to Virginia.

31. The Wife complied, and the parties moved into together in March 2015 – five days after the birth of the parties' first child.

32. The parties agreed that the Husband would work and provide his salary checks to the Wife, and the Wife would be in charge of running the home and paying the bills.

33. In April 2015 through June 2020, the Husband had the Wife on payroll for his law firm at \$30,000.00 - \$60,000.00 a year. The Wife never worked at the law firm after August 2013.

34. Two months after moving in together, the Wife saw text messages on the Husband's phone of him asking a young girl for naked photos. The Wife confronted the Husband, and he denied it.

35. A few months after the first occasion, the Wife saw text messages from the Husband again soliciting naked photos from a new female.

36. The parties had another child in March 2016.

37. The Wife became pregnant again with the parties third child in 2017.

38. On a family trip to New York in December 2017, the Wife became aware of a woman threatening to notify her of the Husbands affair if the woman wasn't provided money by the Husband.

39. Due to the affair and ongoing infidelities, the Wife went into labor with their last child in January 2018. Wife found out shortly before the birth of the child that the Husband had given her a sexually transmittable disease.

40. Shortly after the birth of the parties last child, the parties sought marital counseling. Only two sessions were attended because the Husband refused to attend anymore sessions.

41. By the end of 2018, the Wife wanted to end the marriage and asked the Husband if she could leave.

42. The Husband persuaded her to stay, because he was about to run for State Senate, and a divorce would hurt his campaign. He desired to portray their “family” life to help him overcome the stigma created by their illicit relationship.

43. The Husband agreed to move to another property and allow the Wife to remain alone in the marital home with the children if she would stay through the 2019 election year. The Husband exercised financial control over the Wife and she felt that she had no choice in matters.

44. During 2019, the Husband lived at a property in Church Hill, and the Wife remained in the marital residence in Richmond, Virginia. However, during this time, the Husband would come to the house most nights around dinner to see the children and attempt to persuade the Wife to stay.

45. In November 2019, the Husband won his election to the Virginia state senate, due in large part to the sacrifice and silence of the Wife. On the night of the successful election, the Wife told the Husband that she wanted a divorce and for him not to come to the house.

46. Throughout the marriage, the Husband engaged in numerous affairs, known to– but not condoned by – the Wife.

47. Specifically, but not limited to

-a Sherriff's deputy

-various clients

-the mother of his twin children, born during the marriage

-various babysitters

48. Additionally, the Husband was repeatedly emotionally, verbally, and even physically abusive.

50 The Husband repeatedly called the Wife names such as “bitch”; told her to “shut the fuck up”; berated her; told the Wife, “you’re weak; you have no pride; you’re a spoiled brat; ungrateful bitch.” He called her a “ghetto rat” and made unflattering remarks regarding her race.

51. When the then nineteen-twenty-year-old Wife asked for help running a large house under renovation and carrying and caring for young children, the Husband often told her, “You’re living the American Dream!!! What’s so fucking hard?!?”

52. These words are exactly the phrasing that the Husband used in his Petition for a Simple Pardon to Governor Northam in 2021. This Petition was filed without input from the Wife and he drafted and forwarded the Affidavit he wanted her to sign. Wife has no recollection of ever actually signing the Affidavit submitted with the Petition.

53. It was often that the Wife had to rely on her mother or nannies to assist.

54. The Husband also physically assaulted the Wife during the marriage.

55. On one occasion towards the end of 2017, beginning of 2018, when the Wife was pregnant with the parties' third child, he deliberately elbowed her in the abdomen and told her to "step back."

56. On another occasion, the Husband grabbed the Wife by the throat, slammed her against the wall, and began choking her. As the Wife clawed and fought to get free, the Husband repeatedly slapped her across the face to the point that she gave up fighting because she could no longer withstand the facial assault. When the Wife threatened to call the police the Husband said he would tell the police that she was the aggressor because of the scratches he sustained from the Wife trying to get free.

57. Husband has continually boasted to the Wife that she is powerless against him, that his political position, finances and friends who do him legal favors will enable him to prevail in any court action. In fact, Wife has incurred substantial attorneys fees defending herself against false allegations made by the Husband in retaliation for her decision to go public about his true nature.

58. On November 5, 2019, the Wife formed the intent to permanently separate from the Husband, and that intent has remained consistent, without interruption, to the date of this filing. Despite this intent, as echoed by the Husband for the same time period, Husband represented in his Petition for a Simple Pardon that the parties were "living the American dream" and attributed intents and thoughts to the Wife that are not hers. Wife will not be the first to say that the Husband did not exert influence over her; in fact, she realizes now that the Husband has controlled and influenced her since she was a minor.

59. There is no hope of reconciliation between the parties.

59. There are property and support issues to be determined by the Court, including but not limited to equitable distribution, an award of spousal support for the Wife, as well as attorney's fees and costs for the Wife. This includes, but is not limited to, the numerous properties purchased, sold, renovated, and maintained by the parties during the marriage.

60. The custody, visitation, and child support for the parties' minor children has already been established by Court Orders in the Chesterfield Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court, dated December 1, 2022.

61. This Court is requested to take jurisdiction over the custody, visitation and support of the parties' minor children because of undue influence and financial misrepresentations by the Husband during the negotiation of child support.

IN CONSIDERATION WHEREOF, the Plaintiff prays:

A. That a divorce *a vinculo matrimonii* be granted to the Plaintiff in accordance with Virginia Code § 20-91 (1) on the ground of adultery;

B. Alternatively, that a divorce *a mensa thoro* be granted to the Plaintiff in accordance with Virginia Code § 20-95 on the ground of abandonment, to be later merged into a divorce *a vinculo matrimonii*, upon the expiration of a one-year separation;

C. That the Plaintiff be awarded sole legal and primary physical custody of the parties' minor children;

D. That the Plaintiff be awarded temporary and permanent support and maintenance and health care coverage for the parties' children until they graduate from high school and have reached the age of eighteen years, or reach the age of nineteen years;

E. That the Defendant be required to contribute temporarily and permanently to the cost of homeschooling and extracurricular activities previously participated in by the parties' minor children;

F. That the Defendant be required to maintain existing and replacement insurance on his life and to designate the parties' children as exclusive beneficiaries thereof, so long as he has a statutory obligation to pay support for the children;

G. That all tax dependency exemptions, credits, and other tax-related benefits for the parties' children be awarded to the Plaintiff;

H. That the Plaintiff be awarded temporary and permanent, periodic and lump sum, alimony, spousal support and maintenance and health care coverage for herself, or, if present alimony not be awarded, that Plaintiff be granted a reservation of the right to seek an award of spousal support in the future;

I. That the Court determine legal title to, ownership and value of, all real and personal property of the parties, ascertaining which is separate property and which is marital or hybrid property;

J. That jointly owned marital real and personal property be apportioned in kind between the parties as their legal and equitable interests may dictate, or, in the alternative, that such property be partitioned and sold, with the proceeds divided among those entitled thereto;

K. That the Plaintiff be granted a monetary award based upon the equities and the rights and interests of each of the parties in the property comprising the marital estate;

L. That the Plaintiff be awarded one-half the marital share of all pension, profit-sharing, deferred compensation and other retirement benefits to which the

Defendant is or may become entitled, and that the Plaintiff be designated irrevocable survivor beneficiary as to all such benefits;

M. That debt incurred prior to dissolution of the marriage be apportioned between the parties as their legal and equitable interests may dictate and/or that payment of said debt be ordered pursuant to Section 20-107.3, 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, as the Court may deem appropriate upon consideration of the factors enumerated therein;

N. That, in the event the evidence in this case proves that the Defendant has spent, transferred, hidden or otherwise alienated or dissipated material marital assets, the Court establish the value of such assets as of an alternate date other than date of trial, corresponding to the value of such assets immediately prior to Defendant's acts that occasioned the reduction or loss of value;

O. That pending a final determination of support and property issues in this case, the Defendant be restrained and enjoined from (a) hiding or secreting, spending, liquidating, dissipating, selling, transferring, assigning, giving away or otherwise disposing of, and from pledging as collateral or otherwise encumbering, any marital assets (tangible or intangible, real, personal or mixed) now owned or held by the Defendant or titled in his name alone or as trustee or custodian for another, in Defendant's name jointly with Plaintiff, or in Defendant's name jointly with any other person or entity; and (b) contracting new marital debt or enlarging existing marital debt, for the payment of which the Plaintiff could be found to be legally or equitably liable;

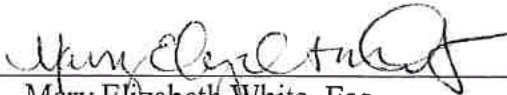
P. That the Plaintiff be awarded temporary and final attorneys' fees, expert witness fees, accounting fees and other costs expended herein; and

Q. That the Plaintiff be granted such other and further relief as the nature of the case requires or the Court deems just and proper.

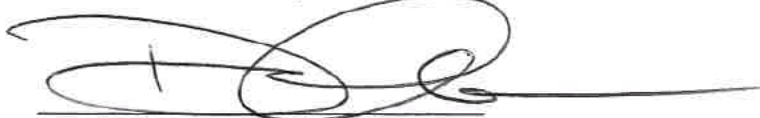
Respectfully Submitted,

MYRNA MORRISSEY
By Counsel

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