



Stephen Cooke <stephencooke.c@gmail.com>

Re: Additional Context Regarding My Decision to Self-Represent

5 messages

Stephen Cooke <stephencooke.c@gmail.com>
To: suraiya.moisey@atune.com.au

Sat, Oct 19, 2024 at 5:37 AM

Hi Dr. Moisey,

You could benefit from further context, see email exchanges below.

a) Please refer to the email exchange below, where my former lawyer shared the following view: 'At the recent dispute resolution conference, Heather did not raise drinking as one of the reasons for proposing reduced time with the boys.'

Additionally, please review the proposed changes outlined in the attached documents: 'Alcohol Adjustment - Father Only - Draft Minute of Order - FDR.pdf,' 'OS Legal Restriction on Alcohol - Father Only.png,' and 'Diff of Opinion - Most Recent Lawyer.png.' These documents highlight a shift toward imposing alcohol restrictions solely on the Father, as opposed to the current order, which places equal and balanced restrictions on both parents in this regard. Given this shift, I thought it prudent to discreetly undergo another drug and alcohol hair follicle test, this time a full 6 months"

and as noted already in my email exchange below;

b) Despite follow-up and ample preparation time, my numerous attempts and the significant costs incurred in trying to present my drug and alcohol results to Drew Cowan previously were ignored, as outlined in Exhibit A. Notably, my results were produced to my previous lawyer on February 20, 2024, but were simply not provided to Drew. This lack of response further supports the validity of my approach to subpoena Chromis and have it officially added to the court record.

Drew Cowen from Relationspace is set to prepare a family report in the coming weeks. This report is subject to strict restrictions by way of a mutual consent order, which I was not given ample time to review but felt obliged to comply with, regarding which court information may be included. I must ensure that my concerns, as outlined in my most recent email to OS Legal and the ICL ('Email to OS Legal and ICL - Wed Oct 16, 2024, at 13:36'), are properly addressed.

It's irrelevant why these things did not happen (or happened); what matters is that they did not happen on two separate occasions. The disruptions to my life, both personally and professionally, have been significant, with substantial financial costs as well.

This reinforces my decision to move forward with self-representation. I believe anyone looking at the situation should understand the significant time, effort, and energy it takes for me to navigate the complexities of my legal matter largely on my own.

Best regards,

Stephen

Follow me on LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/stephen-cooke-b853702ab]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Stephen Cooke** <stephencooke.c@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Oct 11, 2024 at 3:29 AM

Subject: Re: Subpoena to Chromis Occupational Medicine and Revised Interim Application

To: Matthew Shepherd <mshepherd@ramsdenslaw.com.au>

Cc: Avalon Carnall <acarnall@ramsdenslaw.com.au>

Dear Matthew and Avalon,

I need to move quickly, and I am concerned about the boys. My circumstances make this increasingly difficult. As

you know, I am still working towards securing employment at Diamond IT, which adds to my stress and complicates my ability to focus on studying—something I desperately wish to do. I was hoping to offload wholly to you now that the financial settlement is complete, but this has proven to be challenging.

Unfortunately, it seems that the situation continues to escalate for illogical reasons.

A) Heather's proposed amendments to the draft orders at the recent dispute resolution conference clearly indicated her intent to impose alcohol restrictions only on me (by modifying from both parties to just the Father). This not only singles me out but also reinforces her insinuation that I have a drinking problem.

B) Despite follow-up and ample preparation time, my numerous attempts and the significant costs incurred in trying to present my drug and alcohol results to Drew Cowan previously were ignored, as outlined in Exhibit A. Notably, my results were produced to my previous lawyer on February 20, 2024, but were simply not provided to Drew. This lack of response further supports the validity of my approach to subpoena Chromis and have it officially added to the court record.

Given these challenges, I've decided to initiate the process via the court portal to represent myself. I understand the importance of being wholly involved to achieve the best outcome for my boys.

I need my Client ID to proceed, which I have requested, noting my mention at 2:00 PM on Tuesday. If you happen to have it, I would greatly appreciate your assistance.

In the interim, I kindly request a quote for filing the subpoena to Chromis later today in preparation for Tuesday.

On Tuesday, I plan to inform the Registrar of my intention to contribute to the report and file an amended initiating application seeking a 50/50 custody arrangement, which may be subject to a satisfactory drug and alcohol result from Heather. I will finalize my thoughts over the weekend and will likely need to pause on the drafting of the joint letter to Drew until these other matters are communicated to the Registrar.

Lastly, please take note of the time of this email, the evidence put forward in this email and attachments, and the circumstances I find myself in.

Thank you for your understanding, and as previously discussed, I could use your assistance from time to time on the backend.

Best regards,
Stephen Cooke

Follow me on LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/stephen-cooke-b853702ab]

On Thu, Oct 10, 2024 at 8:23 PM Matthew Shepherd <mshepherd@ramsdenlaw.com.au> wrote:

Dear Stephen

I am not sure if you need to issue a subpoena.

I was unaware you were doing hair follicle testing. I do not recall any of the Orders requiring you to do so. I presume you did it voluntarily to address Heather's allegations of excessive drinking, and to show you were following Order 7 of 23 April 2024 re neither Heather or you not drinking in excess of .05 6 hours prior to the children being in your care.

If the above is correct, you would be entitled to request copies of test results etc and we can then share them with Heather, the ICL and the court if you wish. This would avoid the costs of a subpoena. It would also mean we can check the documents first to make sure there is nothing you do not wish to share.

At the recent dispute resolution conference drinking was not raised by Heather as one of the reasons she proposes the boys have less time with you.

Regards,

MATTHEW SHEPHERD

Special Counsel
Accredited Specialist in Family Law

D: (02) 8123 1229

E: mshepherd@ramsdenlaw.com.au



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6 attachments



OS Legal Restriction on Alcohol Father only.png
76K




Diff of opinion - Most recent Lawyer.png
89K

Exhibit A.pdf
1516K

Drug and Alcohol - Stephen Cooke.pdf
9038K

Alcohol adjustment father only - Draft Minute of Order - FDR.pdf
80K

 **Email to OS Legal and ICL - Wed Oct 16 2024 at 1336.pdf**
305K

Stephen Cooke <stephencooke.c@gmail.com> Sat, Oct 19, 2024 at 5:49 AM
To: Neill Cooke <cooke.neill@gmail.com>, Sheila Cooke <sheilacooke.c@gmail.com>

Hi Neill,

I've included an email to my psychiatrist below. I would appreciate it if you could take the time to thoroughly review everything and understand the deep frustration and anger that statements like "hire a lawyer then" or "you're crazy" provoke in me. Repeatedly trying to communicate my perspective, only to be met with dismissive and unsupportive responses, has had a significant mental impact on me.

That said, I do genuinely acknowledge and appreciate the financial assistance you've provided—I wouldn't have made it this far without it, and for that, I thank you. However, discussing my legal matters with you seems to do more harm than good, so I'd prefer to avoid it moving forward which is unfortunate because ultimately what I needed was someone to speak to.

I know this isn't easy on you guys either... and I'm sorry this happened.


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6 attachments





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Neill Cooke <cooke.neill@gmail.com> Sat, Oct 19, 2024 at 9:09 AM
To: Stephen Cooke <stephencooke.c@gmail.com>

I have never, ever, said you are crazy.
I have said that some of your fears or positions are irrational.
Over the past year I have spent countless hours talking to you and emailing you to try help you through this mess. Most of this communication has been in the middle of our Canadian night and instigated by you. I regret that you have viewed my efforts and honest advice as damaging to your mental health.

You should perhaps consider the degree to which " your matter " has impacted our mental health. You should perhaps realize that you are not the only victim to Heather's behaviour.

David and Angela accept that I am not on this planet to give my children words that they like. My advice is what I believe appropriate rather than agreeable. That will never change.

You have requested that we no longer discuss your " matter.
So be it.

I wish you a favorable outcome with your boys. If you need anything, let me know but your legal matter is now, at your request, off the agenda for any further discussion with me.

You have a considerable sum of money from your settlement.
I suggest you protect it and your time with the boys by getting a job. Not to do so would, indeed, be crazy.

Your future is what you will make of it. You are lucky to walk into it with a nest egg and two boys who love you.

[Quoted text hidden]

Stephen Cooke <stephencooke.c@gmail.com> Mon, Oct 21, 2024 at 6:01 PM
To: Angela Cooke <angelacooke.c@gmail.com>, David Cooke <david.c.cooke08@gmail.com>

See below. **READ** so you understand what has been happening in my matter and note, it is all confidential.

Follow me on LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/stephen-cooke-b853702ab]

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From: **Stephen Cooke** <stephencooke.c@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Oct 19, 2024 at 12:37 PM
Subject: Re: Additional Context Regarding My Decision to Self-Represent
To: <suraiya.moisey@atune.com.au>





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Stephen Cooke <stephencooke.c@gmail.com> Mon, Oct 21, 2024 at 6:07 PM
To: David Cooke <davidcooke.c@gmail.com>, Angela Cooke <angelacooke.c@gmail.com>

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