

CAUSE NO. 2008-24181

VIRGIE ARTHUR,	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
PLAINTIFF,	§	
v.	§	HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
HOWARD K. STERN, BONNIE STERN,	§	
LYNDAL HARRINGTON, ART HARRIS,	§	
NELDA TURNER, TERESA STEPHENS,	§	
LARRY BIRKHEAD, HARVEY LEVIN, and	§	
TMZ PRODUCTIONS, INC.,	§	
DEFENDANTS.	§	280 <sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**JUDGMENT OF CONTEMPT and  
ORDER COMPELLING PRODUCTION**

**I. Introduction**

Defendant Teresa Stephens was scheduled to appear before this Court on July 17, 2009 to show cause as to why she should not be held in contempt. Teresa Stephens failed to appear at that hearing. A Writ of Attachment issued so that she could be brought before the 280<sup>th</sup> District Court for the Show Cause Hearing. Teresa Stephens was taken into custody on August 20, 2009 and brought to Court, where she appeared today for the Show Cause Hearing.

**II. Court's Findings**

After examining all of the pleadings and hearing the evidence and arguments, this Court finds and now holds that this Court has jurisdiction of this proceeding; that the Motion for Contempt is in all respects proper and sufficient; that Defendant Teresa Stephens was afforded due and proper notice of these proceedings; and that she had notice of this Court's order of May 11, 2009 by which she was ordered to turn over her computer and other relevant electronic media to Special Master Craig Ball for forensic examination.

**FILED**  
Loren Jackson  
District Clerk  
AUG 24 2009  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_  
Harris County, Texas  
Deputy

The court further finds that Defendant Teresa Stephens is guilty of violating this Court's order in the following particular: Defendant Teresa Stephens has turned nothing over to Special Master Ball, in violation of this Court's order of May 11, 2009.

The court further finds that Defendant Teresa Stephens is in the custody of the Harris County Sheriff pursuant to a Writ of Attachment ordered by this Court.

### **III. Orders**

IT IS THEREFORE, ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED by the Court that Defendant Teresa Stephens is in Civil Contempt of this Court for violating this Court's order in the following particular: Defendant Teresa Stephens has turned nothing over to Special Master Ball, in violation of this Court's order of May 11, 2009.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED by the Court that Defendant Teresa Stephens is in civil contempt, and further orders as follows:

- a. The Harris County Sheriff shall maintain custody of Stephens and shall arrange for her to be transported to her home at 5022 Cloyce Court, North Richland Hills, Texas, where Stephens shall surrender to the Harris County Deputy Sheriff the key to her safe deposit box and the computer and other means of electronic data storage that are located in her home
- b. The Sheriff shall contact Lance Sloves at 214-498-5666 or at 214-306-6470 to alert him to be available at the bank. The Sheriff shall then transport Stephens to arrive at the Bank of America, 8625 West Bedford-Eules, Hurst, Texas, during business hours. At the bank, Stephens and the Sheriff shall enter the bank vault together and retrieve the computer that is located in a safe deposit box, and Stephens shall surrender that computer and all other means of electronic data storage to Lance Sloves, a computer

forensic contractor designated by Special Master Craig Ball, for imaging of the contents of that electronic media.

c. Stephens, Sloves, and the Sheriff shall then return to 5022 Cloyce Court, North Richland Hills, Texas, where Sloves will image the electronic media. The Sheriff shall notify the Court at 713-368-6420 when the imaging begins and how long Mr. Sloves says it will take

d. Teresa Stephens is ordered to remain in custody until the imaging by Mr. Sloves is concluded. to complete. The Sheriff shall notify the Court at 713-368-6420 upon completion of the imaging and only release Teresa Stephens upon verbal instructions of the Court.

e. The Court further orders that Plaintiff pay into the registry of the court the costs of transportation to the sites where the computer and other means of electronic data storage are to be retrieved and imaged.

Signed this 24<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2009.

*Tony Lindsay*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JUDGE TONY LINDSAY

*Tony Lindsay*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge Presiding