

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

Shamera E. Williams,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	<u>File No. GC-2024-0327</u>
v.)	
)	
Spire Missouri Inc. d/b/a Spire)	
)	
Respondent.)	
)	

NOTICE OF DEFICIENCY

Issue Date: May 15, 2024

On May 1, 2024, Shamera E. Williams filed a Complaint against Spire Missouri Inc. d/b/a Spire (Spire).

Missouri Revised Statute Section 386.390 states that a person filing a complaint must state a Commission rule or provision of law that has been violated. Commission rule 20 CSR 4240-2.070(4)(G) also requires the complaint include a statement of the Commission’s jurisdiction over the subject matter of the complaint. This complaint is deficient because it contains no violation of law or rule, so the Complainant is directed to allege a specific violation.

In addition, Complainant states in the complaint that she is a corporation. Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.040(5), specifically addressing practice before the Commission, states:

A natural person may represent himself or herself. Such practice is strictly limited to the appearance of a natural person on his or her own behalf and shall not be made for any other person or entity.

The basis for this Commission Rule is found in Sections 484.010 and 484.020.¹ Section 484.010 defines the practice of law as “the appearance as an advocate in a representative capacity or the drawing of papers, pleadings or documents or the performance of any act in such capacity in connection with proceedings pending or prospective before any court of record, commissioner, referee or anybody, board, committee or commission constituted by law or having authority to settle controversies.” Section 484.020 restricts the practice of law and engagement in law business to licensed attorneys.²

Shamera E. Williams, not being a natural person representing only itself, must be represented by an attorney authorized to practice law in Missouri to appear before the Commission in this application. The application is defective because of the lack of that representation as evidenced by the lack of a signature by an attorney authorized to practice law in Missouri.

This case may be dismissed in accordance with 20 CSR 4240-2.116(2) or (4) if the deficiencies are not cured, no action occurs, or no continuance is requested by May 28, 2024. The application is deficient and the Commission shall take no further action in this matter until such time as the deficiencies are corrected.

¹All statutory citations refer to RSMo 2016 unless otherwise noted.

²“The law does not treat individuals and corporations equally. The law allows an individual to bear the risk that representation without an attorney may entail. Natural persons may represent themselves in situations which, if done for someone else, would constitute the practice of law. Unlike individuals, corporations are not natural persons, but are creatures of statute. Businesses operating in corporate form are entitled to certain benefits that are denied to others. In addition to benefits, however, corporations also have certain restrictions placed upon them. One such restriction in Missouri is that a corporation may not represent itself in legal matters, but must act solely through licensed attorneys.” (Internal citations omitted). *Reed v. Labor and Indus. Relations Com'n*, 789 S.W.2d 19, 21 (Mo. banc 1990).



BY THE COMMISSION

Nancy Dippell

Nancy Dippell
Secretary

Karolin S. Walker, Regulatory Law Judge
By delegation of authority pursuant
To Section 386.240 RSMo 2016.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 15th day of May, 2024.

STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 15th day of May 2024.



Nancy Dippell

Nancy Dippell
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

May 15, 2024

File/Case No. GC-2024-0327

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Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).

Sincerely,



**Nancy Dippell
Secretary**

Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.