Hello,

This is supplemental to my previous complaint , as I did not have access to the court transcript at the time. I am attaching the transcript, along with the Missouri Pro Se Ethics, and the original complaint form for reference. As with the first document, I have no problem with sharing this information with Judge Lewis, and in fact , hope this reaches him in order to prevent future issues.

I did somewhat mistakenly assert in the first complaint that we had an attorney for this case. After calling him when we were unable to represent ourselves by Judge Lewis, we were notified that he was retained for negotiations only and not court proceedings. Judge Lewis noted this (transcript, page 18, #21,22,23)

Judge Lewis also stated that he had received the previous supplied letter from my Doctor regarding the mental illness that is also a component of this matter. (transcript , page 18, 4-5 ,page 28, 13-17)

In the Missouri Pro Se ethics it states “A civil litigant may proceed pro se. Bittick v. State” While I had no idea what that means I have found out that my wife and I are not able to represent our trust in court. Judge Lewis allowed us to proceed (Trns Page 2, 23-25, page 3 1-2) Then denied us the ability to represent ourselves. (Trns page 18, 21-25, page 19 1-12)

Going back to Missouri’s Pro Se ethics: General1.

When a litigant appears without an attorney, verify that the litigant

understands he or she is entitled to be represented by an attorney; give

information about pro bono or lawyer referral resources. Explain that self-

representation is difficult, you as judge cannot act as an advocate for either

side, and the other party’s attorney will not provide assistance or advice.

 If an unrepresented litigant appears to be mentally disabled, take

additional steps to involve counsel and other support services.

1. At no point in time did Judge Lewis (per transcript) ask if we wanted an attorney.
2. At no point in time did Judge Lewis (per transcript) question my ability despite being aware of my mental illness. When not allowed to represent ourselves I was devastated, and no longer in a state of mind to address such life changing issues as were at hand.

All together Judge Lewis violated ethics by not explaining how the system worked. Did not ask or suggest we retain counsel which we obviously didn’t have. Did not call for a break when I obviously became very confused (along with having a mental disability) when opposing counsel shattered my concentration by not allowing me to present my evidence. I had a binder with outlines that I could read. It was not permitted into evidence. Judge Lewis could have given us time to get an attorney to present our evidence when opposing counsel would not let us do it ourselves. He could have continued the case a different day , But….. (Lewis) “We’ve begun the hearing and we aren’t going to stop it at this point.” This hearing should never have happed the way it did.

Thank you, Joe Wissman