

5

FILED
SUPERIOR COURT
THURSTON COUNTY, WASH.

08 FEB 29 AM 11:37

BETTY J. GOULD, CLERK

BY K DEPUTY

☒ **EXPEDITE** (if filing within 5 days of court hearing)

☐ HEARING IS SET:

TIME 3 30 pm

DATE 3-03-08

JUDGE: Adamson- visiting

**SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON
FOR THURSTON COUNTY
FAMILY AND JUVENILE COURT**

NO: 08-2-30121-1

DONALD J. ROLSTAD

Petitioner

SARA J. DOTSON, RANDALL D. DOTSON

Respondents

DOCUMENT COVER

DECLARATION OF

SARA DOTSON

DECLARATION OF SARA J DOTSON

My name is Sara J Dotson and this Declaration is in response to the petition for a protection order filed against me by my father and naming my husband as well. I have to join in my husband's sentiments and say that this petition was filed at the direction of my sister, Betsy Prehm, with malicious intent.

My sister has not had anything to do with our family for several years. As soon as she heard our father was thinking of selling his home, she began to spend more time there and has worked very hard to malign the rest of the family and keep us all at bay. My father is elderly and has been under a great deal of stress with my mother's illness and trying to raise my nephew. He is easily confused and has a difficult time distinguishing fact from fiction.

I did go over to my parents house on Thursday, 2/21/08 to deliver a map to my son's school. My son was going to be honored with several awards at a Cub Scout banquet and had wanted his grandparents there. My father was not even home when I arrived but within minutes, my sister was viciously attacking me with a verbal barrage of accusations and malicious statements. I was so shocked, I kept asking her, "What's the matter with you? Why are you saying these things?"

My dad arrived as she was screaming at me and it was clear I could not get a word in edgewise. I tried to leave but my father was standing in my way so I went through the kitchen. Had I known what was going to transpire, I would have kept going through the back door but instead, I tried to find a phone and went upstairs. When I realized there was no longer a phone up there, I decided to gather some clothes I had in a closet that I have been promising to pick up for some time. I felt this would give my sister time to cool off and allow me to speak with my father about the banquet.

My sister came upstairs and backed me into a corner with her verbal onslaught. Before I knew it, we were joined by my dad as an observer and my sister's paramour who started yelling profanities at me despite the fact that he doesn't even know me. When Betsy threatened to call the police, I asked her to please do so. I had reason to be concerned for my safety not only from my sister's attack but from her boyfriend who has a long history of assaulting women and law enforcement, of which I happen to be both. Betsy attempted to keep me from leaving several times and I still could not locate a phone. Once I did get outside to put my stuff in the car, Betsy assaulted me. She broke my father's antique piano stool and continued yelling and screaming at me outside.

08-2-30121-1

The person who has reason to be embarrassed and humiliated was not my father or my sister, it was me. Along with all of this chaos Betsy was causing, my nephew's counselors showed up from Behavioral Health Resources. These are people that I work with on a professional level and it was horrible to have them hear the yelling coming from my sister and witness her treatment of me.

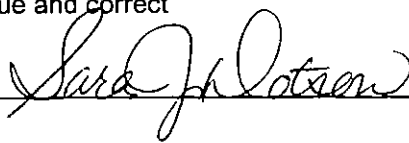
When I was finally able to leave, I considered calling law enforcement to report the assault and the attempts to prevent me from leaving but after giving it some thought, I decided that the best way to handle things would be to contact the Dispute Resolution Center where things could be discussed in a calm manner. I really did not want to encourage this "Jerry Springer-like" behavior.

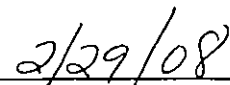
I have never threatened my father in any way, that is simply not how I handle conflict, it is not part of my nature to handle things in a hostile manner. At no time did I "threaten to come back and get my things." I would like to have my antique treadle sewing machine eventually. My maternal aunt, Barbara Kendall, has confirmed that it was given to me by my grandmother and is sending me a statement to that effect but apparently, that will be for another court to decide unless we can come to some agreements through mediation.

Your honor, I have worked very hard to establish a good reputation in this community and my work with children and families is well documented. I am a Juvenile Probation Counselor, a Family Court Investigator, I am on the Level II County Student Threat Assessment Team and teach parenting classes. Everyone who knows me knows I do not advocate violence of any sort. In addition to ongoing domestic violence training throughout the years, I also completed the extensive Guardian ad Litem training this fall in September and October that had a large component dealing with domestic violence. I work closely with domestic violence treatment providers and they all know how I feel about the issue. Nothing in the incident between me and my father rose to the level of the definition of domestic violence as defined in RCW 26.50.010.

It is unfortunate that my father is allowing himself to be so manipulated by my sister that he is willing to risk his relationships with four of his grandchildren and his only great-grandchild. I would ask that the court find these petitions without merit and order a dismissal.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.


Sara J. Dotson


Date