



HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA

NOTICE OF FILING

This document was filed electronically in the High Court of Australia on 28 Mar 2024 and has been accepted for filing under the *High Court Rules 2004*. Details of filing and important additional information are provided below.

Details of Filing

File Number: S24/2024
File Title: State of Queensland v. Mr Stradford (a pseudonym) & Ors
Registry: Sydney
Document filed: Form 27B - Appellant's chronology
Filing party: Applicant
Date filed: 28 Mar 2024

Important Information

This Notice has been inserted as the cover page of the document which has been accepted for filing electronically. It is now taken to be part of that document for the purposes of the proceeding in the Court and contains important information for all parties to that proceeding. It must be included in the document served on each of those parties and whenever the document is reproduced for use by the Court.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA
SYDNEY REGISTRY

S 24 of 2024

BETWEEN:

STATE OF QUEENSLAND

Appellant

and

MR STRADFORD (A PSEUDONYM)

First Respondent

and

JUDGE SALVATORE PAUL VASTA

Second Respondent

and

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Third Respondent

APPELLANT'S CHRONOLOGY

Part I: Certification

This chronology is in a form suitable for publication on the internet.

Part II: Chronology of principal events

Date	Event	Appeal Book reference
7 April 2017	Mr Stradford filed an initiating application in the Federal Circuit Court of Australia (FCCA) seeking property adjustment orders under s 79 of the <i>Family Law Act 1975</i> (Cth) in respect of the matrimonial assets owned by him and his then wife, Mrs Stradford.	Page 67 (Paragraph 7)
19 June 2018	Matter came before Judge Spelleken. Her Honour listed the matter for hearing on 10 August 2018, and made orders for the filing of further evidence.	Pages 72 to 73
10 August 2018	Matter came before Judge Vasta for hearing. His Honour adjourned the hearing and made further orders for disclosure.	Pages 74 to 109 (Transcript of hearing before

Document No: 16116816

Date	Event	Appeal Book reference
		Judge Vasta); Pages 110 to 113 (Order of Judge Vasta)
26 November 2018	<p>The matter came before Judge Turner. Her Honour asked the parties to address her with respect to whether the orders of Judge Vasta (made on 10 August 2018) had been complied with.</p> <p>Mrs Stradford complained that Mr Stradford had not complied. Judge Turner ordered that the matter be adjourned and listed before Judge Vasta on 6 December 2018 for a contempt hearing.</p>	Pages 129 to 134 (Transcript of hearing)
6 December 2018	<p>The matter came before Judge Vasta for the 'contempt hearing'. His Honour delivered ex tempore reasons before making declarations and the Imprisonment Order. Mr Stradford was sentenced to a term of imprisonment (12 months) commencing immediately.</p>	Pages 137 to 147 (Transcript of hearing) Pages 148 to 150 (Order of Judge Vasta) Pages 151 to 160 (Judgment of Judge Vasta - [2018] FCCA 3890)
6 December 2018 at 11.43am	<p>The FCC telephoned the Queensland Police Service and requested the officers attend the Federal Circuit Court building.</p>	Pages 162 to 163
6 December 2018 at 12.25pm	<p>Judge Vasta signed a 'Warrant of Commitment'.</p>	Page 69 (paragraph 14) Page 161
6 December 2018	<p>Two 'MSS' security guards, at least one of whom was called to the court room at 11.56am, and was present in the court room from at least 12.05pm and during the delivery of Judge Vasta's ex tempore reasons, took custody of Mr Stradford and escorted him to a holding cell in</p>	Page 69 (paragraph 15)

Date	Event	Appeal Book reference
	the Brisbane Federal Circuit Court building.	
6 December 2018	Between approximately 12.54pm and 1.00pm, officers of the Queensland Police Service left with Mr Stradford, handcuffed in their custody, and took him in a police van to the Roma Street Watchhouse.	Page 69 (paragraph 18)
6 December 2018 to 10 December 2018	Mr Stradford was detained at the Roma Street Watchhouse by officers of the Queensland Police Service	Page 69 (paragraph 19)
10 December 2018	Mr Stradford was transferred to the Brisbane Correctional Centre.	Page 69 (paragraph 20)
10 December 2018 to 12 December 2018	Mr Stradford was imprisoned at the Brisbane Correctional Centre.	Page 69 (paragraph 21)
12 December 2018	Mr Stradford applied for a stay of the Imprisonment Order pending an appeal to the Full Court of the Family Court. Judge Vasta granted the stay.	Pages 166 to 192 (Transcript of hearing) Pages 164 to 165 (Order of Judge Vasta) Pages 193 to 198 (Judgment of Judge Vasta)
12 December 2018	Mr Stradford was released from Brisbane Correctional Centre.	Page 70 (paragraph 23)
15 February 2019	The Full Court of the Family Court of Australia delivered judgment unanimously allowing Mr Stradford's appeal from the orders made by Judge Vasta on 6 December 2018.	Pages 200 to 201 (Order) Pages 202 to 229 (Judgment - [2019] FamCAFC 25)
History of proceedings		
7 December 2020	Mr Stradford filed an originating application in the Federal Court claiming damages against Judge Vasta, the Commonwealth and State of Queensland.	Pages 5 to 9

6 to 15 December 2021 and 24 May 2022	Trial before Wigney J.	
30 August 2023	Wigney J delivered judgment and awarded damages of \$312,500 to Mr Stradford.	Pages 243 to 470
2 November 2023	Wigney J delivered judgment on costs. Mr Stradford awarded costs but not for those referable to his forensic accounting expert.	
27 September 2023	The appellant (NSD1092/2023), second respondent (ACD54/2023) and third respondent (NSD1091/2023) filed Notices of Appeal from the decision of Wigney J.	Pages 471 to 486
8 February 2024	High Court ordered the removal of all 3 Appeals.	Pages 487 to 495

Dated 28 March 2024



Gim Del Villar KC
Solicitor-General for
Queensland
Ph: (07) 3175 4650
solicitor.general@
justice.qld.gov.au

Jonathan Horton KC
(07) 3211 3134
jhorton@qldbar.asn.au

Daniel Favell
(07) 3236 3853
danielfavell@
qldbar.asn.asu

Felicity Nagorcka
(07) 3031 5616
felicity.nagorcka@
crownlaw.qld.gov.au