

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

	Appellant,	
	vs.	
	Respondent.	

No. [REDACTED]

FILED

APR 09 2015

TRACIE K. LINDEMAN
 CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
 BY S. Young
 DEPUTY CLERK

ORDER REGARDING PRO BONO COUNSEL

This is a pro se appeal from a district court order declining to exercise jurisdiction over a petition for divorce and child custody. Appellant is proceeding without legal representation in this appeal. Having considered the record and the civil pro se appeal statement filed by appellant, this court has determined that the appointment of pro bono counsel to represent appellant would assist this court in reviewing this appeal. By this order, the court expresses no opinion as to the merits of this appeal.

Pro bono counsel is an attorney who provides legal services without charge for the benefit of the public good. The appointment of pro bono counsel provides attorneys with an opportunity to volunteer legal services in furtherance of their professional responsibility and, at the same time, allows financially eligible litigants access to quality legal representation without cost. Counsel will be appointed for purposes of this appeal only and will participate in oral argument. Currently, the Pro Bono Committee of the Appellate Litigation Section of the State Bar of Nevada (Pro Bono Committee), in conjunction with the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, has developed a pro bono appellate program to assist the public and this court. This case is hereby referred to the program

[REDACTED]

established by the Pro Bono Committee to evaluate whether appellant can benefit from the program.

Accordingly, we direct the clerk of this court to transmit a copy of this order and the attached case summary to the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada for financial eligibility screening. If appellant qualifies and does not object to pro bono counsel, the Legal Aid Center in cooperation with the Pro Bono Committee shall locate a volunteer attorney from the program to represent appellant. Once an attorney is located, the attorney shall file a notice of appearance in this court within 60 days from the date of this order. Supplemental briefing and oral argument will be scheduled thereafter. Alternatively, if appellant is not financially eligible or objects to pro bono representation, or if a volunteer attorney cannot be located, the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada shall notify this court in writing within 60 days from the date of this order. In such case, oral argument will not be held, and this matter will stand submitted for decision on the appeal statement and record currently before the court. See NRAP 34(f)(3).

It is so ORDERED.

1. J. J. J., C.J.

cc:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

This is an appeal from a district court order granting a status divorce but then declining to exercise jurisdiction over any remaining issues, including the child custody dispute. According to the proper person civil appeal statement, the parties are originally from Poland, though the older child was born in New York and is a U.S. citizen. Appellant contends that they have legal permanent resident status in the United States and that they have resided in Nevada for over six months prior to his initiation of the divorce complaint. Appellant further contends that respondent has illegally taken the two minor children back to Poland. The record on appeal is 7 sealed volumes. It appears that the district court issued a number of substantive orders before concluding that it lacks jurisdiction and that Poland is a more convenient forum. The case appears to raise issues under both the UCCJEA and the Hague Convention on Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. Respondent has counsel.