

WAKE COUNTY CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT  
N. LORRIN FREEMAN  
CIVIL RECEIPTING

08C4012310

Payor Rentz, Mary C

File Number \_\_\_\_\_

Payee Hamington Smith LLP  
205 Fayetteville St  
Raleigh NC 27601  
(Atty Pd, Address, Ins Co, Case Caption -  
Upset Bid)

**TO BE FLAGGED "N"**

CDDC \$144.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Divorce)  
CVDC \$89.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Domestic - Divorce not included)  
Arbitration Fee No M# #24311 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Pro Hac Vice #24625 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Out of State Atty Fees)  
Out of State Bar Fee #24626 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

RENT #26220 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Summary Ejectment Prorated or Monthly Rent)

**Book and Page BOOK PAGE**

BOND FORFEITURE #22800 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Before Judgment)  
REGISTRATIONS #21400 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
BONDS - SPECIFY  
(Attachment, Restraining Order, Appeal)  
#26210 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
OTHER CODE # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TO BE FLAGGED "Y"**

CVSC Superior \$109.00 [ ]  
CVDC District \$89.00 [ ]  
Small Claims Appeal  
CVMC Small Claims \$75.00 [ ]  
M#s Filings #21435 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
CONF OF JUDGMENT #21400 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
SUPPLMNT PROC #21400 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
TRIAL DE NOVO #24310 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Appeal Arbitration)  
BUSINESS COURT #21400 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Abstract Number JMT \_\_\_\_\_

JA JUDGMENT PAYMENTS #26115 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
FULL [ ] PARTIAL [ ]

> or = \$1.00 REFUND #29100 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ATTORNEY FEES #24610 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ARBITRATION FEE M# #24311 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

JA WRITS #21430 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Executions/Possession)

JA TRANSCRIPT #21440 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TRUST (Minor's portion) #26310 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DEPOSIT #26600 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Surplus Funds, Earnest Money, Etc.)

CONDEMNATIONS #26130 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

UP-SET BID #26700 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Posted By: \_\_\_\_\_

# STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE County

File No.

In The General Court Of Justice  
District Court Division

Name And Address Of Plaintiff 1

GARRY C. RENTZ AND DONNA A. RENTZ  
c/o Alice C. Stubbs, Esq.

Name And Address Of Plaintiff 2

KRISTA C. LISTER  
c/o Alice C. Stubbs, Esq.

VERSUS

Name Of Defendant 1

BRADLEY COOPER

Summons Submitted

☒ Yes ☐ No

Name Of Defendant 2

Summons Submitted

☐ Yes ☐ No

Counsel for

☒ All Plaintiffs ☐ All Defendants ☐ Only (List party(ies) represented)

## DOMESTIC

## CIVIL ACTION COVER SHEET

☒ INITIAL FILING ☐ SUBSEQUENT FILING

Rule 5(b), Rules of Practice For Superior and District Courts

Name And Address Of Attorney Or Party, If Not Represented (complete for initial appearance or change of address)

Alice C. Stubbs  
Tharrington Smith, LLP  
PO Box 1151, Raleigh, NC 27602

Telephone No.

(919) 821-4711

Cell Telephone No.

NC Attorney Bar No.

19294

Attorney E-Mail Address

AStubbs@TharringtonSmith.com

☒ Initial Appearance in Case

☐ Change of Address

Name Of Firm

Tharrington Smith, L.L.P.

FAX No.

(919) 829-1583

Jury Demanded In Pleading?

☒ No

☐ Yes

### TYPE OF PLEADING

(check all that apply)

- ☐ Amended Answer/Reply (AMND-Response)
- ☐ Amended Complaint (AMND)
- ☐ Answer/Reply (ANSW-Response)
- ☒ Complaint (COMP)
- ☐ Confession Of Judgment (CNFJ)
- ☐ Counterclaim vs. (CTCL)
- ☐ Extend Time For An Answer (MEOT-Response)
- ☐ Rule 12 Motion In Lieu Of Answer (MDLA)
- ☐ Other: (specify)

### CLAIMS FOR RELIEF FOR:

(check all that apply)

- ☐ Alimony (ALIM)
- ☐ Annulment (ANUL)
- ☐ Child Support (CSUP)
- ☒ Custody (CUST)
- ☐ Divorce (DIVR)
- ☐ Divorce From Bed And Board (DIVB)
- ☐ Domestic Violence (DOME)
- ☐ Equitable Distribution (EQU)
- ☐ Medical Coverage (MEDC)
- ☐ Paternity (PATR)
- ☐ Possession Of Personal Property (POPP)
- ☐ Post Separation Support (PSSU)
- ☐ Reimbursement For Public Assistance (RPPA)
- ☐ Visitation (VIST)
- ☒ Other: (specify)

MOTION FOR EMERGENCY CUSTODY ORDER

Date

7/16/2008

Signature Of Attorney/Party

NOTE: The initial filing in civil actions shall include as the first page of the filing a cover sheet summarizing the critical elements of the filing in a format prescribed by the Administrative Office of the Courts, and the Clerk of Superior Court shall require a party to refile a filing which does not include the required cover sheet. For subsequent filings in civil actions, the filing party must either include a cover sheet or the filing must comply with G.S. 7A-34.1.

0207012319

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

File No.

WAKE County

In The General Court Of Justice  
☒ District ☐ Superior Court Division

Name Of Plaintiff

GARRY D. RENTZ, DONNA A. RENTZ, & KRISTA C. LISTED

Address

City, State, Zip

VERSUS

Name Of Defendant(s)

BRADLEY COOPER

CIVIL SUMMONS

☐ ALIAS AND PLURIES SUMMONS

G.S. 1A-1, Rules 3, 4

Date Original Summons Issued

Date(s) Subsequent Summons(es) Issued

To Each Of The Defendant(s) Named Below:

Name And Address Of Defendant 1

BRADLEY COOPER

104 Wallsburg Court

Cary, NC 27518-8320

Name And Address Of Defendant 2

A Civil Action Has Been Commenced Against You!

You are notified to appear and answer the complaint of the plaintiff as follows:

1. Serve a copy of your written answer to the complaint upon the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney within thirty (30) days after you have been served. You may serve your answer by delivering a copy to the plaintiff or by mailing it to the plaintiff's last known address, and
2. File the original of the written answer with the Clerk of Superior Court of the county named above.

If you fail to answer the complaint, the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Name And Address Of Plaintiff's Attorney (If None, Address Of Plaintiff)

Wade Smith and Alice Stubbs

Tharrington Smith, LLP

PO Box 1151, Raleigh, NC 27602

Date Issued

11-16-08

Time

4:45

☐ AM

☒ PM

Signature

CAP

☒ Deputy CSC

☐ Assistant CSC

☐ Clerk Of Superior Court

☐ ENDORSEMENT

This Summons was originally issued on the date indicated above and returned not served. At the request of the plaintiff, the time within which this Summons must be served is extended sixty (60) days.

Date Of Endorsement

Time

☐ AM

☐ PM

Signature

☐ Deputy CSC

☐ Assistant CSC

☐ Clerk Of Superior Court

NOTE TO PARTIES: Many counties have MANDATORY ARBITRATION programs in which most cases where the amount in controversy is \$15,000 or less are heard by an arbitrator before a trial. The parties will be notified if this case is assigned for mandatory arbitration, and, if so, what procedure is to be followed.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF WAKE

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE  
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

GARRY D. RENTZ and DONNA A.  
RENTZ, KRISTA C. LISTER,  
Plaintiffs,

vs.

BRADLEY COOPER,  
Defendant.

EX PARTE EMERGENCY  
CUSTODY ORDER

THIS MATTER having come before the undersigned Judge Presiding on an ex parte basis upon the motion of Plaintiff's for an ex parte emergency custody order awarding custody of the minor children to Plaintiffs pending further orders of the Court, and the Court having considered Plaintiffs' verified complaint and the testimony of and the testimony from law enforcement, the Court makes the following:

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Plaintiffs Garry and Donna Rentz are citizens and residents of Alberta, Canada. Plaintiff Krista Lister is a citizen and resident of Ontario, Canada.
2. Defendant is a resident of Wake County, North Carolina, and has resided in North Carolina for at least six months prior to the institution of this action.
3. Defendant is the biological father of the minor children, Isabella Cooper, ("Bella") born on February 23, 2004, and Gabriella ("Katie") Cooper, born on July 23, 2006.
4. Plaintiffs Garry and Donna Rentz are the biological father and biological mother of Nancy Cooper, the deceased biological mother of the minor children and the deceased wife of Defendant. Plaintiff Lister is the identical twin sister of Nancy Cooper.
5. Neither Defendant nor Plaintiffs are United States citizens. Plaintiffs Garry and Donna Rentz are the maternal grandparents of the minor children. Plaintiff Lister is the maternal aunt of the minor children.
6. On the afternoon of July 12, 2008, a neighbor reported to the Cary Police Department that Nancy Cooper was missing. Defendant Cooper never reported his wife as missing and never contacted the Plaintiff Rentz's to inform them of her disappearance.

7. On the evening of July 14, 2008, Nancy Cooper's body was discovered in an outdoor location by a third party. An autopsy was performed and her death has been classified as a homicide.

8. Defendant attempted suicide as a teenager and threatened to commit suicide in the winter of 2008.

9. Defendant has acted inconsistently with his constitutionally protected status as a parent to the minor children.

10. Plaintiffs Garry and Donna Rentz have a close and loving relationship with the minor children. They have spent time with the minor children in North Carolina and in Canada, have spent holidays with the children, and have frequent telephone contact with the children.

11. Plaintiff Garry Rentz previously served as the executive director for Alberta Social Services (AKA Children's Services) for five years in Alberta, Canada. The Rentz's have been married for forty-three years and have a stable home for the children.

12. Plaintiff Lister has a close and loving relationship with the minor children. She has spent time with the minor children and has had daily telephone contact with the minor children. Plaintiff Lister has spent time with the children many times at her own home and at the children's home.

13. North Carolina is the home state of the minor children and this Court has jurisdiction over the matter of custody pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 50A-3.

14. Plaintiffs are fit and proper persons to have physical and legal custody of the minor children and the children's best interest would be served by vesting their physical and legal custody in Plaintiffs.

15. Considering the special facts of this case, particularly that Defendant has a history of emotional instability and the intense scrutiny currently faced by Defendant as a result of the ongoing criminal investigation of Nancy Cooper's murder, there is a substantial risk of bodily injury to the children while in Defendant's custody and that the children may be abducted or removed from the State of North Carolina by Defendant for the purpose of evading the jurisdiction of North Carolina courts.

16. The minor children's best interests require entry of this ex parte emergency custody order awarding custody of the children to Plaintiffs pending further orders of the Court.

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Court makes the following

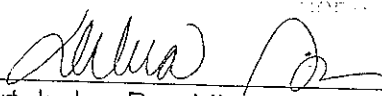
### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. This Court has personal and subject matter jurisdiction to enter this Order.
2. Plaintiffs Garry and Donna Rentz are the maternal grandparents of the minor children, Isabella Cooper, ("Bella") born on February 23, 2004, and Gabriella ("Katie") Cooper, born on July 23, 2006. Plaintiff Lister is the maternal aunt of the minor children. Defendant is the biological father of the minor children.
3. Defendant has acted inconsistently with his constitutionally protected status as a parent to the minor children.
4. Plaintiff Rentz's and Plaintiff Lister have met their burden of proof and have standing to bring their respective claims for custody of the minor children.
5. Plaintiffs are fit and proper persons to have physical and legal custody of the minor children and the children's best interest are served by entry of this ex parte emergency custody order awarding custody of the children to Plaintiffs pending further orders of the Court.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED as follows:

1. Pending further orders of this Court, Plaintiffs Rentz and Plaintiff Lister shall share joint legal and physical custody of the minor children Isabella Cooper and Gabriella Cooper.
2. Law enforcement in Wake County, North Carolina, or in such other county or state where the children are found, shall immediately assist Plaintiffs in gaining physical custody of the minor children.
3. The minor children's passports shall be immediately returned to Plaintiffs so that they may attend their mother's memorial service in Canada.
4. The return on this ex parte order shall be heard on JULY 25 2008, at 9A o'clock, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be reached, by the Judge presiding in courtroom 8B, Wake County Courthouse.
5. Plaintiffs are not required to post a bond in this matter.

This the 16<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2008, at 4:45 O'clock P. m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
District Court Judge Presiding

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE  
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

WAKE COUNTY

GARRY D. RENTZ AND DONNA A.

RENTZ, KRISTA C. LISTER

Plaintiffs,

v.

BRADLEY COOPER,

Defendant.

**COMPLAINT AND MOTION FOR  
EMERGENCY CUSTODY ORDER**

Plaintiffs, complaining of the Defendant, allege and say:

1. Plaintiffs Garry and Donna Rentz are citizens and residents of Alberta, Canada. Plaintiff Krista Lister is a citizen and resident of Ontario, Canada.
2. Defendant is a resident of Wake County, North Carolina, and has resided in North Carolina for at least six months prior to the institution of this action.
3. Defendant is the biological father of the minor children, Isabella Cooper, ("Bella") born on February 23, 2004, and Gabriella ("Katie") Cooper, born on July 23, 2006.
4. Plaintiffs Garry and Donna Rentz are the biological father and biological mother of Nancy Cooper, the deceased biological mother of the minor children and the deceased wife of Defendant. Plaintiff Lister is the identical twin sister of Nancy Cooper and Katie is her namesake.
5. Defendant currently has physical custody of the minor children.
6. On or about March 10, 2008, Nancy Cooper retained counsel to resolve all pending issues, including child custody, related to her impending separation from Defendant.
7. Neither Defendant nor Plaintiffs are United States citizens. Plaintiffs Garry and Donna Rentz are the maternal grandparents of the minor children. Plaintiff Lister is the maternal aunt of the minor children.
8. On the afternoon of July 12, 2008, a neighbor reported to the Cary Police Department that Nancy Cooper was missing. Defendant Cooper never reported his wife as missing and never contacted the Plaintiffs Rentz to inform them of her disappearance.
9. Upon information and belief, Defendant claims that Nancy Cooper went jogging on the morning of July 12, 2008 at 7:00 a.m. Upon information and belief, Nancy Cooper never went jogging on July 12, 2008. Upon information and belief, Defendant was the last person to see Nancy Cooper alive.
10. On the evening of July 14, 2008, Nancy Cooper's body was discovered in an outdoor location by a third party. An autopsy was performed and her death has been classified as a homicide.

12. During the months prior to Nancy Cooper's murder, Defendant engaged in a pattern of emotional abuse directed towards Nancy Cooper and the minor children. Upon information and belief, Defendant frequently yelled at Nancy Cooper and belittled her in the presence of the minor children.
13. During the months prior to Nancy Cooper's murder, Defendant withheld funds from Nancy Cooper and refused to provide adequate financial support to Nancy Cooper and the parties' children. Nancy Cooper was not employed outside the home and had no source of funds other than Defendant. As a result of Defendant's actions, Nancy Cooper was in such a desperate financial situation that she was forced to borrow funds from Plaintiffs to purchase groceries and necessities for herself and the minor children.
14. Upon information and belief, Defendant was unfaithful during his marriage to Nancy Cooper and carried on a sexual relationship with a woman other than Nancy Cooper prior to Nancy's Cooper's death.
15. Upon information and belief, the marital residence is under investigation and may be a crime scene. Defendant has been prohibited from returning to the marital residence during the investigation. The residence is not an appropriate environment for the minor children during the pending criminal investigation of the murder of Nancy Cooper.
16. Upon information and belief, Defendant is mentally unstable and poses a danger to the physical safety of the minor children.
17. Upon information and belief, Defendant attempted suicide when he was a teenager and he threatened to commit suicide in the winter of 2008.
18. Defendant has acted inconsistently with his constitutionally protected status as a parent to the minor children and is not a fit and proper parent to exercise custodial rights with the children.
19. Plaintiffs Garry and Donna Rentz have a close and loving relationship with the minor children. They have spent time with the minor children in North Carolina and in Canada, have spent holidays with the children, and have frequent telephone contact with the children.
20. Plaintiff Garry Rentz previously served as the executive director for Alberta Social Services (AKA Children's Services) for five years in Alberta, Canada. The Rentz's have been married for forty-three years and have a stable home for the children. For the past twenty (20) year the Plaintiff Rentz's owned and operated Personal Support and Development Network and Careers in Transition.
21. Plaintiff Lister has a close and loving relationship with the minor children. She has spent time with the minor children and has had daily telephone contact with the minor children. Plaintiff Lister has spent time with the children many times at her own home and at the children's home. Plaintiff Lister has been married to James M. Lister for seven years. Plaintiff Lister is an interior designer and her husband is the director of sales for Sleeman Breweries.