

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR
LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION

Plaintiff(s),

vs.

Case Number:

Defendant(s).

_____ /

ORDER GRANTING LEAVE TO WITHDRAW AS ATTORNEY OF RECORD

THIS CAUSE having come before the Court for hearing upon counsel's Motion for Leave to Withdraw as Attorney of Record for _____ **(Party)** _____ in the above-styled cause and the Court having reviewed the pleadings, heard argument, and being otherwise fully advised in the premises, does hereby

FIND, ORDER, and ADJUDICATE:

1. _____ **(Attorney/Law Firm)** _____ is permitted to withdraw as attorney/counsel of record for _____ **(Party)** _____ in the above-styled case and is relieved of any further action in this case. In consequence thereof, _____ **(Party)** _____ is now deemed a pro se (self-representing) litigant.
2. All further communications shall be directed to _____ **(Party)** _____ at the following address and telephone number as provided by withdrawing counsel:

(The current valid legal mailing address and telephone for said Party)

3. A *pro se* party must be held to the same standards as an attorney by operation of law. The Court cannot give any legal advice to a *pro se* litigant. It is a *pro se* litigant's responsibility to familiarize him/herself with the law applicable to their case, the legal rules (eg. *Florida Rules of Court*), the Evidence Code, court records (eg. orders), and anything else applicable to the case. Failure to follow law, rules, orders of the Court, et cetera may result in adverse consequences for a non-compliant *pro se* litigant, including but not limited to the entry of an order imposing sanctions, fees, fines, court costs, default, dismissal, and/or such other relief as the Court deems appropriate and the law permits.
4. _____ **(Party)** _____ shall have thirty (30) days from the date of this order to retain new counsel. All pending matters in this cause are temporarily stayed or otherwise abated for said period. Said period shall expire early in the event the *pro se* party files a notice of intention to represent him/herself during the thirty (30) day period or if a licensed attorney in good standing authorized to practice law in the State of Florida files

a notice of appearance or other pleading on the party's behalf.

5. In the event new counsel does not file a notice of appearance or other pleading during the next thirty (30) days, the above referenced party shall be deemed a *pro se* litigant and the case shall normally proceed after the thirty (30) day stay/abatement period has passed. This provision does not apply to a corporate entity, however, as Florida law only allows an individual proper person to represent oneself. In the event a corporate entity fails to timely secure counsel along with a timely filed notice of appearance, for example, said party may be subjected to entry of a dismissal of its claims (if any) and/or the striking of its answer and defenses along with the entry of an adverse (default) judgment against it.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, Fort Myers, Lee County, Florida, on _____, 20____.

BY: _____
Honorable Joseph C. Fuller
Circuit Court Judge, Twentieth Judicial Circuit

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of this Order was furnished by regular U.S. Mail to all counsel and pro se parties of record, including withdrawing counsel, on _____, 20____.

Judicial Assistant