

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF PERRY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
STEPHEN RAY "FUZZY" WEATHERFORD,
DECEASED

CAUSE NO.: 22-pr-0021-SM

**SUA SPONTE ORDER APPOINTING COUNTY PROBATE ADMINISTRATOR,
APPROVING PARTIAL DISTRIBUTION, DIRECTING WRONGFUL DEATH
PROCEEDS BE PLACED IN THE REGISTRY OF THE COURT**

The Court held a show cause hearing on June 16, 2025, after the filing of the *Show Cause Order* [MEC #44] filed on May 23, 2025 and finds as follows:

[1] Attorney for the Estate, Cory Ferraez, failed to appear at the hearing. Based on the testimony presented, the Court, on its own motion, finds that the Perry County Probate Administrator, David Walley, should be immediately substituted as counsel for the estate. The Perry County Chancery Clerk is directed to terminate Cory Ferraez as counsel for the estate and remove him from the MEC on this matter. No further bond is required as the County Probate Administrator has already posted a bond under Section 91-7-75 of Mississippi Code. Attorney Walley is directed to serve the *Adversary Complaint* [MEC #45] filed in this matter on all Defendants and directed to draft a deed transferring ownership of the real property located at 829 Buck Creek Road, Richton, Mississippi to Sylvia Weatherford as directed in the *Order Approving Transfer of Real Property* [MEC #37]. Finally, Attorney Walley is directed to expedite the closing of the estate as soon as possible.

[2] The Court reviewed a check from the law office of Cory Ferraez to the Administrator, Sylvia Weatherford, in the amount of \$25,000 written in December 2024 but was rejected by the bank for insufficient funds. The Court ratifies and approves the advancement and

amount of the check and directs Ms. Weatherford to attempt to renegotiate the check in the form of a partial distribution.

[3] The Court approved a *Decree Authorizing Settlement of Wrongful - Death Claim of Steven Ray "Fuzzy" Weatherford, Deceased* [MEC #21] approving the settlement amount of \$450,000 in November 2024. The Order directed that the entirety of the settlement funds be held in the trust account of Cory Ferraez "until such time as this Court rules upon the Petitioner's request for payment of above-referenced liens and Attorney's fees/expenses from the settlement funds outlined herein". Based on the above, the Court directs Attorney Cory Ferraez immediate tender the to Perry County Chancery Clerk the sum of \$450,000¹ by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 18, 2025. Further sanctions against Mr. Ferraez will be addressed by separate order.

SO ORDERED AND ADJUDGED on this the 16th day of June, 2025.

Sheila H. Smallwood

SHEILA H. SMALLWOOD
CHANCELLOR

¹ If the \$25,000 check is successfully negotiated, the amount to be submitted to the registry of the Court will be \$425,000.