The State of Alabama, Baldwin County

CIRCUIT COURT, IN EQUITY

LOIS WALTER COWART , Complainant
vs.
ERNEST CLAYTON COWART , Respondent
This cause coming on to be heard was submitted upon Bill of Complaint, Deeree Pro Confesso on
Answer and Waiver and Testimony as noted by the Register, and upon con-
sideration thereof, the Court is of the opinion that the Complainant is entitled to the relief prayed for in
said bill.
It is therefore ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Court that the bonds of matrimony heretofore existing between the Complainant and Defendant be, and the same are hereby dissolved, and that the said
LOIS WALTER COWART is forever divorced from the
said for and on account of
Cruelty. It is further ordered, adjudged and decreed that the
Cruelty. It is further ordered, adjuaged and control of the minor Complainant shall have the care, custody and control of the minor
Complainant shall have the care, casood, and the Complainant \$100.00
children; that the Respondent shall pay to the Complainant \$100.00
monthly as and for support of the minor children; and the other
conditions and agreements set forth in the Stipulation attached
and made a part of the proceedings are hereby confirmed.
to each other until sixty days after the rendition of this decree, and that if appeal is taken within sixty days, neither party shall again marry except to each other during the pendency of said appeal. It is further ordered that the Complainant and Respondent be, and they are hereby permitted to again contract marriage upon payment of the cost of this suit. It is further ordered that Lois Walter Cowart the Complainant pay the cost herein to be taxed, for which executed may issue. This day of January 1957. Judge Circuit Court, In Equity.
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(A)	No. 3954 Page
	THE STATE OF ALABAMA BALDWIN COUNTY.
	In Circuit Court, In Equity
	Complainant
	vs.
	Respondent
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	SLICE J. DUCK, Rogister
	N. Register

THE STATE OF ALABAMA Baldwin County

Circuit Court

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THE STATE OF ALABAMA Baldwin County CIRCUIT COURT

Lois Walter Cowart

Complainant_

VS.

Ernest Clayton Cowart

Defendant_

COMMISSION TO TAKE DEPOSITION

COMMISSIONER: Melda D. Cobb

WITNESSES: Lois Walter Cowart

THE STATE OF ALABAMA Baldwin County						
IN EQUITY Circuit Court of Baldwin Co	uniy					
LOIS WALTER COWART						
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vs. ERNEST CLAYTON COWART						
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NOTE OF TESTIMONY						
Filed in Open Court this						
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LAN 1957 Register						
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LOIS WALTER COWART,

Complainant

BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA

VS.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF

BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN EQUITY

Respondent

WRIT OF ARREST

TO ANY SHERIFF IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, on the 11 day of , 1957, a decree was rendered by the Honorable Hubert M. Wall, Judge of the Circuit Court of Baldwin County, Alabama, directing the Register to issue a writ directed to any sheriff of the state of Alabama requiring him to take into his custody Ernest Clayton Cowart and confine him in the jail of Baldwin County, Alabama.

You are hereby commanded to take into custody the said Ernest Clayton Cowart and confine him in the jail of Baldwin County until he has complied with the terms of the said decree or be otherwise discharged by due process of law.

Herein fail not, and show by your return if you have executed this writ.

Witness my hand this the 12 day of duy, 1957.

Register

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LOIS WALTER COWART, Complainant

vs

ERNEST CLAYTON COWART,

Respondent

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA
IN EQUITY

WRIT OF ARREST

The greet

Received day of 199

and on day of 199

I served a copy of the within Every or Application

By service on Courant

TAYLOR WILKINS, Sheriff

By D. S

Then Cents per mile Total \$ 100

TAYLOR WILKINS, Sheriff

BY DEPUTY SHERIFF

LOIS WALTER COWART,	Q	IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF				
COMPLAINANT	۸	BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA				
VS.	¥	IN EQUITY				
ERNEST CLAYTON COWART,	Q	CASE NO.				
RESPONDENT	:	CADE IV.				

TO THE HONORABLE HUBERT M. HALL, JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA, IN EQUITY SITTING:

Now comes your Petitioner, Lois Walter Cowart, and respectfully shows unto this Honorable Court that on, to-wit, the 21st day of January, 1957, this Honorable Court rendered a decree divorcing your Petitioner from the Respondent, Ernest Clayton Cowart.

That in said decree the Court ordered the Respondent, Ernest Clayton Cowart, to pay to your Petitioner, as and for the support of the minor children of their marriage, the sum of \$100.00 monthly; that the said Ernest Clayton Cowart, though having the financial ability to comply with the requirements of the said decree, has wilfully refused and failed to pay to your Petitioner the sum directed to be paid by this Court; that his payments have not been in accordance with the said decree; that the said Ernest Clayton Cowart is, at the time of this petition, in arrear for the support of the minor children of their marriage in the sum of \$165.00.

Your Petitioner further avers that she has employed the services of Ernest M. Bailey, Attorney at Law, Fairhope, Alabama, for the purpose of prosecuting these proceedings; and that she is without funds to pay the reasonable costs for her Solicitor's fees in this matter.

The premises considered, your Petitioner, Lois Calter Cowart, respectfully prays that this Court make and enter an order and decree requiring the said Ernest Clayton Cowart to be and appear before the Honorable Court at such time and place as Your Honor may direct, to show cause, if any he have, why he should not be punished as for a contempt. And Petitioner further prays that on the final hearing of these proceedings your Honor may direct that Ernest Clayton Cowart pay a reasonable Solicitor's fee for these proceedings. Petitioner further prays for such other, further and different relief to which she may be entitled, and as in duty bound she will ever pray.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the /2 day of April, 1957.

NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF ALARAMA
AT LARGE

LOIS WALTER COWART

COMPLAINANT

VS.

ERNEST CLAYTON COWART
RESPONDENT

MERIFIED PETITION RRAYING FOR CONTEMPT CITATION

Frank M. Bailing

FILED

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LOIS WALTER COWART

COMPLAINANT

VS.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN EQUITY

ERNEST CLAYTON COWART

RESPONDENT

RULE TO SHOW CAUSE

This day came Lois Walter Cowart and filed her verified petition for an order upon Ernest Clayton Cowart to show cause why he should not be punished as for a contempt, a true and correct copy of said verified petition being hereto attached, and now upon consideration of the same, it is

ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED BY THE COURT:

- 1. That the said Ernest Clayton Cowart do appear before the Court in his own proper person at $\underline{\gamma}$ \underline{N} \underline{N}
- 2. That the Sheriff of Baldwin County do forthwith serve upon the said Ernest Clayton Cowart a copy of this order and the attached petition, and make due return thereof.
 - 3. Done this the day of April, 1957.

JUDGS OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

3954 Lois Walter Cowart Ernesh Claylon Cowart Ernest Clayton Coward TAYLOR WILKINS, Sheriff By Lellen for Standles S Depline Sheriff claims 34 Ten Cents per mile Total \$ 5 TAYLOR WILKINS, Shevif APR 26 1957

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LOIS WALTER COWART

COMPLAINTIFF

VS.

ERNEST CLAYTON COWART

CRESPONDENT

BULE TO SHOW CAUSE

FILE John

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, BALDWIN COUNTY

Circuit Court of Baldwin County, Alabama
(In Equity)

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		ERNES'	T CLAYT	ON_COW	ART	RESPONDENT	
Asin ome X ime	LDA D.	COBB					2011/19/10/19
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witnessn	amed in t	he require	ement for	Oral Exa	mination	ı, on theday	y of January
$19\overline{57}$, at the	office of _	Ernes	t M. Ba	iley,	Attorn	ey at Law,	
n <u>Fair</u>	hope	, A	labama, a	nd havin	g first sv	worn said witness	to speak the
ruth, the whole	e truth, and	d nothing	but the tr	uth, the	said	Lois Walte	r Cowart
				doth_	depose a	nd say as follows:	

STATEMENT OF LOIS WALTER COWART:

My name is Lois Walter Cowart. I am the complainant in the above styled cause. The Respondent's name is Ernest Clayton Cowart and we are both over the age of twenty-one years and bona fide residents of Fairhope, Baldwin County, Alabama.

On December 26, 1956 the Respondent cursed, abused and did threaten violence upon my person. Respondent has on many other occasions abused and threatened me. He is an intemperate drinker of alcoholic beverages and on such occasions the Respondent does threaten to do bodily harm to me and often abuses me. I am of the opinion that if we continue to live together the Respondent will commit actual violence on my person or will injure me permanently.

LOIS WALTER COWART

I, Melda D. Cobb as Register and Commissioner hereby certify
that the foregoing deposition on Oral Examination was taken down in writing by me in the words
of the witness and read over to <u>her</u> and <u>she</u> signed the same in the presence of
myself andErnest M. Bailey
at the time and place herein mentioned; that I have personal knowledge of personal identity of said
witnessor had proof made before me of the identity of said witness; that I am not of
counsel or of kin to any of the parties to said cause, or any manner interested in the result thereof.
I enclose the said Oral Examination in an envelope to the Register of said Court.
Given under my hand and seal, this day of January, 19 57.
Trulcla D. Cane. (L. S.)

THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

IN CIRCUIT COURT, IN EQUITY

IN CIRCUIT COURT, IN EQUITY

LOTS WALTER COWART

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Register.

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LOIS WALTER COWART,

Complainant

Vs.

ERNEST CLAYTON COWART,

Respondent

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF

BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN EQUITY

ANSWER AND WAIVER

Comes the Respondent in the above styled cause and for answer to the Bill of Complaint filed in said cause and each and every para-graph thereof separately and severally, says:

- 1. Respondent admits the allegations of the first paragraph of the Bill of Complaint.
- 2. Respondent admits the allegations of the second paragraph of the Bill of Complaint as to the dates of marriage and separation but denies all other allegations of this paragraph and demands strict proof of the same.
- 3. Respondent admits the allegations of the third paragraph of the Bill of Complaint.

Respondent hereby accepts service of a copy of the Summons and Complaint in this cause and waives further service of the same. The Respondent also waives notice of taking of testimony in this cause and notice of submission of said cause and agrees that the testimony may be taken and the cause submitted without further notice to him.

Respondent Clay ton Caulast

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5th day of January, 1957

Notary Public, State of Alabama at Large

ANSWER NND WAIVER

WALTER COWART

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Complainant

ູ່ Vs.

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ERNEST CLAYTON COWART

Respondent

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA IN EQUITY

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STATE OF ALABAMA	Ĭ	IN	THE	CIRCUIT	COURT	OF
COUNTY OF BALDWIN	Q	BAL	DWIN	COUNTY	, ALAB	AMA
				IN EQU:	ITY	

TO ANY SHERIFF OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA:

You are hereby commanded to summon Ernest Clayton Cowart to appear and plead, answer or demur, within thirty days from the service hereof, to the Bill of Complaint filed in the Circuit Court of Baldwin County, Alabama, in Equity, by Lois Walter Cowart, as Complainant, against Ernest Clayton Cowart, as Respondent.

Witness my hand this the ____ day of January, 1957.

		REGISTER				
LOIS WALTER COWART,	Ĭ	IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF				
Complainant	Ĭ	BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA				
VS.		IN EQUITY				
ERNEST CLAYTON COWART,	Ĭ	CASE NO				
Respondent						

Comes your Complainant, Lois Walter Cowart, and files this her Bill of Complaint for divorce against Ernest Clayton Cowart, and shows unto Your Honor and unto this Honorable Court as follows:

FIRST:

That your Complainant and the Respondent are over the age of twenty-one years and are bona fide residents of Baldwin County, Alabama, residing in Fairhope, Alabama.

SECOND:

That the Complainant and the Respondent were married on, to-wit, February 26, 1948 in Pascagoula, Mississippi and lived as man and wife until on, to-wit, December 26, 1956, when, on account of the matters hereinafter complained of, your Complainant was compelled to live separate and apart from the Respondent; that on December 26, 1956, and at times prior thereto, the Complainant states that the Respondent threatened bodily harm to her person, and on that occasion, the Respondent was intoxicated and did do bodily harm to her person;

That on numerous occasions the Respondent indulged in alcoholic beverages and became violent and did bodily harm to the Complainant; that from his manner and conduct towards her she is reasonably certain that he will commit violence upon her person, attended with danger to her life and health.

THIRD:

That of this marriage there were born the following named children, viz: Clayton Wayne, age 5½ years, Carey Brent, age 3 years, Sandra Lynn, age 2 years and Crandale Bart, age nine months. That your Complainant is a fit and proper person to have the care, custody and control of the said minor children; that the Complainant and the Respondent have heretofore entered into an agreement wherein the Respondent recognizes the care, custody and control of such children in Complainant and further agreeing to pay the Complainant monies for their support and maintenance, a copy of the said agreement is hereby attached.

PRAYER FOR PROCESS AND RELIEF:

The premises considered, your Complainant prays that the above named Ernest Clayton Cowart be made a party Defendant to this cause by the usual writ or process of this Honorable Court requiring him to appear and plead, answer or demur within the time and under the penalties prescribed by the rules of this Court and the Statutes in such cases made and provided. That upon a final hearing of this cause that Your Honor will grant unto your Complainant an absolute divorce from said Respondent. That Your Honor will also decree that the Complainant be allowed to remarry if she sees fit. Your Complainant prays that she be allowed to resume her maiden name upon final heaing of this cause. That Your Honor will confirm the agreement between Complainant and Respondent as to the care, custody and control and the support and maintenance of their children and the disposal of their personal property between themselves. Your Complainant further prays for such other, further and different relief to which she may be entitled and as in duty bound she will ever pray. <

SOLICITOR FOR THE COMPLAIMANT

Complainant

Vs.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
BALDWAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN EQUITY

Ĭ

ERNEST CLAYTON COWART,

Respondent

STIPULATION

It is hereby stipulated and agreed by and between the parties hereto as follows:

- l. That the Complainant shall have the full care, custody and control of the minor children, Clayton Wayne, age 5½ years, Carey Brent, age 3 years, Sandra Lynn, age 2 years, Crandale Bart, age 5 months, and the Respondent shall have the right to visit such children at reasonable and proper times.
- 2. It is further stipulated and agreed that the Respondent shall pay to the Complainant for and in support of their minor children the sum of One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars monthly in installments of Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars bi-monthly, the first payment to commence on or before the 19th day of January, 1957.
- 3. All personal property owned by the parties, except the family automobile, shall become the property of the Complainant and the Respondent does hereby release all his right, title and interest in and to the same. The Respondent shall have his personal property.
- 4. It is further stipulated and agreed by the parties that so long as the Respondent is employed in the Government services that he shall maintain and continue his Government Life Insurance, which insurance shall be payable to the Complainant or the above children as beneficiaries thereof.
- 5. It is also stipulated and agreed that the Respondent shall pay medical expenses incurred by and for the minor children in excess of \$25.00 per month if called upon to do so by the Complainant.

Dated this the 5th day of January, 1957.

Witness Low Malter Coward

Witness Complainant

Amest Clayton Caulant

Respondent

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- 2. It is further stipulated and agreed that the Respondert simili pay to the Complainant for and in support of their minor children the

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Labed this the Sur day of Bennery, 1994.

THE PROPERTY OF STREET

E. G. RICKARBY

BANK BUILDING FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA

May 21, 1957

Honorable Hubert Hall Circuit Judge Bay Minette, Alabama

Dear Judge Hall:

Inre: Cowart vs. Cowart

In this case, Mr. Cowart was ordered to pay \$100.00 a month for the support of his children, and at the time the order was made he was working at Eglin Field, Fla., making good wages and \$100.00 a month was less than one-third of his wages.

In January of this year, he was forced to resign from his job because with the support payments he could not keep up his current bills and his creditors would cause him to lose his Civil Service rating. Already he had received at least two calls from the office, telling him that he would have to get his current bills paid or his Civil Service rating would be jeopardized.

He has been out of work from the last part of January until the 13th of May, and during that time, according to the Decree, over \$300.00 of past due payments have accrued. He requests that your order as to his payments be modified to at the most, one-third of his present wages, and allow him to apply 50% of his present wages to the payment of the current support and the balance to apply on his back support, so that it will be reducing; and, in the meantime, when he gets his retirement of approximately \$600.00, he will apply that on his arrear payments, and be able to continue paying a fair portion of his wages for the support of his children.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

EGR/ts

LAW OFFICES
E. G. RICKARBY
P. O. BOX 71
FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA
TELEPHONE WA 8-9836
May 21, 1957

Mr. Ernest Bailey Attorney at Law Pairhope, Alabama

Dear Mr. Bailey:

Inre: Cowart vs. Cowart

Yesterday afternoon, Mr. Cowart came by to find out what the Judge's order was in this case, and I phoned Judge Hall who suggested I write a letter of what Mr. Cowart could do so that he would have some help in making this order, copy of which letter I am hereby enclosing.

Yours very truly,

EGR/ts Encl. cc: Judge Hall LOIS WALTER COWART, IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF

COMPLAINANT BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA

VS. IN EQUITY

ERNEST CLAYTON COWART,

RESPONDENT

RULE TO SHOW CAUSE

This day came Lois Walter Cowart and filed her verified petition for an order upon Ernest Clayton Cowart to show cause why he should not be punished as for a contempt, a true and correct copy of said verified petition being hereto attached, and now upon consideration of the same, it is,

ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED BY THE COURT:

- 1. That the said Ernest Clayton Cowart do appear before the Court in his own proper person at A M. on M. on 1977 in the Court Room of the Circuit Court of Baldwin County, Alabama, at Bay Minette, Alabama, then and there to show cause, if any he have, why he should not be punished as for a contempt of court for and on account of the matters and things set out in the verified petition of the said Lois Walter Cowart.
- 2. That the Sheriff of Baladwin County do forthwith serve upon the said Ernest Clayton Cowart a copy of this order and the attached petition, and make due return thereof.

Done this the /s day of May, 1957.

JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

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RULE TO SHOW CAUSE

LOIS WALTER COWART,

COMPLAINANT

VS.

ERNEST CLAYTON COWART,
RESPONDENT

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA
IN EQUITY

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	on Ernest Payton Cauxit
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Part Strategistics	TAYLOR WILKINS, Sheriff
and Charles	By Edley A Stendle D.
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Ten Cents per mile Total STAYLOR WILKINS, Sheriff

LOIS WALTER COWART,	Ž	
Complainant	Q	IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
Vs.	Ĭ	BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA
ERNEST CLAYTON COWART,	Ž	IN EQUITY
Respondent	Ď	

This cause now coming on to be heard before the Court, is submitted for decision upon the petition for a rule to show cause, and upon the testimony taken orally, and upon the consideration of the same the Court is of the opinion that the said Ernest Clayton Cowart possesses the means and has willfully and contemptuously refused to pay to Lois Walter Cowart the support heretofore decreed in her favor, as and for support of the minor children of her marriage to the said Ernest Clayton Cowart, as decreed by the decree of this Court, dated January 21, 1957, it is therefore

ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED by the Court:

- 1. That the said Ernest Clayton Cowart is in contempt of the Court.
- That as punishment for his said contempt he be confined in the jail of Baldwin County until he has complied with the terms of said decree or be otherwise discharged by due process of law, and the Register of this Court is ordered and directed to forthwith issue a writ directed to any sheriff of the state of Alabama commanding him to take the said Ernest Clayton Cowart into his custody.

It is further ordered that the said Ernest Clayton Cowart be taxed with all costs accrued by reason of said petition and this writ.

Done this the 17 day of Aug., 1957.

Thebro M Hall
CIRCUIT JUDGE

FILED AUG 12 1957

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LOIS WALTER COWART, COMPLAINANT

VS. ERNEST CLAYTON COWART, RESPONDENT

IN THE CIRCUTT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA IN EQUITY

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