

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION**

MICHAEL T. FLYNN,

Plaintiff,

v.

JIM STEWARTSON, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No.: 2023 CA 004264 NC

Division C Circuit

**PLAINTIFF'S EMERGENCY MOTION FOR ENTRY OF A
PROTECTIVE ORDER REGARDING DEPOSITION APPEARANCE**

Plaintiff, Michael T. Flynn ("General Flynn"), hereby moves this Court for entry of a protective order pursuant to Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.280(d), allowing him to appear for deposition by remote means, and states as follows:

1. Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.280(d) provides that, "for good cause shown," a party or a person "from whom discovery is sought" may obtain a protective order directing, *inter alia*, "that the discovery may be had only on specified terms and conditions," or "that the discovery may be had only by a method of discovery other than that selected by the party seeking discovery." This is "to protect a party or person from annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or undue burden."

2. "A trial court possesses broad discretion in overseeing discovery, and protecting the parties that come before it." *Bush v. Schiavo*, 866 So.2d 136, 138 (Fla. 2d DCA 2004) (quoting *Rojas v. Ryder Truck Rental, Inc.*, 625 So.2d 106, 107 (Fla. 3d DCA 1993)).

3. Here, General Flynn requests that this Court enter an order allowing for his deposition to be conducted remotely. Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.310(b)(7) allows for a deposition to “be taken by communication technology ... if stipulated by the parties or if ordered by the court on its own motion or on motion of a party.”

4. General Flynn makes this request for two reasons.

5. First, General Flynn has business-related travel planned into early October. This matter is scheduled on the trial docket for October 6 for a period of three weeks. Therefore, time is of the essence.

6. In order to accommodate Defendant’s request for deposition, General Flynn provided four dates in September when he would have been available for deposition. Defendant waited over two weeks to respond, until these dates had either passed or were no longer available. Considering Defendant’s delay, and General Flynn’s pre-planned travel, General Flynn respectfully requests that this Court allow him to appear remotely, so that he may comply with his discovery obligations while also attending to business matters.

7. Second, as the Court is aware, the current political climate in this country is incredibly hostile. Political violence is on the rise, and General Flynn is a public figure of national prominence. Due to this notoriety, he regularly receives credible death threats, and security concerns are always at the forefront for his public whereabouts and travel, including the need for bomb-sniffing dogs to screen the venues of his public appearances. An in-person deposition requires the publicity of General Flynn’s location and when he will be there. This presents

a specific security concern and threat of annoyance due to potential protests, but also of physical harm. These threats are easily abated by a court order granting General Flynn's request to allow his deposition to proceed remotely.

8. Defendant himself has shown that he has little remorse for political violence. Mere hours after the assassination of Charlie Kirk, Defendant responded to Secretary of War Pete Hegseth's post about praying for Mr. Kirk saying, "Fuck you and fuck Charlie Kirk."¹ Days later, Defendant posted, "Thinking about organizing a Fuck Charlie Kirk march."² And on the day of Mr. Kirk's funeral, he compared it to a Nuremberg rally.³ Given the rise of political violence, and Defendant's apparent condoning of it, allowing the publicity of General Flynn's current whereabouts where there will be little to no security is inherently dangerous to General Flynn.

9. Plaintiff has provided alternate dates for the deposition to occur remotely. Considering the above, good cause exists for this Motion.

10. Plaintiff met and conferred with Defendant; however, Defendant does not consent to this Motion.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Michael T. Flynn, respectfully requests this Court enter an order allowing for his deposition to be conducted by remote means.

¹ Jim Stewartson (@jimstewartson), X (Sept. 10, 2025, 9:56 PM), <https://x.com/jimstewartson/status/1965957608013180963?s=46&t=vnil3koVTjS0M165OEeBvA>.

² Jim Stewartson (@jimstewartson), X (Sept. 15, 2025, 1:42 PM), <https://x.com/jimstewartson/status/1967645284076491265?s=46&t=vnil3koVTjS0M165OEeBvA>

³ Jim Stewartson (@jimstewartson), X (Sept. 21, 2025, 1:01 PM), <https://x.com/jimstewartson/status/1969809327008661609>.

CERTIFICATE OF GOOD FAITH

The undersigned hereby certifies that he has conferred in good faith with defense counsel regarding the relief requested herein, and the parties were unable to agree on the issues.

Dated: September 22, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Stephen B. French
Stephen B. French, FBN 0078761
Jared J. Roberts, FBN 1036550
BINNALL LAW GROUP, PLLC
717 King Street, Suite 200
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Phone: (703) 888-1943
Fax: (703) 888-1930
Email: stephen@binnall.com
jared@binnall.com

Counsel for Michael T. Flynn

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on September 22, 2025, I have caused a true and accurate copy of the foregoing to be delivered to counsel of record via e-filing.

/s/ Stephen B. French
Stephen B. French, FBN 0078761

Counsel for Michael T. Flynn

IN THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT
IN AND FOR SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MICHAEL T FLYNN,
Plaintiff,

v.

CASE NO. 2023 CA 004264 NC
DIVISION C CIRCUIT

JIM STEWARTSON,
RICK WILSON,
MEIDASTOUCH LLC,
Defendant.

ORDER SETTING HEARING

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a Court hearing is scheduled in this case before the Honorable Hunter W. Carroll, as follows:

Date & Time: September 24, 2025 at 09:15 a.m.

Time Reserved: 15 minutes

Matter(s): DIN 120 - PLAINTIFF'S EMERGENCY MOTION FOR ENTRY OF A PROTECTIVE ORDER REGARDING DEPOSITION APPEARANCE

Is hearing evidentiary? No

Judge Carroll has a "hybrid courtroom," which will allow participants to either appear "in person" or via Zoom.

- For all non-evidentiary hearings and for evidentiary hearings one hour or less, each participant has the discretion to determine how that participant will appear.
- For evidentiary hearings exceeding one hour, the participants must appear in person unless the Court orders otherwise.

Please do **not** call the Court's Judicial Assistant to advise how the participant will appear. Instead, Judge Carroll expects the participants to appear on-time, either in person or via Zoom.

Courthouse location: Lynn N. Silvertooth Judicial Center - 2002 Ringling Blvd. - Sarasota - FL 34237

Courtroom: 6-C

Zoom Credentials: <https://www.zoom.us/> Click “Join A Meeting”
Meeting ID: 353 234 4884
Password: 756433
Audio only: 1.253.215.8782 and use the same Meeting ID

There are no fees for attending this court hearing via the Zoom platform. You may access the Zoom platform at <https://www.zoom.us/>. Please select the “Join A Meeting” link and then enter the Meeting ID and Password to access the hearing. You may also join the court hearing from Judge Carroll’s Zoom Video Conference Access Information page at <https://www.jud12.flcourts.org/Public-Information/Public-Court-Hearings>.

Court proceedings are open to the public. Members of the public may appear live or use the Zoom credentials to access the hearing. Judge Carroll will “host” the videoconference. When you sign on, you be placed in a waiting room. The Court will admit you at the beginning of the hearing. Please name your video feed with your first and last name.

Expectations for All Participants Attending Zoom Hearings

Please see the expectations for all participants on the Twelfth Judicial Court Website: <https://www.jud12.flcourts.org/Public-Information/Public-Court-Hearings>.

Court Reporters and Digital Court Recording

The Court does not provide a court reporter. If a party wishes to have a court reporter present, that party must arrange for the court reporter’s attendance and must notify all other parties before the hearing.

You are advised that the Court may record this proceeding via the Court’s Digital Court Recording Department. Not all hearings are digitally recorded, however. Those hearings before Judge Carroll that generally are recorded using Digital Court Recording include termination of parental rights; certain guardianship proceedings (appointment of a guardian; adjudication, modification, termination, or revocation of adjudication of incapacity; and restoration of rights); Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act hearings; and Temporary Restraining Order hearings.

No Recording Proceedings

By court rule and court order, you are not authorized to make your own audio or visual recording of a court proceeding. No one may take “screenshots” or other audio or visual depictions of a court proceeding. Recording a court proceeding is strictly prohibited unless approved by the Judge. If you violate these rules, you may be held in contempt of court. Members of the media must comply with rule 2.450 and administrative order 2020-23.2

regarding media coverage. Please contact the Court's Public Information Officer for further information.

Late entry or Technical Difficulties

If you are not logged in when the hearing begins, the judge may not interrupt the proceedings to admit you to the hearing. If you have trouble logging in, and you wish to participate in the hearing, contact the Court's judicial assistant immediately at (941) 861-7946.

ADA Notice


If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Sarasota County Jury Office, P.O. Box 3079, Sarasota, Florida 34230-3079, (941) 861-8000, at least seven (7) days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than seven (7) days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Interpreters

The Twelfth Judicial Circuit provides spoken language court interpreters to limited-English-proficient persons in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, section 90.606, Florida Statutes, and Rule 2.560, Florida Rules of Judicial Administration. If you require the assistance of an interpreter, please submit your request to: <https://www.jud12.flcourts.org/Programs/Court-Interpreters/Interpreter-Request> or please call 941-749-3659. Please submit your request as early as possible, requests made with less than 5 business days' notice may not be accommodated.

El Duodécimo Circuito Judicial provee intérpretes judiciales de la lengua hablada a personas con dominio limitado del inglés de acuerdo con el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, la sección 90.606, los Estatutos de la Florida y la Regla 2.560 de las Reglas de Administración Judicial de la Florida. Si requiere la ayuda de un intérprete, por favor envíe su solicitud a <http://www.jud12.flcourts.org/Home/Public/InterpreterRequestForm.aspx> o llame al 941-749-3659. Por favor, envíe su solicitud lo antes posible, las solicitudes hechas con menos de 5 días hábiles no pueden ser garantizadas.

DONE AND ORDERED in Sarasota, Sarasota County, Florida, on .


9/22/2025 4:22 PM 2023 CA
004264 NC
e-Signed 9/22/2025 4:22 PM 2023 CA 004264 NC

HUNTER W CARROLL
Circuit Judge

SERVICE CERTIFICATE

On September 22, 2025, the Court caused the foregoing document to be served via the Clerk of Court's case management system, which served the following individuals via email (where indicated). On the same date, the Court also served a copy of the foregoing document via First Class U.S. Mail on the individuals who do not have an email address on file with the Clerk of Court.

GEORGE KARL RAHDERT
535 CENTRAL AVE
SAINT PETERSBURG, FL 33701

STEPHEN B FRENCH
717 KING STREET
SUITE 200
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
JARED J ROBERTS
717 KING ST STE 200
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

CRAIG A WHISENHUNT
8130 66TH ST. N
SUITE 3
PINELLAS PARK, FL 33781

GEORGE A D THURLOW
535 CENTRAL AVE STE 200
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33701