

Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal State of Louisiana

No. 26-C-247

ELISE HOWELL

versus

METVET S. CORP., INC., ET AL.

IN RE ELISE HOWELL
APPLYING FOR SUPERVISORY WRIT FROM THE TWENTY-FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
COURT, PARISH OF JEFFERSON, STATE OF LOUISIANA, DIRECTED TO THE HONORABLE
DONALD L. FORET, DIVISION "H", No. 856-535

TRUE COPY

June 10, 2026



MORGAN NAQUIN
DEPUTY CLERK

Panel composed of Judges Susan M. Chehardy,
John J. Molaison, Jr., and Scott U. Schlegel

WRIT DENIED

This matter involves veterinary malpractice claims arising from treatment received by relator/plaintiff Elise Howell's cat. Ms. Howell is proceeding *in forma pauperis* in this litigation, and because defendants' expert veterinarian is located in Massachusetts, Ms. Howell asked to depose the expert by means of written questions. It appears that in response, defendants filed a Motion to Set Fee for Expert. On March 23, 2026, the district court signed a judgment denying the defendants' motion and instead ordered as follows:

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that, because Plaintiff is unable to pay the expert due to her indigent status, Plaintiff's *Deposition Upon Written Questions* of defense expert, Massachusetts veterinarian Jocelyn Cowen, shall be limited to ten (10) questions.

In her writ application, Ms. Howell seeks review of this judgment and further contends that the trial court erred by ordering her to pay the costs of the proceedings.¹ However, Ms. Howell failed to provide this Court with copies of her petition, defendants' Motion to Set Fee for Expert, and any opposition and

¹ The March 23, 2026 judgment does not contain any language that imposes costs against Ms. Howell for the motion hearing.

attachments she filed in response as required by Uniform Rules-Courts of Appeal 4-5. Without these materials, this Court is unable to properly review this writ application.

Accordingly, on the showing made, this writ application is denied.

Gretna, Louisiana, this 10th day of June, 2026.

SUS
SMC
JJM

SUSAN M. CHEHARDY
CHIEF JUDGE

FREDERICKA H. WICKER
JUDE G. GRAVOIS
MARC E. JOHNSON
STEPHEN J. WINDHORST
JOHN J. MOLAISSON, JR.
SCOTT U. SCHLEGEL
TIMOTHY S. MARCEL

JUDGES



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CURTIS B. PURSELL
CLERK OF COURT

SUSAN S. BUCHHOLZ
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

LINDA M. TRAN
FIRST DEPUTY CLERK

MELISSA C. LEDET
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL STAFF

(504) 376-1400
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NOTICE OF DISPOSITION CERTIFICATE OF DELIVERY

I CERTIFY THAT A COPY OF THE DISPOSITION IN THE FOREGOING MATTER HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH **UNIFORM RULES - COURT OF APPEAL, RULE 4-6** THIS DAY **06/10/2026** TO THE TRIAL JUDGE, THE TRIAL COURT CLERK OF COURT, AND AT LEAST ONE OF THE COUNSEL OF RECORD FOR EACH PARTY, AND TO EACH PARTY NOT REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL, AS LISTED BELOW:

CURTIS B. PURSELL
CLERK OF COURT

26-C-247

E-NOTIFIED

24th Judicial District Court (Clerk)
Honorable Donald L. Foret (DISTRICT JUDGE)
John D. Schoonenberg (Respondent)

MAILED

Elise Howell (Relator)
In Proper Person
5847 Catina Street
New Orleans, LA 70120