

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOONE COUNTY, MISSOURI

In Re the Marriage of:
Sheena E. Greitens and
Eric R. Greitens

SHEENA E. GREITENS,
Petitioner,

v.

Case No. 20BA-FC00579

ERIC. R. GREITENS,
Respondent.

**MOTION FOR APPROPRIATE ORDER REGARDING JURISDICTION and
AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT THEREOF**

COMES NOW Petitioner and in support of her Motion states as follows:

1. This Court entered a consent Judgment and Decree of Dissolution of Marriage herein which incorporated the parties' Separation Agreement and Joint Parenting Plan in May, 2020.
2. An action to register the aforementioned Judgment and to modify said Judgment has been commenced in Travis County, Texas, and the Respondent has been duly served with Petitioner's Petition to Modify, action to register the Judgment, and Motion for Courts to Confer on Jurisdiction pursuant to the UCCJEA.
3. The children who are the subjects of the pending modification proceeding pending in Texas are now five (5) and seven (7) years old.
4. A hearing was held on 28 October 2021 regarding Petitioner's Motion for Courts to Confer on Jurisdiction and on Respondent's Response to Motion for Courts to Confer on Jurisdiction. A transcript of said hearing is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**. In summary, Travis County Associate Judge, J. Andrew Hathcock expressed a willingness to contact the Boone County Court, who has continuing jurisdiction, regarding the status of the

case in Texas, and to notify the Court that one or both parties may be contacting the Boone County Court with a request for the Boone County Court to decline jurisdictions. The parties were encouraged to file necessary pleadings to obtain the Boone County Court's orders.

5. The Petitioner and the minor children have resided in Travis County, Texas since July, 2020. The children attend school and childcare in Travis County, and they receive their medical and dental care in Travis County. The activities in which the children participate are centered in Travis County. The children spend the vast majority of their time in Travis County, forging friendships, relationships, and other bonds with children and adults alike.
6. The Petitioner is employed as a tenured professor at the University of Texas at Austin. The Respondent is a politician currently seeking election to the U.S. Senate. Having been part of prior political campaigns with Respondent, Petitioner anticipates that the Respondent will engage in more and more travel in pursuit of this Senate seat. His locus of employment if he wins election will likely be in Washington, D.C.
7. Respondent has not exercised a significant amount of the parenting time allotted to him with the children as set out in the Joint Parenting Plan. Even now, when Respondent has been able to exercise his parenting time, the children have spent a significant amount of that time outside of the State of Missouri.
8. Respondent's notoriety in Missouri, coupled with the history between Petitioner and Respondent, create an intimidating environment for the Petitioner in which to litigate the pending modification, and expose the parties and the minor children to unnecessary public curiosity and scrutiny. In contrast, the state of Texas provides a more neutral forum free from the implications of power derived from Respondent's notoriety and, therefore, is the state that can best protect the parties and the minor children herein.

9. Proceeding with this matter in Travis County, Texas would impose no cognizable burden upon the Respondent in terms of travel or in terms of financial expense. Respondent spends a significant amount of time traveling throughout the United States in connection with his political pursuits, including several trips to Texas in recent months unrelated to possession and access of the children, including trips to the Texas border with Mexico for apparent political and/or business endeavors and attending classes in person in North Texas as publicized by Respondent on social media. Petitioner believes Respondent has significant financial resources.
10. Nearly all of the evidence relevant to the children's welfare and circumstances is in Texas, including records and witnesses.
11. The underlying dissolution of marriage was entered by this Court upon Affidavit and without ever hearing any evidence in any hearing in this case. Neither party has ever personally appeared before this Court, and only appeared by Affidavit in connection with the entry of final Judgment. The Travis County Court has held a hearing and at this point, is more familiar with the facts and issues of the pending litigation.
12. Neither parent, nor either child, resides in Boone County, Missouri. As previously noted, Petitioner resides in Travis County, Texas. The children reside primarily in Travis County, Texas. Respondent maintains a residence in Warren County, Missouri, and previously informed Petitioner that he had a residence in Washington D.C.; Petitioner does not know whether this is still the case.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays this Court enter its Order:

- I. Finding and determining that neither the child nor the child and one parent have a significant connection with this State and that substantial evidence is no longer available in this state concerning the children's care, protection, training, and personal relationships; or in the alternative

- II. Finding that the State of Texas is a more appropriate forum, that Missouri is an inconvenient forum under the circumstances, and declining to exercise jurisdiction herein; and
- III. Granting to the Petitioner such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper in the premises.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that a copy of the foregoing instrument was served upon the attorneys or parties of record in the above action through the electronic filing system pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 103.08:

On Thursday, November 18, 2021 by:

_/s/ Sheryl Phillips_____

Respectfully Submitted,



Helen L. Wade, #56402
Harper, Evans, Wade & Netemeyer
401 Locust Street, #401
Columbia, MO 65201
(573)442-1660
(573)874-8961 - fax
hwade@lawmissouri.com

Attorney for Petitioner

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) SS.
COUNTY OF BOONE)

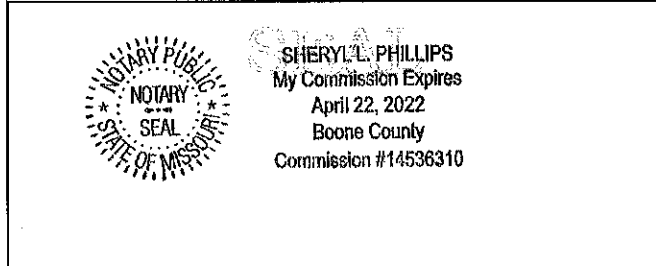
COMES NOW Sheena E. Greitens, being of lawful age and after being duly sworn, states that she has read the foregoing Motion and hereby swears and affirms that the facts stated herein are true and correct to the best of her present knowledge and belief.

DocuSigned by:
Sheena Greitens
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11/18/21
Date

Subscribed and sworn before me on this 18th day of November, 2021

[Signature]
NOTARY PUBLIC



My commission expires: 4/22/22