

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
TAMPA DIVISION

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4 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, )

5 Plaintiff, )

6 vs. )

Case No.

8:21-CR-00348-SCB-SPF

7  
8 JEREMY BROWN, )

9 Defendant. )

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13 STATUS CONFERENCE  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE SEAN P. FLYNN  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

14  
15 FEBRUARY 11, 2022  
9:58 A.M.  
16 TAMPA, FLORIDA

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21 Proceedings transcribed via courtroom digital audio  
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24 DAVID J. COLLIER, RMR, CRR  
FEDERAL OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER  
25 801 NORTH FLORIDA AVENUE, 7TH FLOOR  
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33602

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**APPEARANCES :**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT :**

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Jillian Jewell  
United States Attorney's Office  
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**FOR THE DEFENDANT :**

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 THE COURT: Mr. Calderon, would you please call the  
4 case.

5 COURTROOM DEPUTY: In the matter of United States of  
6 America versus Jeremy Brown, Criminal Case Number  
7 8:21-CR-348-SCB-SPF.

8 THE COURT: Counsel, please make appearances.

9 MS. ASOKAN: Good morning, Your Honor. Risha Asokan  
10 for the United States.

11 MS. JEWELL: Good morning, Your Honor. Jillian  
12 Jewell for the United States.

13 MR. SANSONE: Good morning, Your Honor. Bill Sansone  
14 on behalf of Mr. Jeremy Brown.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Good morning to everyone.  
16 Thank you for being here.

17 We're here for a status conference because the Court  
18 had entered a show cause order directing Mr. Brown to show  
19 cause why he should not be held in contempt for failing to  
20 comply with the Court's order directing him to deposit \$12,300  
21 into the Court's registry.

22 Mr. Brown filed a response, which can be found at  
23 docket entry 103, which quite frankly fails to adequately  
24 address the Court's show cause order, so the Court is going to  
25 order an evidentiary hearing on this matter.

1           Now, I do want to clarify some representations that  
2 were made to the Court, Mr. Sansone. At the January 5th  
3 hearing you had represented to the Court that you were going to  
4 tell Ms. Aldridge about the stipulated order directing that no  
5 funds be disbursed from the Jeremy Brown GiftSendGo account.  
6 Did you in fact tell Ms. Aldridge about that order?

7           MR. SANSONE: Yes, I did, Your Honor.

8           THE COURT: All right. And Ms. Aldridge, it's your  
9 understanding that she had control over those funds as of the  
10 January 5th hearing?

11           MR. SANSONE: Well, Judge, that's been the subject of  
12 confusion that Ms. Carolyn Stewart --

13           THE COURT: I'm asking you what your understanding  
14 is, Mr. Sansone.

15           MR. SANSONE: My understanding is it was, but I have  
16 never seen anything.

17           THE COURT: All right. And is your understanding  
18 that Ms. Aldridge is now the trustee of this trust that --  
19 according to your attachment to the response found at docket  
20 entry 103 from Attorney Stewart?

21           MR. SANSONE: I am not certain of that, Your Honor.

22           THE COURT: All right. Do you know when this trust  
23 was formed?

24           MR. SANSONE: I do not, Your Honor.

25           THE COURT: All right. So what we're going to do is

1 we're going to have an evidentiary hearing, and I want to  
2 discuss with the parties the timing for that evidentiary  
3 hearing, because what I suspect both parties are going to want  
4 to do is to subpoena some documents and witnesses to come  
5 testify at this hearing, because as the Court has already  
6 found, Mr. Brown did exercise control over these funds and it's  
7 not disputed that he failed to comply with my order, so  
8 presumably Mr. Brown is going to want to know and going to want  
9 to get some information to prove to the Court that he could not  
10 comply with the Court's order.

11 So I would expect that either Mr. Brown or the  
12 United States are going to want to subpoena records from  
13 GiftSendGo as to how that fund was set up and where those funds  
14 went. I also suspect that the corporation that was referenced  
15 at the January 19th hearing -- and, Mr. Sansone, you  
16 represented the Jeremy Brown Defense of Constitutional Rights  
17 Corporation, which the Court notes in the public filing was  
18 registered with the Secretary of State on the date of the  
19 hearing and it was represented to the Court that that  
20 corporation was going to have control over these funds, so  
21 I suspect that a subpoena is going to be issued to this entity  
22 as well and to the directors, which are listed as  
23 Tylene Aldridge, Meredith Jones and Jeremy Brown, to find out  
24 whether that representation was in fact true and whether that  
25 corporation ever did exercise control over these funds and

1 whether my order was violated by directing that no funds be  
2 moved.

3 I also suspect that Ms. Aldridge the parties are  
4 going to want to come testify in front of the Court, since it  
5 was represented that Ms. Aldridge had control over these funds  
6 and these funds appear to have moved. It appears to the Court  
7 that at the time of the January 5th hearing Ms. Aldridge and  
8 Mr. Brown had control over these funds and they have since  
9 tried to move those funds around, in violation of the Court's  
10 order, and now have apparently, if the Court is to believe the  
11 letter that's attached, although it's a very vague letter, not  
12 very coherent, to defendant's response to show cause order,  
13 that these funds are now in the trust that was created. So the  
14 Court is going to want to hear evidence as to when that trust  
15 was created, by whom, and when the funds were deposited into  
16 that trust or the trust got control over the funds in question.

17 So I'll leave it to the parties to decide, obviously,  
18 what evidence they want to present at this hearing, but  
19 I thought I'd just give some guidance to the parties as to what  
20 the Court is interested in, and if Mr. Brown wants to discharge  
21 the show cause order then, again, I expect him to come forward  
22 with evidence to show the Court that he could not comply with  
23 the Court's order.

24 But even then, Mr. Sansone, when the Court orders a  
25 party to do something, the party is to do it, or at least

1 notify the Court that they're not going to do it, and there was  
2 nothing docketed in this case. My order was just ignored. You  
3 didn't advise the Court that Mr. Brown wasn't going to comply  
4 with the order, you didn't advise the Court of this moving  
5 around of the assets, so I am very interested to learn what  
6 happened and whether any representations that were made to the  
7 Court were false.

8           Would you like to be heard, Mr. Sansone?

9           MR. SANSONE: Yes, Your Honor. At the last hearing,  
10 when I asked for a continuance, I said it was my understanding.  
11 I had absolutely -- I was told by somebody. A lot of people  
12 are talking. Mr. Brown has been in jail the whole time. All  
13 this money has been raised since he was in jail.

14           Your Honor denied the motion for continuance, because  
15 I wanted to see documents. I hadn't seen documents. I have no  
16 evidence that money has ever been moved. I've never seen any  
17 documents for any money.

18           In this letter Ms. Carolyn Stewart says there was a  
19 misunderstanding. I -- so now I know -- I am just going to go  
20 with what other people have now documented, because the last  
21 hearing someone told me over the phone that there was a --  
22 there was a 501(c)(3), I have no documents as to that, and I  
23 wanted a continuance to see if there's documents. So to the  
24 extent that I represented that that 501(c) actually controlled  
25 the money, I had no evidence to that, and I apologize if I said

1 that, because even as to this letter, I didn't show this letter  
2 to Mr. Brown until after our response was filed. He didn't  
3 even know -- he's never met Carolyn Stewart. And I have very  
4 limited control over people. I couldn't -- I was -- I asked  
5 Ms. Stewart to do this because the only thing I said is I need  
6 to have some type of document, I just can't talk to the Court.

7 So I will issue the subpoenas, and I just wanted to  
8 make clear that I didn't have any concrete information that  
9 there was documentary -- that there was money in a 501(c)(3)  
10 and now that has since been moved. This is -- this is all  
11 I have for sure.

12 THE COURT: I understand, Mr. Sansone, and that's why  
13 we're going to have an evidentiary hearing, so we'll get to the  
14 bottom of what exactly happened. I know that you're well-aware  
15 of your duty of candor to the Court, and I have full confidence  
16 that you complied with that and that you were candid with the  
17 Court, but I am going to explore what happened. And you said  
18 that before that hearing somebody told you about this 501(c)(3)  
19 that was going to -- I believe it was framed in was going to be  
20 established. Was that person someone other than your client?

21 MR. SANSONE: Yes.

22 THE COURT: All right. Who told you that?

23 MR. SANSONE: I know I always say her last name is  
24 Olson, but it's not. Meredith --

25 THE COURT: Meredith Jones?

1 MR. SANSONE: I can't remember. It's -- she  
2 testified --

3 THE COURT: Meredith Jones.

4 MR. SANSONE: That's it.

5 THE COURT: All right.

6 MR. SANSONE: She was the one.

7 And, Your Honor, as for the ignoring of the order,  
8 that's -- that's my fault. Do not hold that against Mr. Brown.  
9 That is a -- a complete dropping of the ball on my -- I was  
10 trying to get information, and it's absolutely no excuse, but  
11 I was in a mandatory life jury trial last week and lots of  
12 things fell through and that is absolutely my fault. I would  
13 never ignore an order from the Court. Mr. Brown did not -- he  
14 wasn't responsible for that, I was, and I apologize, and I will  
15 work with the Government to get out all the subpoenas, and  
16 I will convey what has been said in court to all the parties.

17 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Sansone. And just to be  
18 clear, it's up to the parties to decide what evidence they want  
19 to present at the hearing. I was just providing some guidance  
20 as to what the Court is interested in, but by no means am  
21 I forcing you to issue any subpoena, Mr. Sansone. I was just  
22 giving you some guidance as to what the Court would like to see  
23 and what I think would be beneficial to your client if what  
24 he's saying is in fact true.

25 Are there any questions from the Government?

1 MS. ASOKAN: Your Honor, only on the matter of  
2 scheduling and the timing of this. The United States does  
3 fully intend to issue subpoenas, and we need at least  
4 two weeks, given the nature and some of the people that need to  
5 be subpoenaed, so we just would ask that the Court accommodate  
6 us.

7 THE COURT: Yes, and thank you, because that's the  
8 whole purpose of this hearing, is to schedule the evidentiary  
9 hearing. So do you have a proposed date, Ms. Asokan?

10 MS. ASOKAN: One moment, Your Honor.

11 Your Honor, would the second week of March be  
12 acceptable to the Court?

13 THE COURT: That would be the week of March 7th?

14 MS. ASOKAN: Yes, Your Honor.

15 MR. SANSONE: Your Honor, I'm in trial in front of  
16 Judge Honeywell that week.

17 THE COURT: When are you available, Mr. Sansone?

18 MR. SANSONE: I can -- either the week before or the  
19 week after.

20 THE COURT: All right.

21 MR. SANSONE: That's the only week.

22 THE COURT: How about Friday, March 4th?

23 MR. SANSONE: In the morning. I have an open plea  
24 sentencing in Sarasota at 1:30.

25 THE COURT: What does the rest of that week look like

1 for you, Mr. Sansone?

2 MR. SANSONE: The week of the 28th?

3 THE COURT: That's right.

4 MR. SANSONE: Everything else could be rescheduled,  
5 Your Honor, so --

6 THE COURT: But is there a day that works better for  
7 your schedule?

8 MR. SANSONE: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.

9 THE COURT: Ms. Asokan, is that enough time?

10 MS. ASOKAN: One moment, Your Honor.

11 Your Honor, March 1st works well scheduling-wise, but  
12 we would just add that we may need additional time depending on  
13 how long it takes for some of these entities and persons to  
14 respond to the subpoenas.

15 THE COURT: All right. Well, why don't we go ahead  
16 and schedule it for March 1st, and if either party needs to  
17 seek a continuance in order to get the information that they  
18 believe is appropriate for the evidentiary hearing then I'll  
19 take that under advisement, but why don't we get something on  
20 the calendar now. And so we'll schedule it for Tuesday,  
21 March 1st at 10:00 a.m. Is that acceptable to you,  
22 Mr. Sansone?

23 MR. SANSONE: Yes, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Ms. Asokan?

25 MS. ASOKAN: Yes, Your Honor. Thank you.

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THE COURT: All right. Is there anything else for the Court to address scheduling-wise at this time, Ms. Asokan?

MS. ASOKAN: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Sansone?

MR. SANSONE: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you. We're adjourned.

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(Proceedings concluded at 10:13 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript of proceedings taken in a status conference in the United States District Court is a true and accurate transcript of the proceedings taken by me in machine shorthand and transcribed by computer under my supervision, this the 17th day of February, 2022.

/S/ DAVID J. COLLIER

DAVID J. COLLIER  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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