

Public Record Review and Ethical Questions

Marriage-of-Ray Filing | Institutional Power, Fair Process, and Family Stability

Prepared for public accountability discussion - June 2026

Important context: The attached material is a court filing, not a final judgment or a finding of wrongdoing. A petition states what a party requested; it does not, by itself, establish that a court granted the request, that any allegation was proven, or that later outcomes occurred. This review raises fair-process questions based on reported concerns and the face of the filing.

What the attached filing shows

- A Tulsa County filing in the marriage of William A. Ray and Lorena P. Ray identifies William A. Ray as the petitioner and Lorena P. Ray as the respondent.
- The filing lists attorney Michael James King of Winters & King, Inc. as counsel for the petitioner.
- The filing asks the court for temporary relief, including temporary exclusive possession of the marital residence and sole and primary custody of the parties' minor child, subject to requested visitation for the respondent.
- The filing also seeks a separate-maintenance order and related temporary relief pending the case.

What the filing does not establish: It does not prove how either party was treated by any employer, church, ministry, attorney, or other organization; it does not prove employment loss, housing loss, or a custody result. Those are separate factual questions that require independent records and evidence.

Why the ethical questions matter

When spouses work within the same religious organization or ministry network, the organization has a heightened responsibility to prevent conflict of interest, retaliation, coercion, and unequal access to support. A pastor or organizational leader may have professional relationships, institutional credibility, access to counsel, donor influence, or supervisory power that a spouse does not share. Those dynamics do not prove misconduct. They do require safeguards and transparency.

Accountability questions requiring clear answers

1. What business relationship, referral relationship, representation history, or other professional connection existed - if any - between the ministry or its leadership and the law firm or attorney representing the petitioner?
2. Were both spouses informed in writing of any potential conflict of interest or institutional connection involving legal counsel, leadership, employment, or ministry resources?
3. What steps were taken to make certain the respondent had access to genuinely independent legal advice and practical support?
4. Did either spouse experience changes in employment, income, benefits, scheduling, ministry status, housing, insurance, or access to organizational resources during the separation or litigation? If so, who made those decisions and what documented reasons were provided?
5. Were any employment or ministry decisions reviewed by a neutral person outside the pastor's supervisory, relational, or legal network?

6. Did church or ministry leadership provide pastoral care, safety planning, financial support, and referral information equally to both spouses?
7. Were any organizational funds, staff time, facilities, data, communications systems, donor relationships, or internal influence used in connection with a private family-law dispute? If so, under what policy and with what approval?
8. Was there a written anti-retaliation process for an employee or ministry participant who raised concerns about fairness, abuse of authority, housing instability, job loss, or family separation?
9. Did any leader assess whether one spouse's title, employment status, social standing, or access to organization-linked counsel created an unequal bargaining position?
10. If a parent or child faced housing instability, job loss, loss of health coverage, or reduced family contact, what support and safety measures were offered and documented?
11. Who conducted an independent review of these concerns, and can the public be shown the governing conflict-of-interest, employee grievance, and pastoral-care policies?
12. Will the organization commit to a process that protects staff, spouses, children, and witnesses from retaliation for asking ethical questions?

Minimum standards for ethical organizational response

- Independent counsel and referral options for the less-powerful spouse or employee.
- Written conflict-of-interest disclosures and recusal by leaders who have personal, financial, supervisory, or legal-network ties to either party.
- No use of organizational resources to obtain an unfair advantage in a private dispute.
- Anti-retaliation protections, documented employment decisions, and a neutral appeal channel.
- Child-centered safety planning that keeps children out of organizational power struggles.
- An external review process when allegations involve senior leadership, pastors, organizational attorneys, or employer actions.

Accountability standard

Moral authority requires more than protecting titles or managing public perception. It requires transparent safeguards, equal access to support, independent review, and documented protection for the person with less institutional power. Asking whether that occurred is not an attack on faith; it is a demand for ethical stewardship and family-centered care.

Source and privacy note

Source: attached court-filing images provided for review. The appendix has been redacted to limit unnecessary disclosure of a minor's identifying information, residential information, and direct contact details. This document is for commentary and public-interest discussion; it is not legal advice and does not state that any person or organization committed wrongdoing.

Appendix A - Privacy-Redacted Source Filing

The following images reproduce the filing pages supplied for review, with sensitive details obscured. The appendix is included to show the language that prompted the ethical questions; it should not be treated as a final order or a factual finding.



IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR TULSA COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF

WILLIAM A. RAY,
Petitioner,

v.

LORENA P. RAY,
Respondent.

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
SEP 10 2014
SALLY HOWE SMITH, COURT CLERK
STATE OF OKLA, TULSA COUNTY

FD-2014-2388

Case No.
Judge:

ATTORNEY'S LIEN CLAIMED

2014 SEP 10 PM 10
S.M. HOWE

PETITION FOR SEPARATE MAINTENANCE AND AUTOMATIC
TEMPORARY INJUNCTION NOTICE AND MOTION FOR TEMPORARY ORDER

COMES NOW Petitioner, William A. Ray, in person and by and through his attorney of record, Michael James King of Winters & King, Inc., and for his cause of action against the Respondent alleges and states as follows:

1. Petitioner is now and has been for more than six (6) months preceding the filing of the Petition herein an actual resident, in good faith, of the State of Oklahoma, and a resident of Tulsa County, for thirty (30) days. Respondent is now and has been for more than six (6) months preceding the filing of the petition herein an actual resident, in good faith, of the State of Oklahoma, and a resident of Tulsa County, for thirty (30) days. However, Respondent has been physicall residing with relatives in South Carolina.

2. The parties were lawfully married on June 23, 1984 in New Brunswick, New Jersey
[REDACTED] will is still currently a minor,
[REDACTED] pregnancy. John Paul Ray, born [REDACTED] pregnant and no other children
have been born or adopted by the parties.



§1901 et seq., apply to this proceeding. Other than this action, no other action has been filed in this or any other state in which the custody, visitation or support of the minor children has been at issue and Petitioner has not participated in any such other litigation as a party, witness or in any other capacity.

D. For the past five (5) years, the minor child has resided at the following location: 630 Meadowood Drive, Broken Arrow, OK

6. Petitioner is a fit and proper person to have sole and primary custody of the parties' minor child, and that sole and primary custody of said child should be awarded to Petitioner, subject to the right of Respondent to have visitation with the minor child at reasonable times and places.

7. For purposes of computing child support under the Child Support Guidelines, each party should contribute to the support of the minor child as required by law.



estate. All items of marital property should be identified and valued and should be equitably divided between the parties according to law.

9. That the Petitioner should be awarded temporary exclusive possession of the marital residence located at 630 Meadowood Drive, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, 74012.

10. The parties have marital debts which should be equitably divided between the parties according to law and the Court should order each party to pay his/her individual debts.

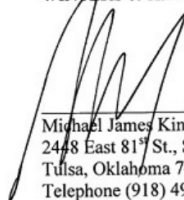
11. Petitioner is not requesting an award for his attorney fees and costs at this time, unless Respondent causes unreasonable and unnecessary litigation in this matter.

12. In the event the parties are unable to reach an agreement at the Parenting Plan Conference, the Court should set this matter for temporary order hearing for the above-requested relief as stated in Petitioner's Application for Temporary Orders.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner requests an Order for Separate Maintenance with all ancillary and incidental relief thereto including attorney fees and costs and for further equitable relief as this Court deems proper.

Respectfully submitted,

WINTERS & KING, INC.



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