

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LEWIS**

BARBARA THOMPSON,

Petitioner/Plaintiff,

v.

TERRY L. WILSON, Lewis County  
Coroner,

Respondent/Defendant.

No 06-2-01044-1

**RESPONDENT'S MOTION  
TO BE EXCUSED FROM  
FURTHER ATTENDANCE**

1. Respondent, Lewis County Coroner Terry L. Wilson, notes the recent rulings of this Court which, among other things, have determined that the matter henceforth in issue shall be in the nature of an inquiry de novo into the death of the late Rhonda Reynolds. The Court further has ruled that all relevant and admissible evidence will be heard, not just evidence available to Respondent at the time of his determination in the matter.

2. By virtue of these rulings, Respondent respectfully submits that he is a party whose participation through counsel is neither necessary nor relevant in further proceedings. Rather, the Court now is proceeding independently to inquire into this death anew; and thus the actions and decisions of Respondent have been determined not to be of consequence in these proceedings. Respondent understands that the Court will make its own determination of the cause, mode, and manner of Rhonda Reynolds' death; and, on the basis of this new determination, it will pronounce upon the "accuracy" of a prior determination of Respondent.

3. Should counsel for Respondent be obliged to remain within the bar of the Court during the hearing of evidence, he would not propose to take any role in calling or examining witnesses.

Counsel for Respondent does not propose to tender any documentary evidence beyond that identified to date by Petitioner.

4. In view of the foregoing, and in view of budgetary constraints facing all local governments in this State, and facing Lewis County in particular, it is respectfully submitted that requiring Respondent's counsel to attend future proceedings would not be a prudent expenditure of taxpayers' money.

**Wherefore Respondent prays for an Order of this Court:**

- (a) Permitting Respondent to be excused from further attendance in these proceedings in its capacity as a party hereto;
- (b) excusing Respondent's counsel from the duty to participate in future motions and evidentiary hearings;
- (c) confirming that the Court henceforth shall be conducting its own inquest into the cause, mode, and manner of the death of the late Rhonda Reynolds;
- (d) amending the style of cause to read, "In the Matter of the Rhonda Reynolds, Deceased; Brenda Thompson, Petitioner v. Lewis County Coroner, Respondent"; and
- (e) granting such further relief as may be just and appropriate.

RESPECTFULLY submitted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of May 2009.

**MICHAEL GOLDEN**  
Lewis County Prosecuting Attorney

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
**J. David Fine, WSBA No 33362**  
Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
Of attorneys for Defendant Terry Wilson