

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
TAMPA DIVISION**

**PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS, INC.,**

**Plaintiff,**

v.

**Case No.: 8:16-cv-2899-T-36AAS**

**DADE CITY'S WILD THINGS, INC.,  
STEARNS ZOOLOGICAL RESCUE &  
REHAB CENTER, INC. D/B/A DADE  
CITY'S WILD THINGS, KATHRYN P.  
STEARNS, AND RANDALL E. STEARNS,**

**Defendants.**

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**ORDER**

This matter comes before the Court on William J. Cook and Barker & Cook, P.A's Motion for Extension of Time to Comply with Order and Subpoenas or Stay Pending Review (Doc. 153), Defendants' Unopposed Emergency Motion to Stay Deposition of William Cook, Extend the Time to Comply with Joint Statement, and Continue Hearing on November 29, 2017 (Doc. 156), and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, Inc.'s Motion to Continue Filing of Joint Pre-trial Statement and the Evidentiary Hearing Scheduled for November 29, 2017 (Doc. 157). All the motions essentially seek the same relief.

On October 12, 2017, the Court scheduled a November 29, 2017 evidentiary hearing on Plaintiff's motions for the Court to hold Defendants and certain non-parties in contempt. (Doc. 120). In the October 12<sup>th</sup> Order, the Court also required the parties and non-parties to file, on or before November 17, 2017, a joint statement containing witness lists, exhibit lists, stipulation of facts, stipulation as to legal issues, disputed issues of fact, and disputed issues of law. (*Id.* at ¶ 2).

On October 26, 2017, Plaintiff moved to compel the production of certain documents and deposition testimony from Defendants' former counsel William Cook, Esq. (Doc. 131). Plaintiff represented that this discovery was necessary to adequately prepare for the November 29<sup>th</sup> evidentiary hearing. (*Id.*). On November 2, 2017, Defendants responded by taking the position that the discovery sought from Mr. Cook was protected by attorney-client privilege. (Doc. 141). On November 3, 2017, the Court ordered that Mr. Cook produce documents—limited in timeframe and topics—and appear for deposition to provide testimony related to the same limited timeframe and topics. (Doc. 145). Defendants subsequently filed an objection to the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Order as permitted by Rule 72(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. (Doc. 154). Because the Rule 72(a) objection is pending before United States District Judge Charlene Honeywell, the parties and Mr. Cook request a stay of Mr. Cook's November 16<sup>th</sup> deposition, the November 17<sup>th</sup> deadline for filing the joint statement, and the November 29<sup>th</sup> evidentiary hearing. (Docs. 153, 156, 157).

Accordingly, after due consideration, it is **ORDERED** that:

(1) William J. Cook and Barker & Cook, P.A's Motion for Extension of Time to Comply with Order and Subpoenas or Stay Pending Review (Doc. 153), Defendants' Unopposed Emergency Motion to Stay Deposition of William Cook, Extend the Time to Comply with Joint Statement, and Continue Hearing on November 29, 2017 (Doc. 156), and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, Inc.'s Motion to Continue Filing of Joint Pre-trial Statement and the Evidentiary Hearing Scheduled for November 29, 2017 (Doc. 157) are **GRANTED**.

(2) The evidentiary hearing and joint statement deadline, as well as Mr. Cook's discovery obligations, are **STAYED** pending resolution of Defendants' Objection (Doc. 154). Within seven (7) days of the ruling on Defendant's Objection, counsel for the parties shall file a notice advising the Court how soon they can be available for the rescheduled evidentiary hearing,

as well as the estimated length of the hearing.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Tampa, Florida on this 15th day of November, 2017.

*Amanda Arnold Sansone*

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AMANDA ARNOLD SANSONE  
United States Magistrate Judge