

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, OF THE
FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND
FOR DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA.

CECILIA J.SHEPARD, as Putative
Personal Representative of the
ESTATE OF KEEGAN VON ROBERTS,
and ELIANY DIAZ ROBERTS, individually,
and on behalf of her deceased child
E.K.R.

CASE NO.:
DIVISION:

Plaintiffs,

v.

MICHAEL CENTANNI, IV.

Defendant.

_____ /

COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

COMES NOW, the Plaintiffs, CECILIA SHEPARD, individually and as Putative Personal Representative of the ESTATE OF KEEGAN VON ROBERTS, deceased, and ELIANY DIAZ ROBERTS, individually and on behalf of her deceased child E.K.R., by and through their undersigned attorney, and hereby files this complaint against Defendant, MICHAEL CENTANNI, IV., (hereinafter "CENTANNI") and allege as follows:

JURISDICTIONAL ALLEGATIONS

1. For jurisdictional purposes, Plaintiffs allege that this is an action in excess of FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$15,000.00), exclusive of interest, costs, and attorneys' fees. Damages exceed \$1,000,000.00.

2. At all times material, Plaintiff, CECILIA SHEPARD was the natural parent of KEEGAN VON ROBERTS, deceased, and is in the process of petitioning

the Court for issuance of Letters of Administration appointing her as Personal Representative of the Estate of KEEGAN VON ROBERTS. Said Estate will be opened in Duval County, Florida.

3. Plaintiff, ELIANY DIAZ ROBERTS, was the spouse of KEEGAN VON ROBERTS and also the co-parent of two of the children of KEEGAN VON ROBERT's children, (Y.K.R.)(age 2) and (E.K.R.)(who she was 5 months pregnant with and who she delivered stillborn on August 10, 2017).

4. At all times material, Plaintiffs, CECILIA J. SHEPARD and ELIANY DIAZ ROBERTS were residents of Duval County, Florida.

5. All potential beneficiaries of any recovery for wrongful death and their relationship to the deceased, KEEGAN VON ROBERTS, are identified as follows:

- (a) Cecilia Shepard, as putative Personal Representative of the Estate of Keegan Roberts; and
- (b) Cecilia Shepard, the natural parent of Keegan Roberts.
- (c) Roger Roberts, the natural parent of Keegan Roberts.
- (d) Eliany Roberts, the spouse of Keegan Roberts.
- (e) YKR, the child of Keegan Roberts.
- (f) EKR, the stillborn child of Keegan Roberts.

6. Plaintiff, CECILIA SHEPARD, as putative Personal Representative of the Estate of KEEGAN VON ROBERTS, is entitled and empowered by the Florida

Wrongful Death Act to recover for KEEGAN VON ROBERT's survivors, beneficiaries, and estate, all the damages allowed pursuant to its provisions.

7. Upon information and belief, and at all times material, Defendant MICHAEL CENTANNI, IV., was a resident of Duval County, Florida.

8. The incidents giving rise to this action occurred in Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida.

9. Specifically, this action is based on a fatal shooting that occurred at 3539 Peach Drive, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

10. On and before July 20, 2017, Michael Centanni had engaged his neighbors, including Keegan Roberts, repeatedly in argument, using words of hate such as "nigger" (to describe Keegan Roberts who is of African American descent) and "spic" (to describe his wife and his wife's family who are of Cuban descent." He also referred to them as, "welfare bread".

11. In a statement to law enforcement, Michael Centanni admitted spending an exorbitant amount of time not only watching the residents and visitors of 3539 Peach Drive in Jacksonville, but also creating a log of license plates of visitors and monitoring them.

12. In a statement to law enforcement, Michael Centanni admitted that on or after July 4, 2017, he increased his watching the residents and visitors of 3539 Peach Drive in Jacksonville, by installing security cameras facing said residence.

13. Additionally, Centanni regularly accused the residents and/or visitors of 3539 Peach Drive in Jacksonville of dealing drugs publicly.

14. Michael Centanni was a criminal justice student at the University of North Florida and otherwise was assigned an internship or coursework dealing with law enforcement.

15. Despite this, Michael Centanni made no known efforts to call the police or otherwise inform law enforcement of suspected illegal activity.

16. On the morning of July 20, 2017, Centanni went over to Roberts' property and left a note mandating Keegan Roberts clean up some litter, debris or trash.

17. In the late night hours of July 20, 2017, or early morning hours of July 21, 2017, Centanni watched and waited for his neighbor to get home- a neighbor he was angry with over litter, debris or yard trash.

18. Centanni knowingly left his residence with a loaded firearm in his pocket during the middle of the night, specifically to confront Keegan Roberts about litter, debris or yard trash.

19. Centanni willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly harassed Keegan Roberts and his family and made one or more credible threats to them prior to July 20, 2017, thus his actions during the middle of the night/morning of July 20, 2017 could be reasonably perceived as a threat.

20. As Keegan Roberts arrived back home, he sat in the car with his pregnant wife, Eliany Roberts.

21. Centanni struck Keegan Roberts vehicle in a manner which scared his wife and which was designed to initiate confrontation with and/or aggression toward Keegan Roberts.

22. Keegan Roberts saw it was Centanni and asked him to leave his residence. Centanni refused.

23. Keegan Roberts exited his vehicle to demand Centanni to leave and/or to defend his person, property and pregnant wife.

24. At all material times, Keegan Roberts was in his own yard or the right of way immediately adjacent to his property.

25. Keegan Roberts was threatened by Centanni.

26. Keegan Roberts had a license to carry a weapon on his person issued by the State of Florida.

27. Centanni claims Keegan Roberts exercised his own rights to defend his person, property and spouse by aiming a gun at Centanni.

28. Keegan Roberts never attempted to fire, never fired and in no way was outside of his rights on his own property.

29. Centanni knowingly fired his gun 3-4 times at Keegan Roberts and in the direction of Keegan Robert's pregnant wife, who sat in the car.

30. Keegan Roberts was shot at least three times at close range, by Centanni.

31. There was a prolonged gap between shots fired by Centanni.

32. Keegan Roberts wife, Eliany Roberts, was 5 months pregnant.

33. On days thereafter, Centanni proceeded to stand out front of his house with his shirt off and stare at the residence inhabited by Keegan Roberts's pregnant widow and child.

34. The homicide of her husband, aggravated assault and harassment, by Centanni directly lead to the miscarriage of Keegan Roberts and Eliany Roberts' unborn child.

35. Centanni's actions were depraved and unwarranted.

36. Centanni evinced a depraved mind regardless of human life.

37. Based on Centanni's prior words of hate and the races of those involved (Centanni is white and both Roberts and his wife were not), this incident constituted a hate crime, or crime influenced by racial prejudice.

COUNT I
WRONGFUL DEATH

Plaintiffs' re-alleges Paragraphs 1-37 as if set forth fully herein and further alleges:

38. Defendant CENTANNI, negligently and/or recklessly and/or intentionally fired his weapon at Keegan Roberts.

39. Defendant CENTANNI knew, or should have known that his actions were substantially certain to cause or could result in great bodily harm or death.

40. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing conduct of Defendant CENTANNI, Keegan Roberts sustained injuries that resulted in his death. As a result of his death, the Estate of Keegan Roberts has suffered

damages including medical or funeral expenses that have become a charge against his Estate or were paid by or on behalf of the decedent. Further, as a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned conduct of Defendant CENTANNI and death of Keegan Von Roberts, the Estate has lost its prospective net accumulations that might have reasonably been expected but for the wrongful death, reduced to present value. The Estate and survivors are also entitled to all other damages as allowed by 768.21, Florida Statutes.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, CECILIA SHEPARD, as putative Personal Representative of the Estate of Keegan Von Roberts, demands judgment against Defendant CENTANNI for compensatory damages, costs, interest as allowed by law, and for such other relief as this Court deems just and proper.

COUNT II
NEGLIGENT MISINTERPRETATION OF FIREARM LAW OR USE OF SELF DEFENSE LAW IN
FLORIDA RESULTING IN WRONGFUL DEATH

Plaintiffs' re-alleges Paragraphs 1-37 as if set forth fully herein and further alleges:

41. Defendant CENTANNI negligently relied on a misunderstanding of Florida's law governing concealed carry, use of a firearm and/or self-defense when he fired his weapon at Keegan Roberts, intending to cause great bodily harm or death.

42. Defendant CENTANNI knew or should have known that his actions were substantially certain or could result in great bodily harm or death.

43. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing conduct of Defendant CENTANNI, Keegan Roberts sustained injuries that resulted in his death. As a result of his death, the Estate of Keegan Von Roberts has suffered damages including medical or funeral expenses that have become a charge against his Estate or were paid by or on behalf of the decedent. Further, as a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned conduct of the Defendant CENTANNI and death of Keegan Von Roberts, the Estate has lost its prospective net accumulations that might have reasonably been expected but for the wrongful death, reduced to present value. The Estate and survivors are also entitled to all other damages as allowed by 768.21, Florida Statutes.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, CECILIA SHEPARD, as putative Personal Representative of the Estate of Keegan Von Roberts, demands judgment against Defendant CENTANNI for compensatory damages, costs, interest as allowed by law, and for such other relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Count III - FAILURE TO RENDER AID RESULTING IN WRONGFUL DEATH

Plaintiffs' re-alleges Paragraphs 1-37 as if set forth fully herein and further alleges:

44. Due to the discharge of his handgun, Defendant CENTANNI created a situation in which Keegan Roberts' life was immediately in jeopardy after the gun was discharged.

45. Since the immediate danger to the life of Keegan Roberts was created by Defendant CENTANNI's actions, Defendant CENTANNI had a duty to reasonably render aid to Keegan Roberts.

46. Defendant CENTANNI breached his duty to render aid in the following ways:

- a. By failing to call emergency personnel as soon as it was apparent that Keegan Roberts had been shot;
- b. By failing to seek immediate medical attention at a hospital or other urgent care facility after the shooting; AND
- c. By leaving Keegan Roberts' body to bleed out while running back to his own house, knowing his life was in jeopardy.

47. Due to the above breaches of Defendant CENTANNI's duty to render aid, Keegan Roberts' life ceased to exist. Had Defendant CENTANNI not breached his duty, Keegan Roberts could have survived the gunshot wounds. Therefore, Defendant CENTANNI's omissions are the direct and proximate cause of Keegan Roberts' death.

48. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing conduct of Defendant CENTANNI, Keegan Roberts sustained injuries that resulted in his death. As a result of his death, the Estate of Keegan Roberts has suffered damages including medical or funeral expenses that have become a charge against his Estate or were paid by or on behalf of the decedent. Further, as a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned conduct of the Defendant

CENTANNI and death of Keegan Roberts, the Estate has lost its prospective net accumulations that might have reasonably been expected but for the wrongful death, reduced to present value. The Estate and survivors are also entitled to all other damages as allowed by 768.21, Florida Statutes.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, CECILIA SHEPARD, as putative Personal Representative of the Estate of KEEGAN VON ROBERTS, demands judgment against Defendant CENTANNI for compensatory damages, costs, interest as allowed by law, and for such other relief as this Court deems just and proper.

COUNT IV
INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

Plaintiffs' re-alleges Paragraphs 1-37 as if set forth fully herein and further alleges:

49. After Keegan Roberts was shot, Defendant CENTANNI falsified the true facts of what happened to Keegan Roberts. Said false story was given to police in order to hinder prosecution or otherwise effectuate the escape and conviction of himself.

50. Defendant CENTANNI knew, or should have known, that giving false information to police would not only hinder the prosecution of the person ultimately responsible for Keegan Roberts' death, but would also cause serious emotional harm to the family of Keegan Roberts, including his mother, spouse and unborn child.

51. Said false statements were made in reckless disregard for the emotional harm which is certain to result from said actions.

52. Said actions and false stories given by Defendant CENTANNI were utterly intolerable in a civilized society and were extreme and outrageous.

53. Said statements caused the State Attorney's Office to refuse charges against Centanni.

54. Said extreme and outrageous conduct by Defendant CENTANNI caused Plaintiffs, CECILIA SHEPARD and ELIANY ROBERTS to experience extreme emotional trauma and other emotional harms as the investigation of Keegan Roberts' death was thwarted and delayed. Said emotional trauma and damages were proximately caused by Defendant CENTANNI.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, CECILIA SHEPARD, and ELIANY ROBERTS demand judgment against Defendant CENTANNI for compensatory damages, costs, interest as allowed by law, and for such other relief as this Court deems just and proper.

COUNT V – HARASSMENT BY DEFENDANT, CENTANNI, LEADING TO DAMAGES AND THE WRONFUL DEATH OF THE VIABLE UNBORN CHILD OF ELIANY D. ROBERTS

Plaintiffs' re-alleges Paragraphs 1-37 as if set forth fully herein and further alleges:

55. Prior and subsequent to shooting and killing Keegan Roberts, Michael Centanni did threaten, harass and use words of hate against Keegan Roberts and his wife, Eliany Roberts.

56. This harassment included actions of calling Keegan Roberts a "nigger" and calling his wife, Eliany Roberts a "spic", calling police over to the

home they resided in, staring at Eliany Roberts and her residence after Keegan Roberts was shot and killed and other threatening use of words and actions.

57. Centanni shot and killed Keegan Roberts, which was done in the immediate vicinity of his wife.

58. Centanni's harassment was intentional.

59. Said actions by Defendant, CENTANNI, were utterly intolerable in a civilized society constituted a violation of Florida law.

60. Said conduct by Defendant, CENTANNI caused Plaintiff, ELIANY ROBERTS to experience extreme emotional trauma and other emotional harms including loss of her child.

61. Said emotional trauma and damages were proximately caused by Defendant, CENTANNI.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, ELIANY D. ROBERTS, demands judgment against Defendant, CENTANNI, for wrongful death and/or tort, including all available compensatory damages, costs, interest as allowed by law, and for such other relief as this Court deems just and proper.

COUNT VI – ASSAULT BY DEFENDANT, CENTANNI, LEADING TO DAMAGES AND THE WRONGFUL DEATH OF THE VIABLE UNBORN CHILD OF ELIANY D. ROBERTS

Plaintiffs' re-alleges Paragraphs 1-37 as if set forth fully herein and further alleges:

62. Prior and subsequent to shooting and killing Keegan Roberts, Michael Centanni did threaten, harass and use words of dangerous rage against Keegan Roberts and Eliany Roberts.

63. This included actions of calling Keegan Roberts a "nigger" and calling his wife, Eliany Roberts a "spic", calling police over to the home they resided in, staring at Eliany Roberts and her residence after Keegan Roberts was shot and killed and other threatening use of words and actions.

64. Assault is putting the victim in fear of immediate injury while the perpetrator has the ability to inflict such injury. Eliany Roberts was assaulted, which lead to altered medical stability to her viable unborn child.

65. On the night in question, Defendant, CENTANNI, fired multiple shots in the direction of Keegan Roberts and also at the direction of Eliany Roberts.

66. Said conduct by Defendant, CENTANNI, caused Plaintiff, ELIANY ROBERTS, to experience extreme emotional trauma and other emotional harms including loss of her child.

67. Said emotional trauma and damages were proximately caused by Defendant, CENTANNI.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, ELIANY ROBERTS, demands judgment against Defendant, CENTANNI, for wrongful death and/or tort, including all available compensatory damages, costs, interest as allowed by law, and for such other relief as this Court deems just and proper.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury for all issues so triable by a jury.

DATED this 8th day of December, 2017.

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