IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

VINCENT MICHAEL HYLER,

Petitioner,

v.

CARLI MICHELLE HELLER,

Respondent.

/

Case No.: 26-DR-005826

Division: Domestic Relations - "C"

ORDER AFTER RETURN HEARING REGISTERING AND ENFORCING OUT-OF-STATE CHILD-CUSTODY DETERMINATION

THIS CAUSE came before the Court for the return hearing and hearing on registration and expedited enforcement on August 21, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. Petitioner Vincent Michael Hyler ("Father") appeared with his counsel, Carrington Madison Mead, Esquire. Respondent Carli Michelle Heller ("Mother") did not appear. The Court reviewed the court file, the August 19, 2026 Emergency Ex Parte Order Registering and Enforcing Out-of-State Child-Custody Determination and Warrant to Take Immediate Physical Custody (the "Florida Warrant"), the California orders and supporting exhibits, the return and proof of service, and Father's sworn testimony. The Court waited until 2:35 p.m. to permit Mother an additional opportunity to appear. Mother did not appear before, during, or after the hearing. Being otherwise fully advised under sections 61.501-61.542, Florida Statutes, the Court finds and orders as follows:

FINDINGS

1. **Notice and nonappearance.** Mother was personally served after the Child had been secured pursuant to the Florida Warrant. Service included the Florida Warrant, the pleadings, and notice of the August 21, 2026 hearing. Despite notice and the additional time allowed by the Court, Mother failed to appear.

2. **Identity of the parties and Child.** The parties are the parents of n s , born September 6, 2024, in Ukiah, California (the "Child"). Father's testimony and the Child's California birth certificate establish the Child's identity and parentage.

3. **California residence and proceedings.** Father testified that the Child resided with both parents in Mendocino County, California, and later resided there with Mother during the pendency of the California proceedings before relocation was authorized.

4. **July 3, 2025 settlement and February 2026 order.** On July 3, 2025, both parties appeared with counsel in the California proceedings and placed a global settlement on the record resolving parentage, custody, visitation, relocation, and Mother's domestic-violence restraining-order proceeding. The Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino, later entered written Findings and Order After Hearing, signed February 10, 2026 and filed February 11, 2026, in related Case No. 25FL01032. The settlement provided joint legal custody, sole physical custody to Mother, permission for Mother to relocate with the Child to Maryland and to reside with family in Florida, and specified visitation rights for Father.

5. **Mother's relocation and visitation history.** Father testified that Mother initially went to Maryland for less than one week and then traveled to Florida, where, to best of the Father's knowledge, she had resided since approximately December 2025. Father further testified that he attempted to exercise visitation in Florida under the California order, but Mother did not respond or participate.

6. **Florida domestic-violence proceedings.** Father testified that Mother filed two domestic-violence proceedings in Lee County, Florida, and that both were dismissed after Mother failed to appear for the respective hearings. Those proceedings do not vacate, stay, or modify the California child-custody determination enforced here.

7. **August 12, 2026 California Order.** On August 12, 2026, the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino, entered Temporary Emergency (Ex Parte) Orders, Form FL-305, together with a Child Abduction Prevention Order Attachment, Form FL-341(B), in Case No. 25FL01030 (collectively, the "California Order"). The California Order grants Father temporary physical custody, care, and control of the Child; limits Mother to supervised virtual visitation; authorizes law-enforcement assistance; directs retrieval without advance notice based on the risk that Mother would abscond with the Child; and sets a further California hearing for September 2, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., Department C.

8. **Existing jurisdictional and emergency findings.** In the Florida Warrant, this Court found that it had jurisdiction to register and enforce the California Order; that the California Order identifies UCCJEA jurisdiction; that Father's verified petition contains the statutory information; that the record established a concrete and immediate removal risk if Mother received advance notice; and that ordinary notice would materially increase that risk. This Court further finds that Florida is enforcing, rather than modifying, California's child-custody determination.

9. **Continuing validity.** Father testified that, since August 12, 2026, he has not received any order vacating or staying the California Order and has not received any order superseding or modifying the provisions that grant him temporary physical custody. No contrary order or evidence was presented.

10. **Execution of the Florida Warrant.** The Florida Warrant was executed on the evening of August 19, 2026, at Mother's location identified in the petition. The Child was taken into physical custody and released to Father. Mother was served after the Child had been secured.

11. **Condition and transition at pickup.** Father testified that the Child was delivered wearing only a pair of shorts. Father requested additional clothing, formula, and a comfort item such as a blanket or toy were requested. According to Father's testimony, Mother declined to provide additional clothing and, after repeated requests from law-enforcement personnel, provided a limited quantity of formula and a small stuffed teddy bear. Father reported that the Child was in good spirits and was not upset or crying.

12. **Father's observations after pickup.** Father testified that he took the Child to a nearby hotel, where the Child rested with him. Father offered food, which the Child declined. Father testified that, to the best of his knowledge, the Child had been relying on formula for sustenance. The Court makes no medical diagnosis from that testimony.

13. **Reported conduct during execution.** Father also testified that law-enforcement personnel told him Mother stared toward the sky during much of the interaction. The Court records this as the substance of Father's testimony and does not rely on it as a necessary basis for registration or enforcement.

14. **California participation.** Father testified that he intends to participate in the September 2, 2026 California hearing and is prepared to make the Child available as required by the California court.

15. **Certified documents.** Counsel represented that the physical certified copies of the California Order and the Child's birth certificate are presently maintained by counsel and Father the father promptly provided to the Court upon its request certified copies on August 17, 2026.

16. **Statutory determination.** The California Order is entitled to recognition and enforcement. Mother did not establish that the California court lacked jurisdiction, that the California Order has been vacated, stayed, or modified by a court having jurisdiction to do so, or that any other statutory defense bars enforcement. This Order enforces the California determination and does not modify it or determine permanent custody.

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED

1. **Registration.** The August 12, 2026 California Order in Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino, Case No. 25FL01030, is REGISTERED in Florida under section 61.528, Florida Statutes, and shall be filed as a foreign judgment. The registration is enforceable in the same manner as a child-custody determination issued by a Florida court. Any remaining statutory registration objection under section 61.528 shall be heard at a separate hearing.

2. **Enforcement and custody.** The California Order is ENFORCED according to its terms.

3. **Travel to California.** Father is AUTHORIZED to leave Florida and travel to California with the Child. Father shall safely care for the Child, participate in the September 2, 2026 California hearing, and make the Child available as required by the California court.

4. **Mother's access.** Father shall comply with the California Order concerning Mother's access to the Child. While the August 12, 2026 California Order remains in effect, Mother's contact shall be limited to supervised virtual visitation as provided in that order, unless the California court orders otherwise.

5. **No modification.** Nothing in this Order modifies the California Order, determines permanent custody, or authorizes Florida to exercise modification jurisdiction. Any request to continue, modify, or dissolve the temporary custody provisions shall be directed to the California court, subject to the UCCJEA.

6. **Fees and costs reserved.** The Court RESERVES jurisdiction to determine Father's request for necessary and reasonable fees, costs, travel expenses, investigative expenses, witness expenses, and attorney's fees under section 61.535, Florida Statutes, at a later duly noticed hearing.

7. **Virtual appearance at fee hearing.** Father, Father's counsel, Mother, and any witness whose testimony is required are PERMITTED to appear remotely by Zoom or other court-approved audiovisual means at the later hearing on fees and costs, subject to any instructions in the notice of hearing and any further order of the Court.

8. **Continuing jurisdiction.** The Court retains jurisdiction only to address fees and costs, administer the registration process, and enter any further relief permitted by Florida's UCCJEA enforcement provisions. Except as stated herein, this court recognizes that California has full jurisdiction over this matter.

DONE AND ORDERED in Fort Myers, Lee County, Florida,

Elisabeth Adams

08/27/2026 13:11:08
26-DR-005826
Elisabeth Adams, Circuit Court Judge g-RG+E|7
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