

**The Florida Bar  
Inquiry/Complaint Form**

**STOP - PLEASE DOWNLOAD THIS FORM TO YOUR COMPUTER BEFORE  
FILLING IT OUT.**

**PART ONE (See Page 1, PART ONE – Complainant Information.):**

Your Name: La'Trenia Pearson

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 1033 Southern hills Dr

City, State, Zip Code: Orange Park, FL 32065

Phone: 904-525-4795

Email: godslittlepeople2004@yahoo.com

ACAP Reference No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Does this complaint pertain to a matter currently in litigation?    Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No x \_\_\_\_\_

**PART TWO (See Page 1, PART TWO – Attorney Information.):**

Attorney's Name: Phillips & Hunt Florida Bar No. 477575

Address: 208 N. Laura st

City, State, Zip Code: Jacksonville, FL 32202

Phone: 904-444-4444

**PART THREE (See Page 1, PART THREE – Facts/Allegations.): The specific thing or things I  
am complaining about are: (attach additional sheet).**

**PART FOUR (See Page 1, PART FOUR – Witnesses.): The witnesses in support of my  
allegations are: (attach additional sheet).**

**PART FIVE (See Page 1, PART FIVE – Acknowledge Oath and Signature.):**



**YOU MUST PLACE YOUR MARK IN THE BOX ACKNOWLEDGING THE OATH AND  
YOU MUST SIGN YOUR FULL NAME BELOW.**

**Under penalties of perjury, I declare that the foregoing facts are true, correct and  
complete.**

La'Trenia Pearson

Print Name

La'Trenia K. Pearson

Signature

6/28/2022

Date

\*Having trouble? Download the form and open the document in Adobe Acrobat™.

**RECEIVED**

**JUL 11 2022**

**THE FLORIDA BAR - ACAP  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA**

On December 31, 2022, my son Dion Cheeseborough was murdered. I went to the law firm to get legal representation in Jan 2021 and immediately they took my case. I was not receiving any updates from the firm. When I did talk to Christopher Jackson it was to make me think they were really working. The last time Christopher Jackson called me was Feb of 2022 to tell me he was leaving the firm and hope things work out for me. Well in March, Attorney Brown called me from the office and said, he told me he didn't have my case and that it has been a year so it is too late to do anything. He went on to say nothing has been done and to reach out to Christopher Jackson. He gave me the name of the firm and phone number where Christopher Jackson is now working, remind you Christopher Jackson no longer works for Hunts & Phillip so why would I be calling him at another location. I hung up and called back to the office to complain and tell them what the attorney Brown had said to me. A lady got on the phone and apologized for what Mr. Brown had said to me. She said, Mr. Brown was confused with the case and attorney John Phillips also apologize and will be giving me a call personally, he never did. I have been calling and leaving message, still no return call until today. I found out that the statute of limitations was running out. I mention it to the attorney at Phillips & Hunt group today to see why hasn't anyone called me. The attorney said they were going to call me 5 days ago to tell me to check with other attorney's. I couldn't believe it!!!! It has been a year and a half, now you tell me this. I only have 6 months to try and find another attorney. I am just hurt because a lot of attorneys have been saying, it has been too long. Why would you hold a case knowing you had no intentions on doing anything?

La'Trenia Pearson

Witnesses: (Shirley Graham) 4725 Playschool Dr. Jacksonville, fl 32210

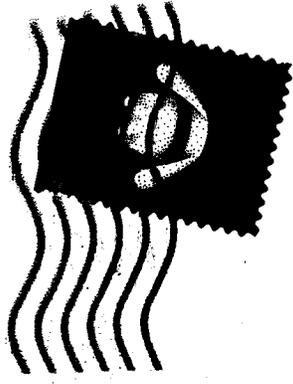
(Andrenia Green) 539 Jimbay Dr. Orange park, Fl 32073

Both witnesses went with me to appointment when I hired firm to handle Civil  
suit.

La'Trenia Pearson  
1033 Southern Hills Dr.  
Orange Park, Fl. 32065

JACKSONVILLE FL 320

8 JUL 2022 PM 3 L

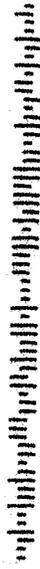


The Florida Bar

Attn: ACAP

651 East Jefferson St.  
Tallahassee, Fl. 32399

92399-230099





# The Florida Bar

651 East Jefferson Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300

Joshua E. Doyle  
Executive Director

850/561-5600  
www.FLORIDABAR.org

July 14, 2022

Mr. John Michael Phillips  
212 N Laura St  
Jacksonville, FL 32202-3502

Re: Complaint by La'Trenia Pearson against John Michael Phillips  
The Florida Bar File No. 2023-00,018 (4B)

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Enclosed is a copy of an inquiry/complaint and any supporting documents submitted by the above referenced complainant(s). Your response to this complaint is required under the provisions of Rule 4-8.4(g), Rules of Professional Conduct of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, and is due in our office by **July 29, 2022**. **Responses should not exceed 25 pages** and may refer to any additional documents or exhibits that are available on request. Failure to provide a written response to this complaint is in itself a violation of Rule 4-8.4(g). **You are further required to furnish the complainant with a complete copy of your written response, including any documents submitted therewith.**

Pursuant to Rule 3-7.1(f), Rules of Discipline, you are further required to complete and return the enclosed Certificate of Disclosure form.

Finally, the filing of this complaint does not preclude communication between the attorney and the complainant(s). Please review the enclosed Notice for information on submitting your response.

Sincerely,

Diane Suhm, Bar Counsel  
Attorney Consumer Assistance Program  
ACAP Hotline 866-352-0707

Enclosures

cc: Ms. La'Trenia Pearson

Pursuant to Rule 3-7.1(f) of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, you must execute the applicable section of this form and return it to my attention. The rule provides that the nature of the charges be described in the notice to your firm or you may attach a copy of the complaint.

**CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, a true copy of the foregoing disclosure was furnished to \_\_\_\_\_, a member of my present law firm of \_\_\_\_\_, and, if different, to \_\_\_\_\_, a member of the law firm of \_\_\_\_\_, with which I was associated at the time of the act(s) giving rise to the complaint in The Florida Bar File No. 2023-00,018 (4B).

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Michael Phillips

**CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE**  
(Corporate/Government Employment)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, a true copy of the foregoing disclosure was furnished to \_\_\_\_\_, my supervisor at \_\_\_\_\_ (name of agency), with which I was associated at the time of the act(s) giving rise to the complaint in The Florida Bar File No. 2023-00,018 (4B).

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Michael Phillips

**CERTIFICATE OF NON-LAW FIRM AFFILIATION**  
(Sole Practitioner)

I HEREBY CERTIFY to The Florida Bar on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, that I am not presently affiliated with a law firm and was not affiliated with a law firm at the time of the act(s) giving rise to the complaint in The Florida Bar File No. 2023-00,018 (4B).

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Michael Phillips

## **NOTICE OF GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

1. The enclosed letter is an official inquiry by bar counsel. Your response is required under Rule 4-8.4(g) of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar. Rule 4-8.4(g)(1) and (2) require that a lawyer submit a written response within 15 days to an initial inquiry and within 10 days to any follow-up inquiry made by bar counsel, the grievance committee or the board of governors during the course of an investigation of the lawyer's conduct. If you do not respond, the matter will be forwarded to the grievance committee for disposition in accordance with Rule 3-7.3. Failure to respond may also be a matter of contempt and processed in accordance with Rule 3-7.11(f).
2. Many inquiries considered first by staff counsel are not forwarded to a grievance committee, as they do not involve violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct justifying disciplinary action.
3. Pursuant to Rule 3-7.1, any reports, correspondence, papers, recordings and/or transcripts of hearings submitted by you in this matter shall become accessible to the public upon dismissal or a decision by the grievance committee. Please advise Bar Counsel if you believe any material provided to The Florida Bar is confidential under applicable law and identify the basis of your claim that the material is confidential. Please note that The Florida Bar is required to acknowledge the status of proceedings during the pendency of an investigation, if a specific inquiry is made and the matter is deemed to be in the public domain.
4. The grievance committee is the Bar's "grand jury." Proceedings before the grievance committee are non-adversarial in nature. The grievance committee's function and procedures are set forth in Rule 3-7.4.
5. If the grievance committee finds probable cause, formal adversarial proceedings before the Supreme Court of Florida will be initiated pursuant to Rule 3-7.6. A referee will make a recommendation as to guilt and discipline to The Supreme Court of Florida, unless a plea is submitted pursuant to Rule 3-7.9.



# The Florida Bar

651 East Jefferson Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300

Joshua E. Doyle  
Executive Director

850/561-5600  
www.FLORIDABAR.org

July 14, 2022

Ms. La'Trenia Pearson  
1033 Southern Hills Drive  
Orange Park, FL 32065

Re: John Michael Phillips; The Florida Bar File No. 2023-00,018 (4B)

Dear Ms. Pearson:

Enclosed is a copy of our letter to Mr. Phillips which requires a response to your complaint.

Once you receive Mr. Phillips's response, you have 10 days to file a rebuttal if you so desire. **If you decide to file a rebuttal, you must send a copy to Mr. Phillips.** Rebuttals should not exceed 25 pages and may refer to any additional documents or exhibits that are available on request. Please address any and all correspondence to me.

**It is important that you keep The Florida Bar informed of any changes to your contact information.**

Please be advised that as an arm of the Supreme Court of Florida, The Florida Bar can investigate allegations of misconduct against attorneys, and where appropriate, request that the attorney be disciplined. The Florida Bar cannot render legal advice nor can The Florida Bar represent individuals or intervene on their behalf in any civil or criminal matter.

Please review the enclosed Notice on mailing instructions for information on submitting your rebuttal.

Sincerely,

Diane Suhm, Bar Counsel  
Attorney Consumer Assistance Program  
ACAP Hotline 866-352-0707

Enclosures

cc: Mr. John Michael Phillips

## **NOTICE OF GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

1. The enclosed letter is an informal inquiry. Your response is required under the provisions of The Rules Regulating The Florida Bar 4 8.4(g), Rules of Professional Conduct. Failure to provide a written response to this complaint is in itself a violation of Rule 4 8.4(g). If you do not respond, the matter will be forwarded to the grievance committee for disposition in accordance with Rule 3-7.3 of the Rules of Discipline.
2. Many complaints considered first by staff counsel are not forwarded to a grievance committee, as they do not involve violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct justifying disciplinary action.
3. “Pursuant to Rule 3-7.1(a), Rules of Discipline, any response by you in these proceedings shall become part of the public record of this matter and thereby become accessible to the public upon the closure of the case by Bar counsel or upon a finding of no probable cause, probable cause, minor misconduct, or recommendation of diversion. Disclosure during the pendency of an investigation may be made only as to status if a specific inquiry concerning this case is made and if this matter is generally known to be in the public domain.”
4. The grievance committee is the Bar’s “grand jury.” Its function and procedure are set forth in Rule 3-7.4. Proceedings before the grievance committee, for the most part, are non-adversarial in nature. However, you should carefully review Chapter 3 of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.
5. If the grievance committee finds probable cause, formal adversarial proceedings, which ordinarily lead to disposition by the Supreme Court of Florida, will be commenced under 3-7.6, unless a plea is submitted under Rule 3-7.9.

**PERSONAL - URGENT - REPLY REQUIRED**

Mr. John Michael Phillips  
212 N Laura St  
Jacksonville, FL 32202-3502

Ms. La'Trenia Pearson  
1033 Southern Hills Drive  
Orange Park, FL 32065

HEADQUARTERS  
212 N. Laura Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

GEORGIA OFFICE  
901 G Street  
Brunswick, GA 31520

NEW YORK OFFICE  
521 Fifth Avenue, 30th Floor  
New York, NY 10175

help@floridajustice.com  
(904) 444-4444 PHONE  
(904) 508-0683 FAX  
[floridajustice.com](http://floridajustice.com)



904-444-4444

ATTORNEYS  
John M. Phillips\*†  
Matthew C. Hunt\*\*  
William K. Walker‡  
Megan Block ‡  
Amy Hanna  
George J. Farrell  
Ernie E. Dukes

\* Board Certified Specialist in  
Civil Trial Law (FL)  
\*\* Board Certified Specialist in  
Marital & Family Law (FL)

† Licensed in Florida, Georgia,  
Alabama, Washington D.C. New  
York, Texas, Illinois & Oklahoma  
‡ Licensed in Florida & Georgia

August 3, 2022

Diane Suhm  
Bar Counsel  
Attorney Consumer Assistance Program  
The Florida Bar  
651 East Jefferson Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

**RECEIVED**

**AUG 04 2022**

**THE FLORIDA BAR - ACAP  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA**

Re: John Michael Phillips  
The Florida Bar File No.: 2023-00,018 (4B)

Dear Ms. Suhm:

Please consider this as my response to The Florida Bar File No. 2023-00,018 (4B). Should you need anything further, please do not hesitate to ask.

**Complaint Fails to State a Violation**

The Complaint fails to state any Rule violated or lay a basis of violation. With all due respect and condolences to our former client, her complaint is based in hyperbole and untruth. It appears to be an attempt to seek retribution in light of the fact our office will not represent her.

**Underlying Facts**

The grievance begins with, "On December 31, 2022, my son Dion Cheeseborough was murdered." Mr. Cheeseborough was actually killed in 2020. The details of his death are truly tragic. Because they have been reported by the media and are a part of a criminal case, we can go into some detail without touching on attorney-client privileged matters.

As reported by Action News:

"(Dion Cheeseborough's) ex-girlfriend's new boyfriend, 21-year-old Jerome Cedric Whitesides, was arrested New Year's Day on charges of second-degree murder, evidence tampering, possession of a firearm by a Florida delinquent and marijuana possession, jail records show. The ex, 24-

year-old Jessica Nicole Rennard, also was charged with evidence tampering.

Officers were called to the complex about 9:15 p.m. where witnesses said they saw Cheeseborough involved in an argument with another man who shot him in the head, the arrest report said.

Whitesides and Rennard were taken downtown for questioning. The woman initially denied knowing anything about the shooting but identified Cheeseborough as her ex-boyfriend, the report said.

Whitesides also initially said he did not know what happened, then said the shooting was self-defense, the arrest report said. He said Cheeseborough threatened him and reached inside a pocket like he had a gun.

Surveillance video shows Whitesides point his gun at Cheeseborough, who "takes his hand out of his pocket and his hand is clearly empty," the report said. As the gun is pointed at his head, both of Cheeseborough's hands are down by his sides.

Thus far, the criminal investigation has revealed far more nefarious facts, including those which may show that Whitesides planned to kill Dion Cheeseborough that night and make it look like self-defense.

Over a month following the incident, in February of 2021, Ms. Latrenia Pearson contacted our office. Prior to becoming a client, her initial intake stated:

Son was a former football player from OP Oakleaf High and had been a merchant marine who had only been home for about 9 days when he was shot by his girlfriend's friend. While away Dion Cheeseborough's girlfriend had started to see the man that killed him. The shooting was caught on camera at the Club at Town Centers Apartments. According to the mother, her son's murder was televised on the news before she was even informed about what had happened. Ms. Pearson did state her son lived in an apartment where the shooting took place.

Ms. Pearson was set up with an appointment with Erica Jackson, a paralegal with our office. Her notes on the file reflect:

I did speak with her and I TD (turned down) this one. When we spoke, she was seeking civil remedy for her son's death. The son was killed by a man that his girlfriend was dating. The shooter may have also lived in the apartment complex (that is unclear). We discussed that it is unlikely the apartment had notice as they hadn't had any altercation before so I could not see them being held negligent. Even if he did not live there, the man was an invited guest of the woman living on the property. I briefly discussed with Chris and we both agreed that this should be turned down. Thus, I returned her call and TD.

As such, Ms. Pearson has presented a falsehood to the Florida Bar. We did not “immediately” take her case. We have explained its challenges since day one, even initially turning it down based on those challenges.

Erica Jackson refers to “Chris” in her notes. Chris Jackson was an attorney with our office. Ms. Erica Jackson refers to consulting with him about this matter. Neither Mr. Jackson, nor Ms. Jackson are still with our office. Not accepting “no” for an answer, Ms. Pearson called back. The intake stated:

Called in looking for help. Was referred to JMP (John M. Phillips) by Shonda Whitaker. Her son, Dion Cheeseborough, was allegedly murdered on 12/31/20 by Jerome Whitesides (Duval case 21-CF-7). Says her son was a merchant seaman and had just arrived back from Kuwait on a work assignment. He was shot by Whitesides following a dispute over a mutual paramour. Report is available. She believes the State is bending over backwards for Whitesides. Said his bonds were just reduced and she can't understand why the Court would do that like her son's life doesn't matter. (He is still in custody on \$300k total bonds). I scheduled a Zoom TC for 4pm today to see if there's any way, we can help her. I will email her the log-in.

I, John M. Phillips, met with Ms. Pearson in an emotional meeting and explained the difficulties of this case. She has not waived attorney-client privilege so I cannot go into detail, but there was instruction about the issues noted before she retained us.

The case was assigned to Chris Jackson and Erica Jackson, as well as some internal staffing. Our office then provided notice to the potential defendants and began our pre-suit investigation. We updated Ms. Pearson as appropriate. Once again, Ms. Pearson contradicts herself by both saying, she did not talk to Mr. Jackson, her assigned attorney, and admitting she spoke with him. We have detailed notes documenting conversations. We cannot produce these without invading privilege.

Ms. Pearson repeatedly uses the term “murdered.” It explains some of the challenges of a case like this. It is an issue we have repeatedly addressed with Ms. Pearson and other clients who somehow believe the civil case can control a criminal case or that we can dictate or control the State of Florida's prosecution. Further, police and prosecutors have privileges which prevent us from obtaining information. Additionally, as noted, the information we had pointed to premediated murder and betrayal, which is not a fruitful basis of liability against a third party. It was a tragic and sad event, but civil justice has limits which some clients do not want to understand. Further, our office does not take just “any” case. We must have a good faith basis before we proceed. We investigated such basis.

Indeed, Dion Cheeseborough was murdered. As noted, and advised, his murder appeared to be planned. This is being investigated by the State Attorney and they have not shared evidence of their investigation. This has been explained. Further, planned murders present challenges to

negligent security cases. As we explained to Ms. Pearson, we are not the State of Florida. It is their burden to handle the criminal case.

On June 7, 2021, we were notified by the attorney for the apartment complex where the shooting occurred, The Club at Town Center:

I have been retained to represent The Club at Town Center and I just received your letter of representation. We previously received a letter of representation from Bruce Batts, Esq. of Batts-Daniels Law, PLLC. Mr. Batts was retained by Theotheist Cheeseborough. My client asked me to reach out to find out to determine if you were also retained by Theotheist Cheeseborough. At any rate, I'll request the insurance information and forward it to you separately.

Despite the mounting issues, Mr. Jackson and Ms. Jackson continued to work on the file. Despite accusations to the contrary, I did not participate in this matter. I provide guidance to my office regularly, but was not the point of contact on this case. Further, as noted above, there were multiple attorneys retained by other family members. We were never informed of same.

As the criminal case was ongoing, there was little we could obtain from the State due to claims of privilege. Assistant State Attorney Leah Owens told Mr. Jackson she would provide us with reports and video multiple times, but failed to do so. During a status update on this case, I raised issues with Mr. Jackson that this case was going to be very difficult to prove based on the facts of the case and to make sure to prepare the client for that issue. Mr. Jackson left shortly after with minimal notice to the firm. Another lawyer took his place, Greg Brown, of whom Ms. Pearson expressed dissatisfaction.

We have searched our phone logs. A review of the records demonstrates each of Ms. Pearson's calls were returned within 24 to 48 hours, with the exception for one call on June 9, 2022. Despite this, Ms. Pearson contends:

"I have been calling and leaving message, still no return call until today."

The above claim is completely unfounded. The Vonage phone records for the entire span of time that we have diligently and honorably represented this client are attached herein as Exhibit "A".

There are also two emails which we provide. Her false statement would infer that several calls had been made and messages left, without timely responses. This simply is not a factual statement and is an unsupported claim, as we have taken the liberty of pulling our phone records to verify appropriate communication.

Reaching the end of our relationship, on June 27, 2022, Mr. Brown (Mr. Jackson's replacement) expressed an intent to terminate our firm's relationship and told Ms. Pearson to contact Mr. Jackson at his new firm if she wanted to proceed with him as counsel. At that time, she threatened us, as notes reflect, she had a "good mind to call the Bar." At that point, we notified

the client we would not be handling her case any further. We sought to find a replacement lawyer for her, advising her of same.

There is no documentation of any such call described here by Ms. Pearson:

“A lady got on the phone and apologizes for what Mr. Brown had said to me. She said, Mr. Brown was confused with the case and attorney John Phillips also apologize and will be giving me a call personally, he never did.”

On June 27, 2022, our in-house notes reflect the following action taken on this matter:

“Following a second TD (turndown) phone call with Ms. Pearson, I finished drafting Ms. Pearson's Confirmation Declination & Referral Letter today. I took the liberty of going one step further to minimize her potentially stressful search, for a new attorney, by reaching out to a referral source and explaining her case to him. I relayed that her Estate had been set up already and that the SOL is set to expire (12/31/22). Once I divulged the standard case information pursuant to the matter, the attorney agreed to speak with her and asked that I provide her with his cell phone number, which was placed in this letter and will be verbally relayed. We are emailing it to her and calling her tomorrow to relay the good news. This will all be sent Certified Mail alongside her file and we will document everything in TW.”

On June 29, 2022, one of our receptionists reached out to Ms. Pearson directly to relay the pertinent information, this interaction went as follows:

“Copies of the case file were sent to the Client & a phone call was made outlining the referral information and additional groundwork that was done to ensure a smooth transition into another Firm, designed to alleviate a timely search process.”

Pertaining to the call, Ms. Pearson appeared to sound in good spirits and was extremely appreciative that this additional step had been taken on her behalf; she confirmed the receipt of this verbal exchange by documenting the contact information of her potential new counsel as it was relayed to her aloud. There was no mention of dissatisfaction or angst prior to the conclusion of this final phone call.

Given the liability issues with the case, the constant concern we were being given misinformation, and other issues, as well as the fact the case appeared to present facts which would present insurance coverage and liability issues, we turned the case down. The statute of limitations still has not expired. We even found another lawyer for her. She thanked us for the referral. All she had to do was call the cell phone number of the new attorney we provided her.

Additionally, we provided Ms. Pearson with a full copy of her file and it was returned. We have tried and tried to explain our reasons for the turn down, but Ms. Pearson's selective hearing is getting in the way with effective communication. She keeps referring to “lots of attorneys” she

August 3, 2022

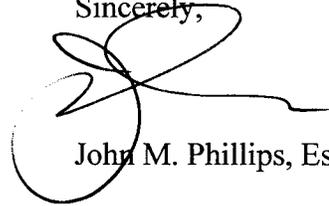
Page 6 of 6

is discussing this matter with, but also claims she thinks we still are somehow her counsel despite the phone call and letter to the contrary and constant communication about the challenges of this matter.

The Statute of Limitations provides plenty of time to retain another lawyer prior to expiration and the criminal case is still being investigated and preserved by the State of Florida and apparently a separate law firm. Ms. Pearson is a client we will no longer work for under any circumstances moving forward.

I have reviewed the file. My office handled it appropriately. We have expressed since day one that her son's murder has challenges under Florida's wrongful death law, insurance coverage contract law and have noted there is notice of another attorney working for the family. Now, we are subjected to untruths and threats if we don't stay on the case. However, we have not wavered in our continued effort to express our sincerest condolences as it pertains to this tragic incident.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "John M. Phillips", written over a circular stamp or seal.

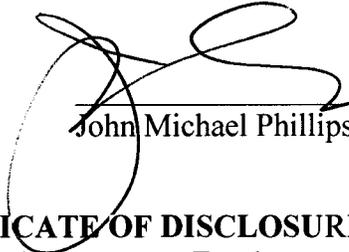
John M. Phillips, Esquire

JMP/ch  
Enclosure

Pursuant to Rule 3-7.1(f) of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, you must execute the applicable section of this form and return it to my attention. The rule provides that the nature of the charges be described in the notice to your firm or you may attach a copy of the complaint.

**CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2022, a true copy of the foregoing disclosure was furnished to John M. Phillips, a member of my present law firm of Phillips & Hunt, and, if different, to \_\_\_\_\_, a member of the law firm of \_\_\_\_\_, with which I was associated at the time of the act(s) giving rise to the complaint in The Florida Bar File No. 2023-00,018 (4B).

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Michael Phillips

**CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE**  
(Corporate/Government Employment)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, a true copy of the foregoing disclosure was furnished to \_\_\_\_\_, my supervisor at \_\_\_\_\_ (name of agency), with which I was associated at the time of the act(s) giving rise to the complaint in The Florida Bar File No. 2023-00,018 (4B).

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Michael Phillips

**CERTIFICATE OF NON-LAW FIRM AFFILIATION**  
(Sole Practitioner)

I HEREBY CERTIFY to The Florida Bar on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, that I am not presently affiliated with a law firm and was not affiliated with a law firm at the time of the act(s) giving rise to the complaint in The Florida Bar File No. 2023-00,018 (4B).

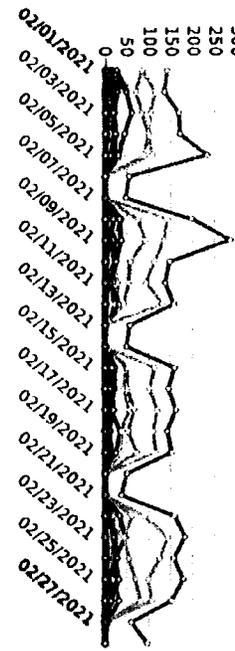
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Michael Phillips



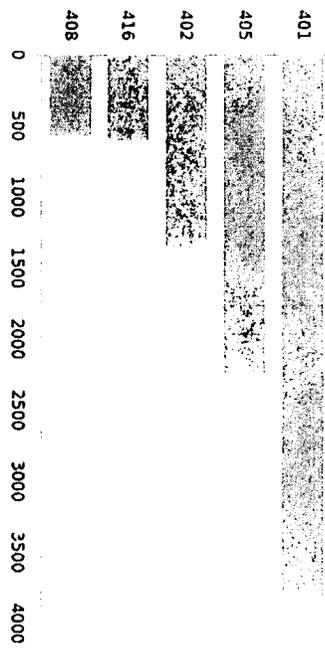
Company Report - All Calls : 02/01/2021 - 02/28/2021 (Acct#: 100280)

Trending - Total Calls

• 223360 • 322535 • 401 • 402 • 403 • 404 • 404214 • 405 • 406 • 407 • 408  
• 409 • 410 • 412 • 413 • 414 • 415 • 416 • 417 • 418 • 421 • 422 • 423 • 424  
425 • 426 • 620719 • 904236



General Stats - Most Active



Call log search: 02/24/2021

Call ID	Direction	To	From	Date/Time	Result	Duration	Rate	Charge	Location
	Inbound	402	(904) 525-4795	02/24/2021 01:28:05 PM	Answered	00:03:04	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
	Inbound	(904) 517-8903	(904) 525-4795	02/24/2021 01:27:58 PM	Answered	00:08:46	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips

ID	Direction	To	From	Date/Time	Result	Duration	Rate	Charge	Location
	Outbound	(904) 525-4795	406	02/17/2021 11:21:56 AM	Answered	00:07:12	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
	Inbound	406	(904) 525-4795	02/17/2021 10:58:39 AM	Answered	00:02:45	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
	Inbound	(904) 517-8903	(904) 525-4795	02/17/2021 10:58:27 AM	Answered	00:02:57	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
	Inbound	405	(904) 525-4795	02/17/2021 10:56:13 AM	Answered	00:01:36	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
	Inbound	(904) 517-8903	(904) 525-4795	02/17/2021 10:56:11 AM	Answered	00:02:02	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
	Outbound	(904) 525-4795	405	02/04/2021 04:33:24 PM	Answered	00:05:57	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
	Inbound	(904) 517-8903	(904) 525-4795	02/04/2021 04:30:15 PM	Answered	00:00:05	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
	Inbound	405	(904) 525-4795	02/04/2021 12:40:04 PM	Answered	00:06:51	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
	Inbound	(904) 517-8903	(904) 525-4795	02/04/2021 12:40:02 PM	Answered	00:06:53	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips

2/17/21  
call out

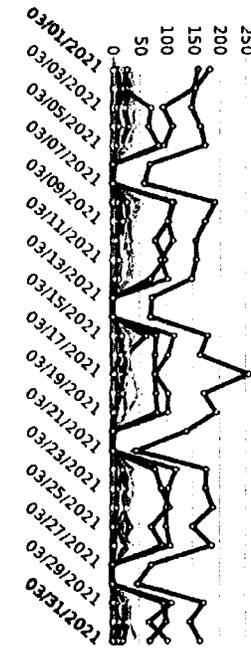
2/14/21  
call out



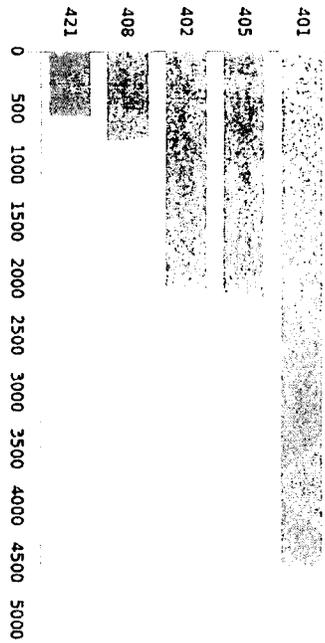
Company Report - All Calls : 03/01/2021 - 03/31/2021 (Acct#: 100280)

Trending - Total Calls

•401 •402 •403 •404 •405 •406 •407 •408 •409 •410 •412 •413 •414  
415 •416 •417 •418 421 422 •423 •424 •425 •426



General Stats - Most Active



Call log search: 03/02/2021

Call ID	Direction	To	From	Date/Time	Result	Duration	Rate	Charge	Location
Inbound		421	(904) 525-4795	03/02/2021 09:14:30 AM	Answered	00:00:34	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
Inbound		(904) 444-4444	(904) 525-4795	03/02/2021 09:14:20 AM	Answered	00:07:27	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips

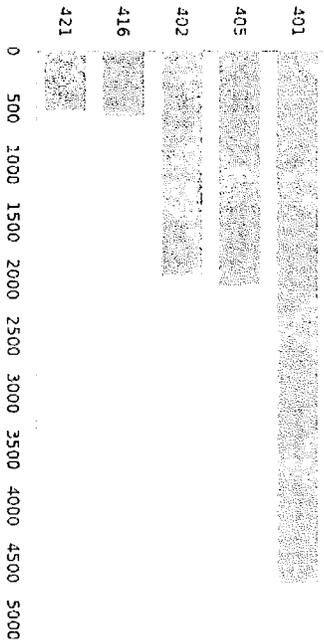
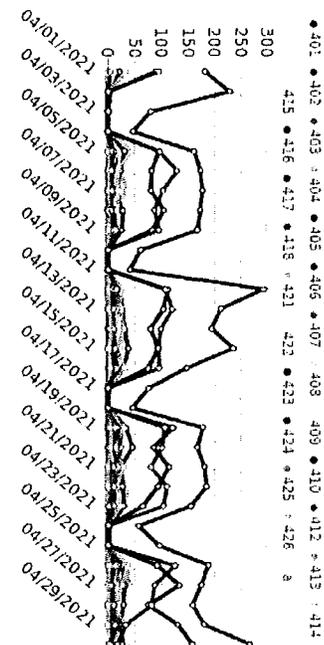
3/2/21  
Call in  
Conversation



Company Report - All Calls : 04/01/2021 - 04/30/2021 (Acct#: 100280)

Trending - Total Calls

General Stats - Most Active



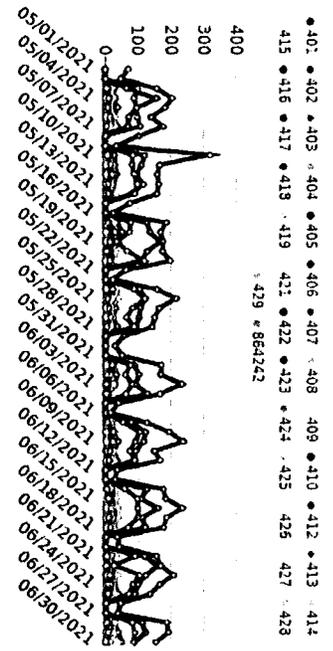
Call log search: **405/422**

Call ID	Direction	To	From	Date/Time	Result	Duration	Rate	Charge	Location
---------	-----------	----	------	-----------	--------	----------	------	--------	----------

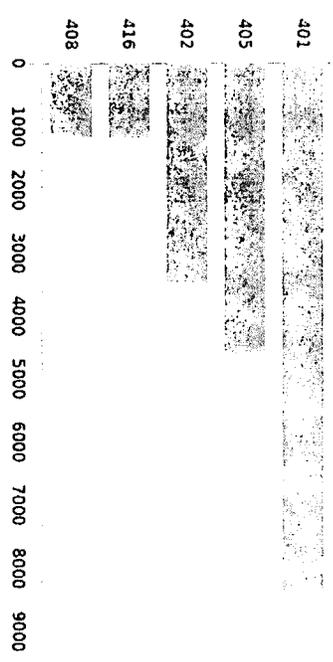


Company Report - All Calls : 05/01/2051 - 05/30/2021 (Acct#: 100280)

Trending - Total Calls



General Stats - Most Active



Call log search: 6205524723

Call ID	Direction	To	From	Date/Time	Result	Duration	Rate	Charge	Location
	Outbound	(904) 525-4795	421	06/01/2021 11:14:13 AM	Answered	00:04:07	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips

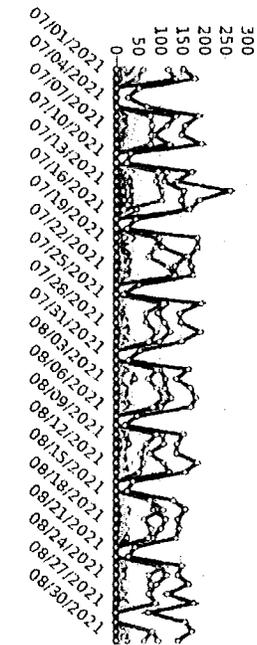
6/1/21  
Call out



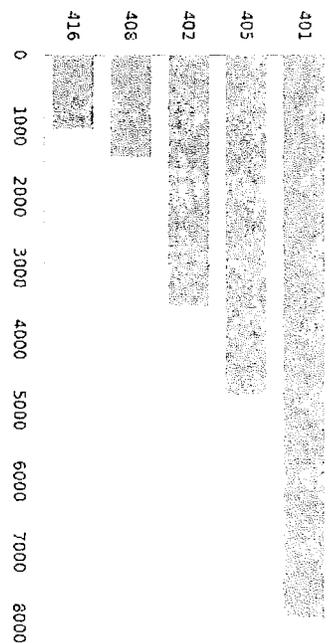
# Company Report - All Calls : 07/01/2021 - 08/31/2021 (Acct#: 100280)

## Trending - Total Calls

46 • 401 • 405 • 403 • 404 • 405 • 405 • 407 • 408 • 409 • 410 • 412 • 413  
 414 • 415 • 416 • 417 • 418 421 • 422 • 423 • 424 425 426 427 • 428  
 429



## General Stats - Most Active



Call log search: **07/05/2021**

Call ID	Direction	To	From	Date/Time	Result	Duration	Rate	Charge	Location
---------	-----------	----	------	-----------	--------	----------	------	--------	----------

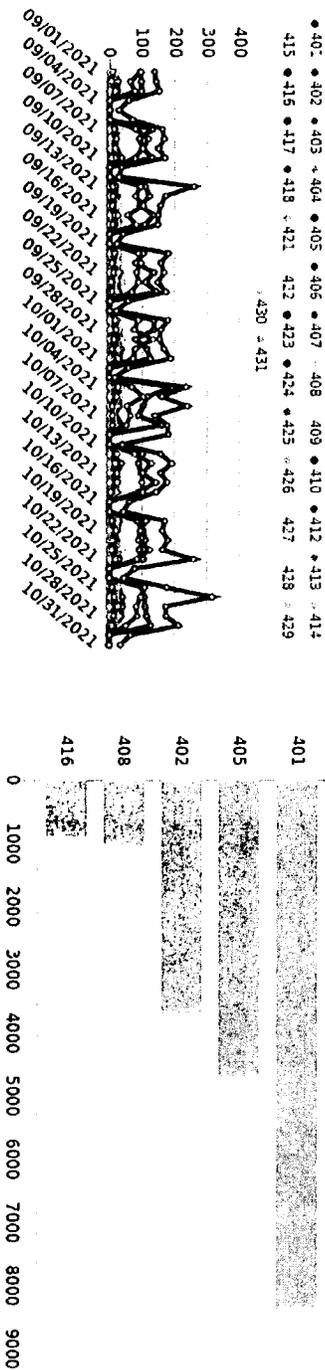


Company Report - All Calls : 09/01/2021 - 10/31/2021 (Acct#: 100280)

Trending - Total Calls

• 401 • 402 • 403 • 404 • 405 • 406 • 407 • 408 • 409 • 410 • 412 • 413 • 414  
 415 • 416 • 417 • 418 • 421 422 • 423 • 424 • 425 • 426 427 • 428 • 429  
 430 • 431

General Stats - Most Active



Call log search: 09/05/2021

Call ID	Direction	To	From	Date/Time	Result	Duration	Rate	Charge	Location
Bee1573-af9c-4653-	Outbound	(904)	410	10/05/2021	Answered	00:35:21	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
bc8a-c76b2cf2bffd8		525-4795		04:01:15 PM					

10/5/21  
Call Out

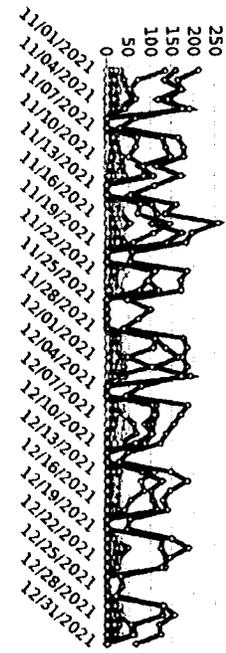
CALL ID	INBOUND	TO	FROM	GROUP NAME	STATUS	START TIME	END TIME	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
2a8f6086-98f2-43a0-a792-b7c3c929954a	Inbound	405	(904) 525-4795	10/00/2021 04:00:00 PM	Answered	00:00:14	0	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
2a8f6086-98f2-43a0-a792-b7c3c929954a	Inbound	(904) 444-4444	(904) 525-4795	10/05/2021 03:59:56 PM	Answered	00:00:18	0	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
20e74420-0de0-4947-bb58-a23fe582815e	Inbound	405	(904) 525-4795	10/04/2021 02:47:58 PM	Answered	00:00:57	0	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
20e74420-0de0-4947-bb58-a23fe582815e	Inbound	(904) 444-4444	(904) 525-4795	10/04/2021 02:47:49 PM	Answered	00:01:05	0	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
388a0a83-adee-4664-95c1-0c1f2717fe85	Outbound	(904) 525-4795	405	10/04/2021 02:47:13 PM	Answered	00:00:44	0	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
2c1bad81-58a2-40ac-88db-6e2f0322e3e9	Inbound	405	(904) 525-4795	10/04/2001 02:29:35 PM	Answered	00:01:27	0	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
2c1bad81-58a2-40ac-88db-6e2f0322e3e9	Inbound	(904) 444-4444	(904) 525-4795	10/04/2021 02:29:32 PM	Answered	00:01:30	0	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips

10/4/2021  
call out

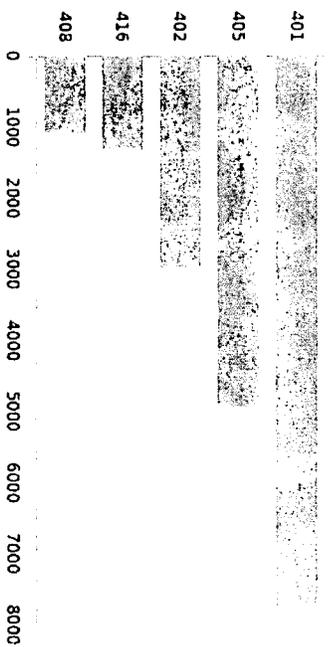
**Company Report - All Calls : 11/01/2021 - 12/31/2021 (Acct#: 100280)**

**Trending - Total Calls**

401 • 402 • 403 • 404 • 405 • 406 • 407 • 408 • 409 • 410 • 412 • 413 • 414  
 415 • 416 • 417 • 418 • 421 • 422 • 423 • 424 • 425 • 426 • 427 • 428 • 429  
 430 • 431



**General Stats - Most Active**



**Call log search:**

Call ID	Direction	To	From	Date/Time	Result	Duration	Rate	Charge	Location
A6ba9358-33b1-4297- a5ea-99d938825ef3	Inbound	402	(904) 525- 4795	11/09/2021 02:36:22 PM	Answered	00:00:40	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips

*Wed 11/10/21 5:01  
 Chris Jackson  
 Called from cellphone re-mailed  
 "Great talking with you again in today  
 Hang in there"*

Wed 11/10/2021 5:01 PM  
Christopher Jackson <[christopher@floridajustice.com](mailto:christopher@floridajustice.com)>  
RE: Jerome Whitesides & Jessica Rennard Cases

Great talking with you again today.

Hang in there!

From: La'Trenia Brown <[godslittlepeople2004@vahoo.com](mailto:godslittlepeople2004@vahoo.com)>  
Sent: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 12:29 PM  
To: Christopher Jackson <[christopher@floridajustice.com](mailto:christopher@floridajustice.com)>  
Subject: Re: Jerome Whitesides & Jessica Rennard Cases

Good evening, could you please send give me a call? I left a message for you yesterday. Thank you  
On Tuesday, October 12, 2021, 12:19:36 PM EDT, Christopher Jackson  
<[christopher@floridaiustice.com](mailto:christopher@floridaiustice.com)> wrote:

Latrenia- Please see below.

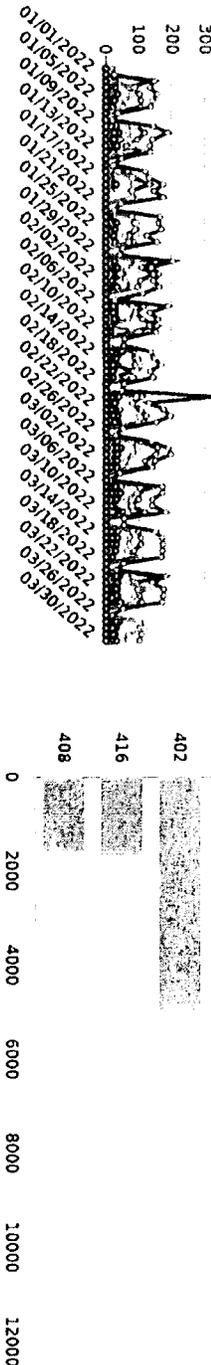
Call ID	Direction	To	From	Date/Time	Status	Duration	Cost	Charges	Location
A6ba9358-3b1-4297- a5ea-99d938825ef3	Inbound	(904) 444- 4444	(904) 525- 4795	11/09/2021 02:36:17 PM	Answered	00:00:45	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips



Company Report - All Calls : 01/01/2022 - 03/31/2022 (Acct#: 100280)

Trending - Total Calls

401 • 402 • 403 • 404 • 405 • 406 • 407 • 408 • 409 • 410 • 412  
 413 • 414 • 415 • 417 • 418 • 421 • 422 • 423 • 424 • 425 • 426 • 427  
 428 • 429 • 430 • 431



General Stats - Most Active

Call log search: 624524295

Call ID	Direction	To	From	Date/Time	Result	Duration	Rate	Charge	Location
D4d8bc90-68860-	Outbound	(904)	422	02/15/2022	Answered	08:08:19	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
446f-a83b-		525-							
49baactfb6ca9		4795		02:03:05 PM					

2/15/22  
Callout

Call ID	Direction	Duration	Time	Date/Time	Status	Duration	Rate	Usage	Location
BOB314f2-9951-49e2- aa30-6f9792aae17	Inbound	405	(904) 525- 4795	02/15/2022 01:01:01 PM	Answered	00:03:13	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
BOB314f2-9951-49e2- aa30-6f9792aae17	Inbound	444- 4444	(904) 525- 4795	02/15/2022 01:00:58 PM	Answered	00:11:19	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
6d200dca-04f2-4790- a60f-184c9063da17	Inbound	405	(904) 525- 4795	02/15/2022 12:42:57 PM	Answered	00:03:18	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
6d200dca-04f2-4790- a60f-184c9063da17	Inbound	444- 4444	(904) 525- 4795	02/15/2022 12:42:50 PM	Answered	00:03:27	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
Ce2d00db-be7d- 4178-aabd- b797210cd5fc	Inbound	405	(904) 525- 4795	02/15/2022 12:40:08 PM	Answered	00:02:02	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
Ce2d00db-be7d- 4178-aabd- b797210cd5fc	Inbound	(904) 444- 4444	(904) 525- 4795	02/15/2022 12:40:06 PM	Answered	00:02:39	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
B9c8c890-1b4f-4425- 98e3-4816e3b7cf34	Outbound	(904) 525- 4795	410	02/01/2022 04:00:05 PM	Answered	00:28:23	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
1761d408-ddc8-4bad- 889f-54a6f1d0e430	Inbound	402	(904) 525- 4795	01/21/2022 11:42:25 AM	Answered	00:01:26	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips

2/15/22  
Call-in  
Conversation

2/1/22  
Call out

Call-in  
in response  
to email on  
1/19/22

Wed 1/19/2022 4:29 PM

Christopher Jackson [christopher@floridaiustice.com](mailto:christopher@floridaiustice.com)

Re: Estate of Dion Cheeseborough 12/31/20 (File #: 98814)

Hi Latrenia-

I hope this finds you well. Please see attached for a deposition for you in February.

If you have any questions, I am more than glad to talk with you. Also, if you have left any messages for me, let me know. My paralegal recently resigned so I am playing catchup.

V/R,  
Chris

Call ID	Direction	IN	OUT	Start Time	Status	Duration	Hold	Wait Sec	Location
1761d408-ddc8-4bad-837f-6a46f1d0e430	Inbound	(904) 444- 4444	(904) 525- 4775	01/21/2022 11:40:18 AM	Answered	00:01:33	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
86d939c3-caab-4dac-8323-be4870a6be96	Inbound	402	(904) 525- 4795	01/05/2022 09:20:40 AM	Answered	00:01:24	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
86d939c3-caab-4dac-3328-be4870a6be96	Inbound	(904) 444- 4444	(904) 525- 4795	01/03/2022 09:20:36 AM	Answered	00:05:02	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips

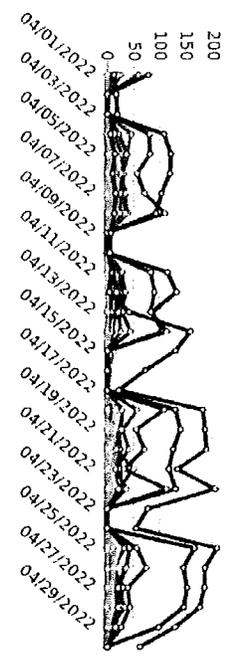
1/5/22  
Call-in  
Conversation



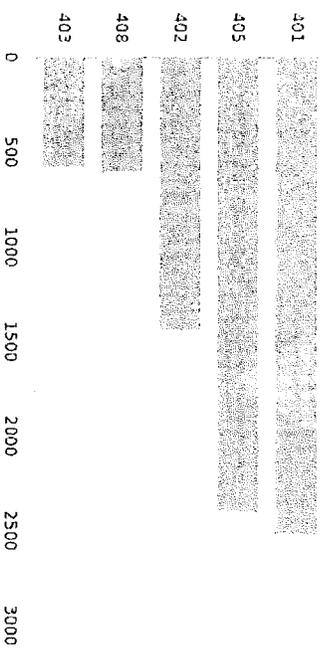
Company Report - All Calls : 04/01/2022 - 04/30/2022 (Acct#: 100280)

Trending - Total Calls

• 401 • 402 • 403 • 404 • 405 • 407 • 408 • 409 • 410 • 412 • 413 • 414 • 415  
 416 • 417 • 418 • 419 • 421 • 422 • 423 • 424 • 425 • 426 • 427 • 428 • 429 • 430  
 431 • 432



General Stats - Most Active



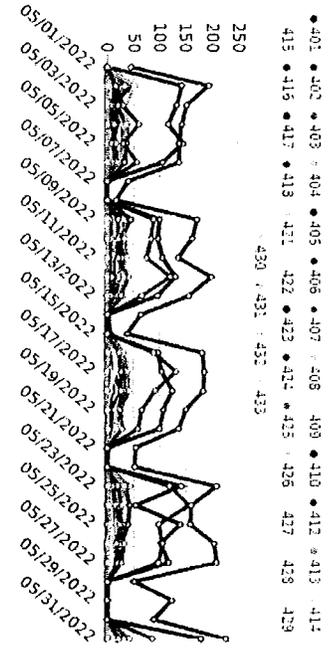
Call log search: 904524725

Call ID	Direction	To	From	Date/Time	Result	Duration	Rate	Charge	Location
---------	-----------	----	------	-----------	--------	----------	------	--------	----------

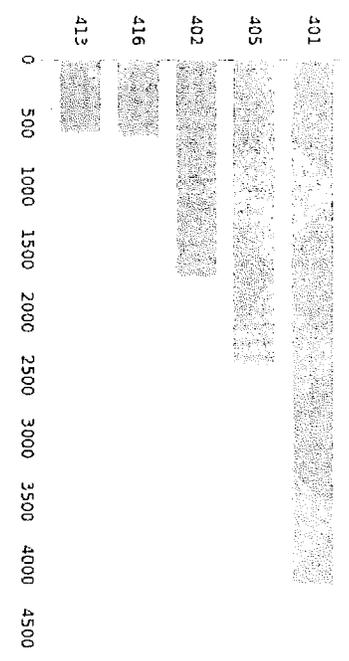


Company Report - All Calls : 05/01/2022 - 05/31/2022 (Acct#: 100280)

Trending - Total Calls



General Stats - Most Active



Call log search: 05/01/2022 - 05/29/2022

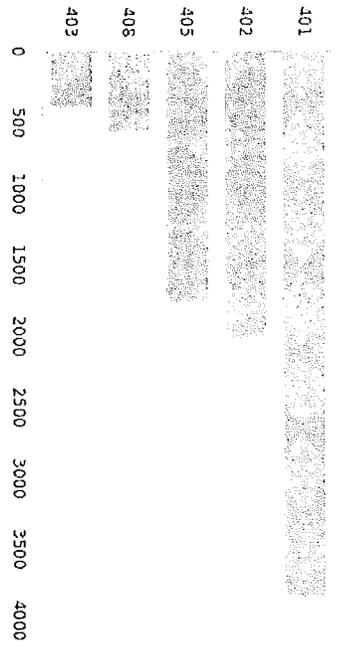
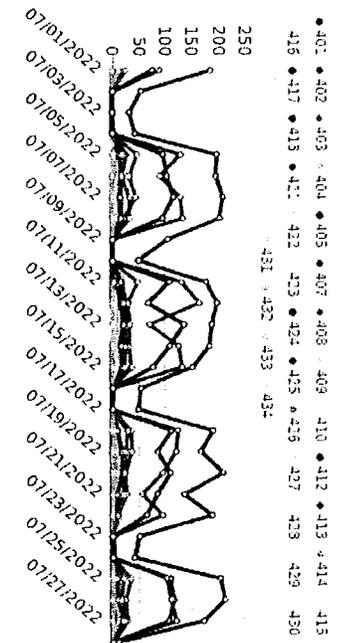
Call ID	Direction	To	From	Date/Time	Result	Duration	Rate	Charge	Location
---------	-----------	----	------	-----------	--------	----------	------	--------	----------



# Company Report - All Calls : 07/01/2022 - 07/28/2022 (Acct#: 100280)

## Trending - Total Calls

## General Stats - Most Active



Call log search: **60456775**

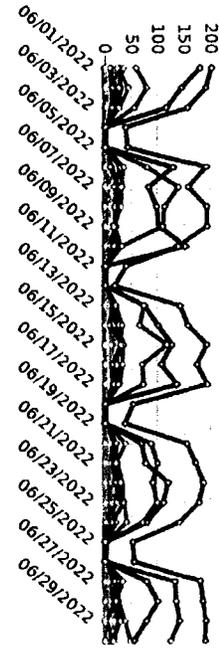
Call ID    Direction    To    From    Date/Time    Result    Duration    Rate    Charge    Location



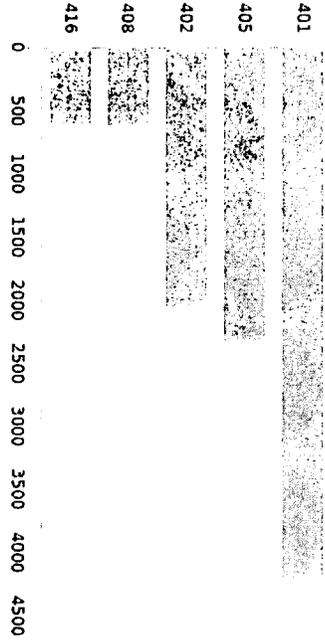
Company Report - All Calls : 06/01/2022 - 06/30/2022 (Acct#: 100280)

Trending - Total Calls

•401 •402 •403 •404 •405 •407 •408 •409 410 •412 •413 •414 •415  
 416 •417 •418 •421 422 423 •424 •425 •426 427 428 429 430  
 431 •432 434



General Stats - Most Active



Call log search: 001524773

Call ID	Direction	To	From	Date/Time	Result	Duration	Rate	Charge	Location
808b6490-ca6c-4532-9fda-7037d1c50c99	Outbound	(904) 525-4795	402	06/29/2022 12:27:32 PM	Answered	00:01:35	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips

6/29/22  
 call out  
 to ensure  
 receipt of file  
 and refer out  
 attorney information

Case ID	Direction	Count	Duration	Start Time	Event	Duration	Count	Count	Count	Category
90c70565-0455-48f0-9db7-0bdc798f625e	Inbound	402	(904) 525-4795	06/27/2022 02:19:43 PM	Answered	00:09:45	0	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
30c70565-0455-48f0-9db7-0bdc798f625e	Inbound	(904) 444-4444	(904) 525-4795	06/27/2022 00:19:39 PM	Answered	00:14:58	0	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
980b10e6-b0d5-4f65-9cd6-59914261da8e	Inbound	405	(904) 525-4795	06/09/2022 12:02:24 PM	Answered	00:04:50	0	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips
980b10e6-b0d5-4f65-9cd6-59914261da8e	Inbound	(904) 444-4444	(904) 525-4795	06/09/2022 12:00:16 PM	Answered	00:04:58	0	0	0	Law Office of John Phillips

6/27/22  
Call-in  
FD phone call w/ George

6/9/22  
ONLY SINGLE  
OCCURRENCE  
OF CALL-IN  
WITHOUT EMAIL  
OR CALL BACK

00070  
00076

fedex.com 1.800.GoFedEx 1.800.463.3339

# FedEx® Package Express US Airbill

FedEx Tracking Number **8174 8952 9142**

**1 From**  
Date 8-5-00

**Senders Name** Coltman/Holtsford Phone 504 444-4144

**Company** WILLIAMS & HUNT

**Address** 112 N LAURA ST  
**City** WARRICKVILLE **State** IL **ZIP** 62202-0100  
Dept./Room/Suite/Room

## 2 Your Internal Billing Reference

**3 To**  
**Recipients Name** Doreen M. Brunsel Phone 463-559-0709

**Company** Altrayconner Business Program, The Kub Br

**Address** 651 East Kildeer Street  
**City** Waukegan **State** IL **ZIP** 60089-9999  
Dept./Room/Suite/Room

**Address** Use this line for the HOLD location address or for continuation of your shipping address.

010921 9020



8174 8952 9142

## 4 Express Package Service

**Recipient's Copy**

**Next Business Day**  
 **FedEx First Overnight**  
Earliest next business morning delivery to select locations. Friday shipments will be delivered on Monday unless Standard Delivery is selected.  
 **FedEx Priority Overnight**  
Next business morning. Friday shipments will be delivered on Monday unless Standard Delivery is selected.  
 **FedEx Standard Overnight**  
Next business afternoon. Saturday Delivery NOT available.

**2 or 3 Business Days**  
 **FedEx 2Day AM**  
Second business morning. Saturday Delivery NOT available.  
 **FedEx 2Day**  
Second business afternoon. Tuesday shipments will be delivered on Monday unless Standard Delivery is selected.  
 **FedEx Express Saver**  
Third business day. Saturday Delivery NOT available.

**5 Packaging** \* Declared value limit \$500.  
 **FedEx Envelope\***  **FedEx Pak\***  **FedEx Box**  **FedEx Tube**  **Other**

**6 Special Handling and Delivery Signature Options** \*Fees may apply. See the FedEx Service Guide.  
 **Saturday Delivery** Not available for FedEx Standard Overnight, FedEx 2Day AM, or FedEx Express Saver.  
 **No Signatures Required** Package may be left without obtaining signature for delivery.  
 **Direct Signature** Someone at recipient's address may sign for delivery.  
 **Indirect Signature** If no one is available at recipient's address, someone at neighboring residential location may sign for delivery.

**Does this shipment contain dangerous goods?** One box must be checked.  
 **No**  **Yes**  **As per attached Shipper's Declaration**  **Shipper's Declaration not required**  
Restrictions apply for dangerous goods — see the current FedEx Service Guide.  
 **Dry Ice**  **Cargo Aircraft Only**

**7 Payment Bill to:** Enter FedEx Acct No. below \_\_\_\_\_  
 **Sender**  **Recipient**  **Third Party**  
Obtain receipt from FedEx Acct No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Packages** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Weight** \_\_\_\_\_ lbs.  
Our liability is limited to USD unless you declare a higher value. See the current FedEx Service Guide for details.  
Rev. Date 3/99 • Part 1/15/04 • ©1984-2003 FedEx • PRINTED IN U.S.A.

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# The Florida Bar

651 East Jefferson Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300

Joshua E. Doyle  
Executive Director

850/561-5600  
[www.FLORIDABAR.org](http://www.FLORIDABAR.org)

August 5, 2022

Ms. La'Trenia Pearson  
1033 Southern Hills Drive  
Orange Park, FL 32065

Re: Complaint by La'Trenia Pearson against John Michael Phillips  
The Florida Bar File No. 2023-00,018 (4B)

Dear Ms. Pearson:

Enclosed you will find Mr. John Michael Phillips's response to your complaint, which does not reflect a copy being mailed to you.

If you wish to file a rebuttal to the response, please do so in writing by **August 19, 2022**. Additionally, you must send a copy to Mr. Phillips.

Sincerely,

Rebekah L Miller  
ACAP Program Assistant

Enclosure

cc: Mr. John Michael Phillips

Ms. La'Trenia Pearson  
1033 Southern Hills Drive  
Orange Park, FL 32065

**PERSONAL - FOR ADDRESSEE ONLY**

Mr. John Michael Phillips  
212 N Laura St  
Jacksonville, FL 322023502

Re: La'Trenia Pearson

The Florida Bar File No. 2023-00, 0018(4B)

**RECEIVED**

**AUG 18 2022**

**THE FLORIDA BAR - ACAP  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA**

Dear Ms. Miller

Mr. Phillip is correct about the date and incident but everything else is not true. I reach out to his office back in Jan 2021, because I was under the impression that I had to hire a criminal attorney. That is why I called his office and spoke with Ms. Erica Jackson. She did not return my call so I called her back, at that time she told me she couldn't take my case because they could not handle the criminal. I had no idea that once the DA office has the case it is there case. As time went by my friend Shanda Whitaker told me to go back for a civil case. I called them back in Feb , that is when they schedule me appointment for Feb 26, he talk to my mom and I about him and Melissa Nelson having a good relationship and she owe him a favor, he need to call her and request Jordan Davis sweatshirt or skull cap from her, and the DA office was prejudice. Before he left out, he told Christopher Jackson to take the case. I have a copy in the packet where I signed a client agreement the same day. That mean he immediately took my case.

Mr. Phillip also spoke about my son father and I both having attorneys, if that is the case no one never told me that my son father had an attorney. I don't even believe that because my son father is decease. He passes less than 3 months after my son, in a fatal car accident on Mar 27, 2021, the obituary with the dates are attached. He would have known this if they were communicating.

He even said no one said he was going to call and apologize to me, that is not true. Attorney Brown called me personally on Feb 15, 2022, and said, he receive an email about me having a deposition. He said to me, who are you? I don't have any information on you or your son. He said, it has been a year so nothing is going to done. Told me he is sorry for how he is straight to the point but he is from New York and New Yorkers talk like this. I was so upset so I called back again and he told me he don't know why they keep transferring the call. The young lady calls me back and apologizes for what Mr. Brown said to me. She went on to say attorney Jackson left my file on the desk with a sticky note. She said, Mr. Phillips will be calling me personally. I don't have a reason to lie about anything. What does that gain me?

It sound like he has a problem with me saying Murder. Why? He is not here so what else can I say. He was murdered!!!! By the way he did not release me. I called to ask them about the statue of limitations because I found out that wrongful death was 2yrs. Then I said, just send me my packet and release me. The attorney called me back a couple days later and said, it was a note in my file to release me and they called another attorney to help me. I never called that attorney; I don't want to deal with anyone they know. I just want to know why would they hold my file so long and didn't tell me they couldn't do anything. Now I see why Mr. Christopher Jackson said, good luck on your case, whatever may come of it? I am not mad because you didn't take my case because I release you. I am mad because lawyers like you should be more considerate of moms like me. We are dealing with enough. Just make sure the next person doesn't get lost in your many files.

Sincerely, La'Trenia Pearson

---

*Honoring  
The Life & Legacy  
of*



*Sunrise  
05/02/1969*

*Sunset  
03/27/2021*

THEOTHEIST LAMONT  
*Cheersborough*

*Saturday ~ April 10, 2021 ~ 11:00 a.m.*

*Cathedral of Deliverance*

*1939 Belvedere Street*

*Jacksonville, Florida 32208*

*Bishop Charles Bernard Eichelberger, Sr. ~ Pastor*

*Bishop Maurice Williams ~ Presiding*

*Reverend Joel Robinson, Sr. ~ Eulogist*

---

**AUTHORITY TO REPRESENT AND CONTINGENCY FEE AGREEMENT**

I, Latrevia Pearson, do hereby retain and employ the Law Offices of John M. Phillips as my attorneys to represent me in my claim for losses or damages against Jerome Whitesides + TBD (to be determined) or any other party, firm or corporation liable therefore, resulting from an incident that occurred on or about 12/31/2020.

I hereby authorize the Law Offices of John M. Phillips to research my claim or case and to execute any and all documents, pleadings, stipulations and agreements, as may become necessary, to investigate, evaluate and prosecute my claim. I understand this case cannot be resolved or settled without my consent and participation. I appoint the attorneys and employees of the Law Offices of John M. Phillips as my agents and attorneys-at-law and attorneys-in-fact with authority to investigate and resolve my claim and case and to obtain a settlement on my behalf.

**Attorneys' Fees**

IT IS AGREED and UNDERSTOOD that as compensation for their services, I agree to pay said attorneys from the proceeds of any recovery the following fee based on the contingency percentage rates as outlined below, whichever is greater:

- a. Before filing a lawsuit or arbitration:
  1. 33-1/3% of any recovery up to \$1 million; plus
  2. 30% of any portion of the recovery between \$1 million and \$2 million; plus
  3. 20% of any portion of the recovery exceeding \$2 million.
  
- b. After filing a lawsuit or arbitration:
  1. 40% of any recovery up to \$1 million; plus
  2. 30% of any portion of the recovery between \$1 million and \$2 million; plus
  3. 20% of any portion of the recovery exceeding \$2 million.
  
- c. If all defendants admit liability at the time of filing their answers and request a trial only on damages:
  1. 33-1/3% of any recovery up to \$1 million; plus
  2. 20% of any portion of the recovery between \$1 million and \$2 million; plus
  3. 15% of any portion of the recovery exceeding \$2 million.
  
- d. CASES AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT - Should any government (city, county or state) entity be involved and the claim governed by sovereign immunity caps, the fee may be capped at 25%. Should a case be governed under the Federal Tort Claims Act, the attorney's fee may be capped at 20% if the case is settled at the administrative level and 25% if settled thereafter.
  
- e. APPEALS- An additional 5% of any recovery after notice of appeal is filed or post judgment relief or action is required for recovery on the judgment.

- f. PROBATE, GUARDIANSHIP AND SIMILAR MATTERS - It may be necessary to obtain representation from outside attorneys or professionals to handle issues outside of the scope of and not directly apart of the personal injury or wrongful death claim, such as to handle probate or guardianship matters; collection of any judgment or settlement beyond insurance proceeds; or resolution of liens or subrogation beyond that which is negotiable by the undersigned, and I understand that I may be responsible for these additional costs. These matters are rare and same will be discussed with you as they become appropriate.
- g. ATTORNEYS' FEES AWARDED BY COURT OR AT LAW - In some instances, attorneys' fees may be awarded by the court or by statute and/or rule. In that event, my attorneys may be entitled to recovery of attorneys' fees from the Defendant(s) in my case under limited circumstances. To the extent I am entitled to recover these fees, my attorney is entitled to the greater of the amount of attorneys' fees recovered or the above contingency fee as allowed by law(not both). For instance, if we resolve this case for \$100,000, my attorney is entitled to a fee of \$33,333 or \$40,000. However, if the Court awards him attorneys' fees of \$50,000, my attorney can take that *INSTEAD* of the contingency fee. That would net me a \$100,000 recovery instead of a \$66,667 or \$60,000 recovery. However, if limited attorneys' fees were awarded, my attorney could take the full contingency fee noted above. In either event, my award would be equal or greater to what it would have been without an award of attorneys' fees.
- h. STRUCTURED SETTLEMENTS / DEFERRED PAYMENTS - If I agree or am required to receive any settlement which is based on deferred payments, the attorneys' fee as defined by the Authority to Represent and Contingency Fee Agreement shall be computed based on the total cost of the structured settlement, or if the cost is unknown, on the present value of the structured settlement and shall be paid to my attorney in a lump sum amount at the time of recovery.

**IT IS FURTHER AGREED and UNDERSTOOD:**

- That this employment agreement is upon a contingent fee basis, and if no recovery is made at the conclusion of the case, I will not be indebted to my attorneys for any sum whatsoever for attorneys' fees.
- That the fee due to my attorneys for any funds attained on my behalf will be based upon the gross amount of funds from any settlement or judgment related to personal injury claims and/or diminished value property damage claims, with my attorneys' costs being repaid after fees have been deducted.
- That should my attorneys conclude that, in their opinion, there are no reasonable prospects of recovery on my claim or that the potential recovery would not likely be sufficient to justify the time and expense required to obtain it, they will communicate same to me and will be relieved from any further obligation to prosecute the claim.
- That my signature to this document authorizes my attorneys to take all actions necessary to prosecute a claim on my behalf and to protect my interests, including

the filing of a lawsuit against any and all parties that my attorneys, in their judgment, deem potentially responsible.

- That any final settlement of a claim or lawsuit is subject to my final approval, and that my signature to this document signifies my agreement to cooperate with my attorneys and not compromise my claim(s) without advice of my attorneys.
- That more than one individual or entity may be liable to me for damages. I understand and agree that my attorneys may proceed against and/or settle with multiple individuals or entities at different times. I understand that this contract constitutes a separate fee agreement for each individual or entity named within in it or whom pays funds as settlement or through judgment to my attorneys on my behalf. I further understand that if funds are received on my behalf prior to the conclusion of my claim against any other potentially liable individuals or entities, my attorneys will be reimbursed *upon receipt* of any funds from each individual or entity for separate fees and pro-rata costs as outlined herein and within the relevant closing statement.

### Costs

The Law Offices of John M. Phillips will advance all "costs" in connection with its Attorneys' representation of Client(s) under this agreement until resolution. Attorneys will be reimbursed for costs out of the each and every recovery before any distribution of funds to Client(s).

- a. If there is no recovery, or the recovery is insufficient to reimburse Attorney in full for costs advanced, my Attorney will bear the loss.
- b. Costs may include "in house charges," such as in-house copying, file opening/closing, legal research, postage, mileage for local travel and similar matters. The Law Offices of John M. Phillips will not bill costs for in-house copying, file opening/closing, legal research, postage, mileage for local travel and other matters that are office "overhead" unless and until my case lasts beyond mediation. If my case proceeds past mediation, my attorneys may seek reimbursement of these costs. I understand that some of these costs may be taxable to the Defendant after trial. If I terminate the undersigned firm, I agree to a full lien of these costs on my case.
- c. My attorneys will advance third party costs as reasonably necessary. Third Party costs include, but are not limited to, court filing fees, deposition costs, investigation costs, messenger service fees, police reports, hospital and medical records, photographs, costs of serving summonses and subpoenas, court reporters fees, exhibits, state records, investigation expenses and expert witness fees, including fees for medical testimony and fees for medical conferences. These costs will be delineated and explained to me in detail in a closing statement.
- d. Items that are not to be considered costs, and that must be paid by Client without being either advanced or contributed to by Attorney, include, but are not limited to, Client's medical expenses and other parties' costs, if any, that Client is ultimately required to pay. The Law Offices of John M. Phillips will attempt to assist in keeping these items minimized and negotiate these items where I have made them aware of these bills.

- e. The Law Offices of John M. Phillips will make every effort to keep these costs at an absolute minimum consistent with the requirements of the case. At the time the case is closed, a full accounting will be made for all disbursements made in my case.
- f. Our office does NOT charge interest on costs.

IT IS AGREED and UNDERSTOOD I will pay, upon resolution, for the costs incurred by the Law Offices of John M. Phillips in prosecuting this claim and authorize them to undertake and/or incur such costs as they may deem necessary.

### **Liens**

The Law Offices of John M. Phillips is authorized and directed to pay any and all reasonable and necessary medical bills, liens and claims from any recovery made which are incurred as a result of this injury or accident, which are not otherwise covered by insurance or other sources. My attorneys agree and are authorized to review all of my bills and seek to reduce these bills where appropriate.

### **Ending This Contract**

THREE DAY RULE – This contract may be cancelled by written notification to the Law Offices of John M. Phillips at any time within three business days of the date the contract was signed by the client. If cancelled, the client shall not be obligated to pay any fees to the attorneys for any work performed during this period of time. If the attorney has advanced funds to others in representation of the client, the attorney is entitled to be reimbursed for such amounts as they have reasonably advanced on behalf of the client.

TERMINATION BY CLIENT - After three business days, the Client may discharge Attorney at any time by written notice effective when received by Attorney. The notice must be mailed or faxed to the Law Office of John Phillips, 4230 Ortega Blvd., Jacksonville, Florida 32210 or faxed to (904) 474-4444 and bear the signature of the party who signed this contract. Unless specifically agreed by Attorney and Client, Attorney will provide no further services and advance no further costs on Client's behalf after receipt of the notice. Termination must be by the substantially the same method as retention. As such, termination by e-mail, text message or telephone is not sufficient termination.

Notwithstanding a discharge, Client will be obligated to pay Attorney out of the recovery, when received, the greater of the full fee due to the attorney according to the formal offers at the time of termination or a reasonable attorneys' fee for the total time and efforts spent and for all services provided (quantum meruit), and additionally for all costs advanced, including copies, postage, and all other "in-house costs."

After termination, Attorney will hold a lien for Attorneys' fees and costs advanced on all claims and causes of action that are the subject of this representation of Client under this agreement and on all proceeds of any recovery obtained (whether by settlement, arbitration award, or court judgment).

Such things as the amount of a pending or ascertainable settlement offer, the recovery

sought, the skill involved, the credentials of my lawyers, the results obtained and the amount of time and/or efforts my attorneys spent may be considered in determining the fee I will owe if I discharge my lawyers.

TERMINATION BY FIRM - If, after investigation of the claim, my attorneys determine that it is not feasible or desirable to prosecute further, the law firm may withdraw from this representation upon notification to the client. They may claim a lien on any future recovery if I choose to proceed with any claims on which they have expended time and/or costs, or as otherwise provided for by law.

### Keeping Us Updated

Client agrees and understands that if he or she changes residences, addresses, phone numbers, Client will notify the Law Offices of John M. Phillips *in writing* (by letter, email, or facsimile) within thirty (30) days. If such notification is not made, and the Law Offices of John M. Phillips cannot get in touch with Client after attempting to do so, Client absolves the Law Offices of John M. Phillips from liability regarding representation, and client further understands that in said situation, the Law Offices of John M. Phillips does not waive its right to seek attorneys' fees and costs in this matter as allowed by law.

It is understood the Attorney/Client relationship, in order to be successful, must be based on trust and truthfulness. Client agrees to completely and truthfully divulge to Attorney the facts of the incident that is the subject of the representation, any and all prior injuries, any and all prior lawsuits or personal injury matters and any other important fact that could jeopardize the case. If Client is not forthcoming about all matters related to the subject of the representation, Client agrees to absolve the Law Offices of John M. Phillips from liability associated with Client's failure to be truthful and forthcoming about the matters recited herein.

Client also agrees to provide information to the Law Offices of John M. Phillips about injuries, losses, treatment and otherwise assist them with prosecution of the claim. The Attorney's ability to assist Client is directly based on my provision of information to them. The Law Office of John M. Phillips can be emailed at any time at [help@floridajustice.com](mailto:help@floridajustice.com). John's email is [John@FloridaJustice.com](mailto:John@FloridaJustice.com).

DATED THIS 26th day of February, 2021.

X Yahemia Pearson  
Client

The above employment is hereby accepted upon the terms stated above:

By:   
For The Law Offices of John M. Phillips

## **STATEMENT OF CLIENT'S RIGHTS**

I have read and had explained to me the Statement of Client's Rights which follows:

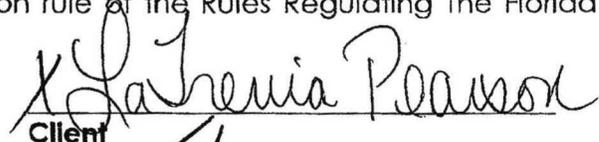
Before you, the prospective client, arrange a contingency fee arrangement with a lawyer, you should understand this Statement of your rights as a client. This Statement is not a part of the actual contract between you and your lawyer, but as a prospective client, you should be aware of these rights:

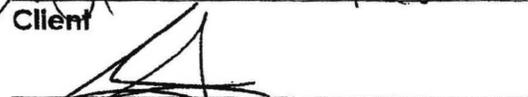
1. There is no legal requirement that a lawyer charge a client a set fee or a percentage of money recovered in a case. You, the client, have the right to talk with your lawyer about the proposed fee and to bargain about the rate or percentage as in any other contract. If you do not reach an agreement with one lawyer you may talk with other lawyers.
2. Any contingent fee contract must be in writing and you have 3 business days to reconsider the contract. You may cancel the contract without any reason if you notify your lawyer in writing within 3 business days of signing the contract. If you withdraw from the contract within the first 3 business days, you do not owe the lawyer a fee although you may be responsible for the lawyer's actual costs during that time. If your lawyer begins to represent you, your lawyer may not withdraw from the case without giving you notice, delivering necessary papers to you, and allowing you time to employ another lawyer. Often, your lawyer must obtain court approval before withdrawing from a case. If you discharge your lawyer without good cause after the 3-day period, you may have to pay a fee for work the lawyer has done.
3. Before hiring a lawyer, you, the client, have the right to know about the lawyer's education, training, and experience. If you ask, the lawyer should tell you specifically about the lawyer's actual experience dealing with cases similar to yours. If you ask, the lawyer should provide information about special training or knowledge and give you this information in writing if you request it.
4. Before signing a contingent fee contract with you, a lawyer must advise you whether the lawyer intends to handle your case alone or whether other lawyers will be helping with the case. If your lawyer intends to refer the case to other lawyers, the lawyer should tell you what kind of fee sharing arrangement will be made with the other lawyers. If lawyers from different law firms will represent you, at least 1 lawyer from each law firm must sign the contingent fee contract.
5. If your lawyer intends to refer your case to another lawyer or counsel with other lawyers, your lawyer should tell you about that at the beginning. If your lawyer takes the case and later decides to refer it to another lawyer or to associate with other lawyers, you should sign a new contract that includes the new lawyers. You, the client, also have the right to consult with each lawyer working on your case and each lawyer is legally responsible to represent your interests and is legally responsible for the acts of the other lawyers involved in the case.

6. You, the client, have the right to know in advance how you will need to pay the expenses and the legal fees at the end of the case. If you pay a deposit in advance for costs, you may ask reasonable questions about how the money will be or has been spent and how much of it remains unspent. Your lawyer should give a reasonable estimate about future necessary costs. If your lawyer agrees to lend or advance you money to prepare or research the case, you have the right to know periodically how much money your lawyer has spent on your behalf. You also have the right to decide, after consulting with your lawyer, how much money is to be spent to prepare a case. If you pay the expenses, you have the right to decide how much to spend. Your lawyer should also inform you whether the fee will be based on the gross amount recovered or on the amount recovered minus the costs.
7. You, the client, have the right to be told by your lawyer about possible adverse consequences if you lose the case. Those adverse consequences might include money that you might have to pay to your lawyer for costs and liability you might have for attorney's fees, costs, and expenses to the other side.
8. You, the client, have the right to receive and approve a closing statement at the end of the case before you pay any money. The statement must list all of the financial details of the entire case, including the amount recovered, all expenses, and a precise statement of your lawyer's fee. Until you approve the closing statement you need not pay any money to anyone, including your lawyer. You also have the right to have every lawyer or law firm working on your case sign this closing statement.
9. You, the client, have the right to ask your lawyer at reasonable intervals how the case is progressing and to have these questions answered to the best of your lawyer's ability.
10. You, the client, have the right to make the final decision regarding settlement of a case. Your lawyer must notify you of all offers of settlement before and after the trial. Offers during the trial must be immediately communicated and you should consult with your lawyer regarding whether to accept a settlement. However, you must make the final decision to accept or reject a settlement.
11. If at any time you, the client, believe that your lawyer has charged an excessive or illegal fee, you have the right to report the matter to The Florida Bar, the agency that oversees the practice and behavior of all lawyers in Florida. For information on how to reach The Florida Bar, call 850/561-5600, or contact the local bar association. Any disagreement between you and your lawyer about a fee can be taken to court and you may wish to hire another lawyer to help you resolve this disagreement. Usually fee disputes must be handled in a separate lawsuit, unless your fee contract provides for arbitration. You can request, but may not require, that a provision for arbitration (under Chapter 682, Florida Statutes, or under the fee arbitration rule of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar) be included in your fee contract.

Dated: 2/26/21

Dated: 2/26/21

  
Client

  
For The Law Offices of John M. Phillips

Trenia Pearson  
33 Southern Hills Dr  
Orange Park, FL 32065

ALP

The Florida Bar  
651 East Jefferson St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-  
2300

RECEIVED  
AUG 18 2022  
THE FLORIDA BAR - ACAP  
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32304

RECEIVED AUG 18 2022



1000



32399

U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
FCM LG ENVY  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
32205  
AUG 12, 22  
AMOUNT  
**\$1.68**  
R2304Y122492-35



# The Florida Bar

651 East Jefferson Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300

Joshua E. Doyle  
Executive Director

850/561-5600  
[www.FLORIDABAR.org](http://www.FLORIDABAR.org)

August 19, 2022

Mr. John Michael Phillips  
212 N Laura St  
Jacksonville, FL 322023502

Re: Complaint by La'Trenia Pearson against John Michael Phillips  
The Florida Bar File No. 2023-00,018 (4B)

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Enclosed you will find a copy of recent correspondence from Ms. Pearson which does not reflect a copy being mailed to you.

This is for informational purposes. Therefore a response is not required at this time.

Sincerely,

Audra C Morgan  
ACAP Program Assistant

Enclosure

cc: Ms. La'Trenia Pearson (w/o enclosure)

Ms. La'Trenia Pearson  
1033 Southern Hills Drive  
Orange Park, FL 32065

**PERSONAL - FOR ADDRESSEE ONLY**

Mr. John Michael Phillips  
212 N Laura St  
Jacksonville, FL 322023502



## The Florida Bar

651 East Jefferson Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300

Joshua E. Doyle  
Executive Director

850/561-5600  
[www.FLORIDABAR.org](http://www.FLORIDABAR.org)

August 19, 2022

Ms. La'Trenia Pearson  
1033 Southern Hills Drive  
Orange Park, FL 32065

Re: Complaint by La'Trenia Pearson against John Michael Phillips  
The Florida Bar File No. 2023-00,018 (4B)

Dear Ms. Pearson:

This correspondence confirms receipt of the attorney's response to the complaint and your rebuttal. The file is now complete and ready for review by our office. Accordingly, please do not submit additional information unless requested by this office. If additional information is requested, we will provide you an opportunity to respond. Upon completion of the investigation, you will be advised in writing of the outcome.

Sincerely,

Diane Suhm, Bar Counsel  
Attorney Consumer Assistance Program  
ACAP Hotline 866-352-0707

cc: Mr. John Michael Phillips

Ms. La'Trenia Pearson  
1033 Southern Hills Drive  
Orange Park, FL 32065

Mr. John Michael Phillips  
212 N Laura St  
Jacksonville, FL 32203502



# The Florida Bar

651 East Jefferson Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300

Joshua E. Doyle  
Executive Director

850/561-5600  
[www.FLORIDABAR.org](http://www.FLORIDABAR.org)

October 25, 2022

Mr. John Michael Phillips  
212 N. Laura St.  
Jacksonville, FL 32202-3502

Re: Complaint by La'Trenia Pearson against John Michael Phillips  
The Florida Bar File No. 2023-00,018 (4B)

Dear Mr. Phillips:

The above-referenced matter has been forwarded to The Florida Bar's Tallahassee Branch Office for consideration. You may expect to hear from Bar Counsel (in that office) in the near future.

Sincerely,

Diane Suhm, Bar Counsel  
Attorney Consumer Assistance Program  
ACAP Hotline 866-352-0707

cc: Ms. La'Trenia Pearson

Mr. John Michael Phillips  
212 N. Laura St.  
Jacksonville, FL 32202-3502

Ms. La'Trenia Pearson  
1033 Southern Hills Drive  
Orange Park, FL 32065



# The Florida Bar

Tallahassee Branch Office  
651 East Jefferson Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2300  
(850) 561-5845

Joshua E. Doyle  
Executive Director

850/561-5600  
[www.floridabar.org](http://www.floridabar.org)

October 27, 2022

VIA E-Mail to [jmp@floridajustice.com](mailto:jmp@floridajustice.com)

Mr. John Michael Phillips  
212 N Laura Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32202-3502

Re: Complaint of La'Trenia Pearson against John Michael Phillips  
The Florida Bar File No. 2023-00,018(4B)

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Please be advised that this case was recently transferred to the Tallahassee Branch Office of The Florida Bar. Please send all correspondence in this matter, referencing the above case number to the attention of the undersigned, preferably by electronic mail or by U.S. Mail at the following address:

Rose L Garrison  
The Florida Bar  
651 East Jefferson Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2300  
[dlee@floridabar.org](mailto:dlee@floridabar.org)

Further, both the complainant and the respondent are directed to notify this office, in writing, of any pending civil, criminal, or administrative litigation which pertains to this grievance. Please note that this is a continuing obligation should new litigation develop during the pendency of this matter. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Rose L Garrison  
Bar Counsel

cc: Ms. La'Trenia Pearson, Complainant

**Received** Thu 10/27/2022 11:17AM  
**From** John M. Phillips  
**Subject** Re: Pearson v. Phillips, TFB File No. 2023-00,018(4B)  
**To** Lee, Diane  
**cc** godslittlepeople2004@yahoo.com; Garrison, Rose  
**bcc**

Branch Acknowledgment Letter.doc.pdf

Just as a reminder to the former client, this matter does not toll/stop the statute of limitations. I know they had another lawyer but a case must be filed within 2 years of his death even if the state of Florida prosecutors are not done with the criminal case.

Thank You,

John

John M. Phillips, B.C.S.\*\*  
Phillips & Hunt  
Telephone: [\(904\) 444-4444](tel:9044444444)  
Email: [jmp@floridajustice.com](mailto:jmp@floridajustice.com)  
Website: [FloridaJustice.com](http://FloridaJustice.com)

\* Board Certified Specialist and Expert in Civil Trial Law

\* Licensed to practice in Florida, New York, Georgia, Alabama, Texas, Oklahoma, Illinois and the District of Columbia

On Oct 27, 2022, at 10:53 AM, Diane Lee <[DLee@floridabar.org](mailto:DLee@floridabar.org)> wrote:

?

Good Morning,

Please see attached correspondence regarding the above case. If you have any questions please let me know. Thank you and have a good day.

Branch Acknowledgment Letter  
(See attached file: *Branch Acknowledgment Letter.doc.pdf*)

Diane Lee

---

Diane Lee | Legal Secretary  
(850)561-3137 | Email: [dlee@floridabar.org](mailto:dlee@floridabar.org)

The Florida Bar  
651 E. Jefferson Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300

Please note: Florida has very broad public records laws. Many written communications to or from The Florida Bar regarding Bar business may be considered public records, which must be made available to anyone upon request. Your e-mail communications may therefore be subject to public disclosure.



# The Florida Bar

Tallahassee Branch Office  
651 East Jefferson Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2300  
(850) 561-5845

Joshua E. Doyle  
Executive Director

850/561-5600  
[www.floridabar.org](http://www.floridabar.org)

October 27, 2022

VIA E-Mail to [jmp@floridajustice.com](mailto:jmp@floridajustice.com)

Mr. John Michael Phillips  
212 N Laura Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32202-3502

Re: Complaint of La'Trenia Pearson against John Michael Phillips  
The Florida Bar File No. 2023-00,018(4B)

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Please be advised that this case was recently transferred to the Tallahassee Branch Office of The Florida Bar. Please send all correspondence in this matter, referencing the above case number to the attention of the undersigned, preferably by electronic mail or by U.S. Mail at the following address:

Rose L Garrison  
The Florida Bar  
651 East Jefferson Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2300  
[dlee@floridabar.org](mailto:dlee@floridabar.org)

Further, both the complainant and the respondent are directed to notify this office, in writing, of any pending civil, criminal, or administrative litigation which pertains to this grievance. Please note that this is a continuing obligation should new litigation develop during the pendency of this matter. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Rose L Garrison  
Bar Counsel

cc: Ms. La'Trenia Pearson, Complainant



# The Florida Bar

Tallahassee Branch Office  
651 East Jefferson Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2300  
(850) 561-5845

Joshua E. Doyle  
Executive Director

850/561-5600  
[www.floridabar.org](http://www.floridabar.org)

January 17, 2023

VIA E-Mail to [godslittlepeople2004@yahoo.com](mailto:godslittlepeople2004@yahoo.com)

Ms. La'Trenia Pearson  
1033 Southern Hills Drive  
Orange Park, FL 32065

Re: Complaint by La'Trenia Pearson against John Michael Phillips  
The Florida Bar File No. 2023-00,018(4B)

Dear Ms. Pearson:

All documents submitted in this matter were carefully reviewed.

To have a clear understanding of the disciplinary process, it is helpful to understand the evidence The Florida Bar needs to meet its burden of proof in cases brought before the Florida Supreme Court. Bar counsel must analyze the initial complaint, the response, other evidence submitted, and at times matters of public record such as the dockets and documents filed with the courts, from the standpoint of whether the case stands a reasonable chance of being won if litigated. The primary consideration that must be weighed when deciding whether to close a file at the intake level in Tallahassee or refer it to a branch office for further investigation and possible review by a grievance committee is the weight of the evidence provided. The Bar's burden of proof requires a showing by "clear and convincing evidence" that there has been a violation of one or more of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

Clear and convincing evidence has been defined as evidence that is so clear, direct, weighty, and convincing that the factfinder (judge) is convinced without hesitancy of the truth of the precise facts. Clear and convincing evidence is a heavier burden of proof than that required in an ordinary civil trial and is almost as high as the "beyond a reasonable doubt" burden that must be met in a criminal trial.

You alleged that John Michael Phillips failed to effectively represent you regarding a wrongful death case. You raised issues that the attorney was not diligent, that the attorney was not competent, that the attorney made misrepresentations, that the attorney failed to properly

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supervise his staff and the lawyers in his firm, that there was a lack of communication, and otherwise. Mr. Phillips has responded to the issues you raised. While I understand you are unhappy with the representation you received, the information provided does not establish by clear and convincing evidence that Mr. Phillips violated any of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

There is insufficient evidence from the materials provided that Mr. Phillips has violated any of the rules adopted by the Supreme Court of Florida which govern attorney discipline. Accordingly, continued disciplinary proceedings are inappropriate and this matter is now closed. Pursuant to the Bar's records retention policy, this matter will be disposed of one year from the date of closing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David R. Slaton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "D" and a long, sweeping tail.

David R. Slaton, Bar Counsel

cc: Mr. John Michael Phillips, Respondent



