

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, SEVENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.: CA25-1060
DIVISION: 59

SCHOOL BOARD OF ST. JOHNS
COUNTY, FLORIDA, a political
subdivision of the State of Florida, JAMES
STONER and LINDA CARNALL

Plaintiffs,

v.

MATTHEW DANIEL ROSS,

Defendant.

PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR TEMPORARY INJUNCTION
(WITH NOTICE AND HEARING)

Pursuant to Rule 1.610(a), Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiffs, School Board of St. Johns County, Florida (School Board), James Stoner and Linda Carnall, move the court to enter a temporary injunction against Defendant Matthew Daniel Ross.

1. Plaintiff Carnall is the principal of Switzerland Point Middle School (SPMS), and Plaintiff Stoner is a teacher at SPMS. In their complaint, Plaintiffs seek temporary and permanent injunctive relief ordering Defendant to cease and desist from bullying and harassing Plaintiffs Carnall and Stoner, and other School Board employees. Paragraphs 35 – 38, 41 - 2, and 48 - 52 of the complaint allege ultimate facts in support of Plaintiffs' case for temporary injunction.

2. Since the complaint was filed on August 1, Defendant has posted videos and other content on social media that continues to bully and harass Plaintiffs Carnall and Stoner

and other School Board employees. Since school started on August 11, Defendant has also returned to the sidewalk across from SPMS with his FireJamesStoner.com sign. The message “THE END IS NEAR” and yellow trefoil warning symbols for nuclear radioactivity have been added to the sign. A photograph of Defendant and his modified sign is attached as Exhibit A hereto. In post-Parkland Florida, the display of this latest message and accompanying danger symbols across the street from a school can only be understood as a threat against the school itself, as well as Plaintiffs Stoner and Carnall. It is an ominous escalation of Defendant’s long and well documented history of bullying and harassing Plaintiffs by threat and intimidation - warning them in violent (paragraph 29) and sexually graphic (paragraph 27; paragraph 29.d.; paragraph 32.b., c., d., f. and g.) terms how angry and dangerous he is (paragraph 28 and 29.b., j. and l.), how he is targeting them (paragraph 29.e., f. and g.), what he wants to do to them (paragraph 29.a, d. and k.; Exhibits B 4, 11 to the complaint) and how they should be afraid (paragraph 29.m., s. and t.).

3. Plaintiffs are entitled to temporary injunctive relief. They have suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable harm as the result of Defendant’s bullying and harassment. The fear and emotional distress that Plaintiffs Carnall and Stoner have suffered cannot be undone and will only get worse unless Defendant ceases and desists from further bullying and harassment. As for Plaintiff School Board, the disruption of the orderly operation of SPMS cannot be rectified and will continue unless Defendant’s bullying and harassment of its employees is enjoined. Injunctive relief is the only way the School Board has to discharge its legal duty to protect its employees from bullying and harassment under Florida Statute 1006.147 and School Board Rule 3.21, and from sexual harassment under Title VII, as is more fully alleged in paragraph 14 of the complaint.

4. Plaintiffs lack an adequate remedy at law. Monetary compensation cannot restore the individual Plaintiffs' peace of mind, and the harm Defendant has done to the SPMS educational environment.

5. Plaintiffs have a substantial likelihood of success on the merits in this action. There could not be a clearer case of bullying and harassment of school employees than the Defendant's actions documented in paragraphs 15 - 48 of the complaint. Moreover, the School Board conducted a formal investigation of Defendant's actions and found that he had bullied and harassed Plaintiff Stoner, Plaintiff Carnall and Assistant Principal Alexandra Pillay. The report is attached as Exhibit D to the complaint. Indeed, as alleged in paragraph 45, Defendant not only admitted bullying Plaintiffs, he bragged about it:

Maybe you like the abuse. Maybe you like being bullied. Is that what it is? Yeah, I'm bullying the s**t out of you. (Ex C. to the complaint at page 90).

6. A temporary injunction will serve the public interest. In Florida, providing safe and secure public schools is a constitutional priority. Teachers and administrators have a vital role in providing the quality education Florida public school children deserve. Their jobs are difficult enough without being subjected to the vile invective and abuse that Plaintiffs have endured at Defendant's hands. It is in the public interest, and indeed it is the law, that School Board employees must be protected from bullying and harassment. The entry of a temporary injunction will afford them that protection.

Respectfully submitted this 20th day of August, 2025.

UPCHURCH, BAILEY AND UPCHURCH,
a Fisher Tousey Firm

By: /s/Frank D. Upchurch III

Frank D. Upchurch III
Florida Bar No. 195211
780 N. Ponce de Leon Boulevard
St. Augustine, Florida 32084
Telephone No. (904) 829-9066
Facsimile No. (904) 825-4862
Email: fdupchurch@ubulaw.com
Email: pleadings@ubulaw.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff
School Board of St. Johns County, Florida

- and -

CANAN LAW

By: /s/Patrick T. Canan

Patrick T. Canan
Florida Bar No. 360171
1030 N. Ponce de Leon Boulevard
St. Augustine, Florida 32084
Telephone No. (904) 824-9402
Facsimile No. (904) 824-9269
Email: pcanan@cananlaw.com
Email: vcobb@cananlaw.com

Attorneys for Plaintiffs
James Stoner and Linda Carnall

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished to Defendant via email delivery at matthew.d.ross@outlook.com, this 20th day of August, 2025; and will be hand-delivered to Defendant at his residence via Federal Express, at his address as listed below:

Matthew Daniel Ross
560 Remington Forest Dr
Saint Johns, FL 32259

/s/Frank D. Upchurch III

Frank D. Upchurch III



EXHIBIT
A

tabbles