

## PRESS RELEASE

July 12, 2023

### **D.A.D.S. of St. Louis, Inc. Pledges \$7K to Help Single Black Mom**

Nathan S. Cohen, Family Attorney in Clayton, Missouri filed an Execution Application and Order with the St. Louis County Circuit Court on June 2, 2023 directing the Sheriff's Department to levy on the home of a 34-year-old single Black mother in Webster Groves. A levy is the seizure or sale of someone's property to pay a debt owed to another. The mother along with her two daughters have resided in this home since October 2013. Cohen, who represented the father of the 2 girls, filed a custody case against the mother in April 2022. The parties came to an agreement on the custody issues and had a trial solely on the issue of child support and attorney fees. In March 2023, Commissioner Terri J. Johnson ordered the mother to pay Cohen \$5000 for attorney fees and affirmed a prior order of \$2000 issued by Judge Margaret P. Donnelly in June 2022.

On June 30, 2023, the mother received a Notice of Levy from the Sheriff's Department. She learned that her home would be auctioned for sale on July 20, 2023 to cover the \$7,370.55 debt owed to Cohen. The total amount represents the original judgment, interest and other fees that were added. The Sheriff's levy was specifically requested by Cohen, a move the mother says received approval by her daughters' father.

Cohen was the attorney appointed as Guardian ad Litem (GAL) in the custody battle between the parents of missing and murdered Christian Taylor Ferguson. Cohen claimed the behavior of Christian Ferguson's mother tilted the scales against her and justified his recommendation that Ferguson's father be granted full custody, a decision that ultimately cost Christian his life. The mother sees similarities between the cases which she believes clearly demonstrates that "Nathan does not care about children and particularly Black children."

Shaun Swearngen, CEO and Founder of D.A.D.S. of St. Louis, Inc., a father-centered nonprofit organization, learned of the sale and committed himself and his organization to assist this mother in saving her home. Shaun Swearngen is a father with 2 daughters of his own. He started D.A.D.S. of St. Louis, Inc. to encourage, educate and empower other fathers to become **D**ependable, **A**ctive, **D**edicated and **S**upportive. Swearngen condemns the move by Cohen and the authorization of the father. "What does that say about you as a father? You are willing to uproot your children or cause them to live on the street for \$7000," says Swearngen.

Due to the age of the minor children involved, the mother has requested to remain anonymous.

**D.A.D.S. of St. Louis, Inc. is currently accepting donations to assist this mother save her home. CEO and Founder Shaun Swearngen has personally pledged the remaining monies that are not raised through donations. Donations to D.A.D.S. of St. Louis can be made online at [Donate - Dads of STL](#).**

**A dedicated link to contribute to this cause is also available on the organization's website.**