



SOVEREIGN CITIZENS

Judicial Commissioner
Association of Tennessee
December 9, 2025

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This is The Twilight Zone

WHAT ARE “SOVEREIGN CITIZENS”?

- Sovereign citizens are members of a large anti-government extremist movement who believe the government is the illegitimate product of a conspiracy that subverted the original, lawful government adopted by the Founding Fathers.
- Sovereign citizens claim that individuals can take steps to divorce themselves from this illegitimate government, after which it has no authority or jurisdiction over them.
- May also refer to themselves as an American state national, state citizen, constitutionalist, free man/woman upon the land, Moorish national, and other names.

ORIGINS OF THE SOVEREIGN CITIZEN MOVEMENT

Evolved from two anti-government movements

- The Tax Protest Movement – premised upon the idea that Americans do not have to pay federal income taxes
- The Posse Comitatus Movement – premised upon the idea that the county sheriff is the ultimate authority in a county, and it is the sheriff's job to prevent the imposition of “unlawful” state or federal laws or regulations



ORIGINS OF THE SOVEREIGN CITIZEN MOVEMENT

- Today, the movement is based on the idea that the common law system of American government, as created by the Founding Fathers, was replaced with a fake, illegitimate government.
- This fake government operates under commercial law, using citizens as collateral by selling their future earning potential to foreign investors – effectively enslaving all Americans.
- Everyone becomes “collateral” at birth when the government forces birth certificates and social security cards (“contracts”) upon citizens. The use of licenses, permits, and even zip codes equates to the surrender of one’s sovereignty to the fake government.

ORIGINS OF THE SOVEREIGN CITIZEN MOVEMENT

- Some Sovereign Citizens believe that the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution created a new category of citizenship (i.e., “citizens of the United States”) which anyone could claim by accepting a proffered “contract” with the government (driver’s license, zip code, etc.).
- By making certain declarations or filings divorcing themselves from the illegitimate government, sovereign citizens believe they can renounce these “contracts” and remove themselves from the scope of all laws, regulations, court orders, taxes, and other governmental dictates.

Constitutional government
was created in 1776

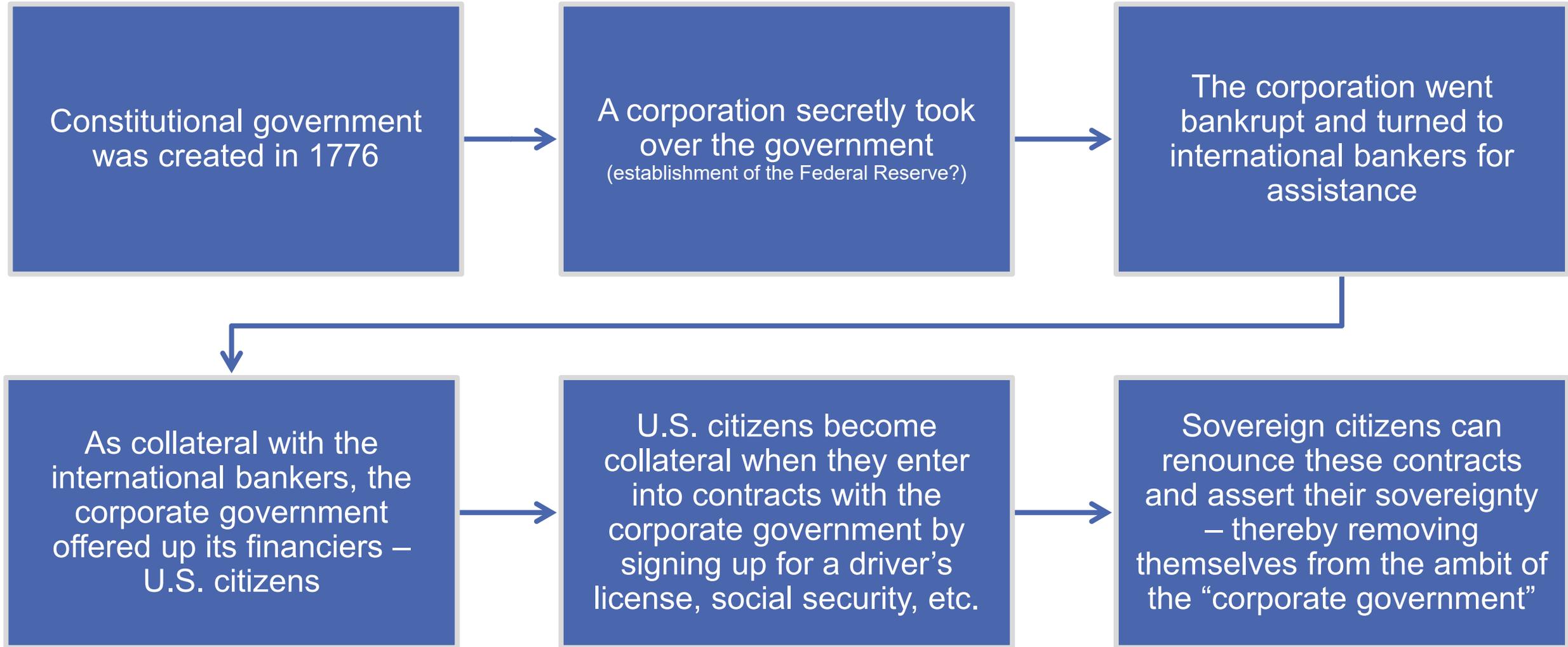
A corporation secretly took
over the government
(establishment of the Federal Reserve?)

The corporation went
bankrupt and turned to
international bankers for
assistance

As collateral with the
international bankers, the
corporate government
offered up its financiers –
U.S. citizens

U.S. citizens become
collateral when they enter
into contracts with the
corporate government by
signing up for a driver's
license, social security, etc.

Sovereign citizens can
renounce these contracts
and assert their sovereignty
– thereby removing
themselves from the ambit of
the “corporate government”



HOW TO SPOT A SOVEREIGN CITIZEN

- Insertion of punctuation into names (John-Thomas; Doe ©)
- Putting brackets around zip codes in mailing addresses ([37064])
- Inclusion of Uniform Commercial Code references
- Use of Latin phrases
- Signing documents with red thumbprints or “stamps”
- Separation of name in all-caps (often called the “strawman” identity”) from the “flesh and blood” name (i.e., John Doe dba JOHN DOE)
- Creating their own licenses, etc.

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NOTICE REMOVAL OF IMPLIED RIGHT OF ACCESS

Notice is hereby given that all implied rights of access to the Land known as 170 North Street, Belfast, County Antrim are removed in respect of the following:
Any employee or agent or principal or any other person acting on behalf of the CORPORATE COURTS, LOCAL COUNCILS, and Any employee or agent or principal or any other person acting on behalf of any bailiff or other debt collection agency.
Please also take notice that the land known as Northern Ireland and Great Britain is a Common Law Jurisdiction and any transgression of this notice will be dealt with according to common law. Without ill-will, vexation or frivolity.

By: [Signature]
By: Sovereign patrick of the family: mc elroy
Authorised Agent and Representative for PATRICK McELROY

WITHOUT PREJUDICE (all natural inalienable rights reserved) Warning - Failure to comply with this notice - without lawful excuse or claim of right - will be deemed common law trespass and your unconditional agreement to pay the [freeholder] the sum of £5000 (FIVE THOUSAND POUNDS STERLING) or the inflation adjusted equivalent thereof in compensation & that a lawful bill will be drawn against you with payment terms of within 30 (thirty) days of service. Further you would have agreed to waive all your rights in any dealings with the [freeholder]; and dishonour will be enforced. Claim of ignorance of this lawful notice will be deemed no lawful excuse.

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American State National Credentials

Nationality:
Californian
The United States of America
Lawful Name:
Tony

Mendoza Jr.
Home State:
California
County:
Nevada
Issuing Authority:
The California Assembly

American State National Born: 18th day of August, 1959



Seal

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NOT A STATE ID OR LICENSE

Kingdom Of Heaven

ROYAL LAW TRAVELER FREE BY GRACE



All Rights Exercised

T I.D. **PRIVATE** Prestige: Non-Commerce
4 Issued ~~12/26/2016~~ 4 Expires ~~12/26/2018~~
3 D.O.C. ~~12/26/2016~~ Approximately
EXEMPT NO TRUST ZIPCODE EXEMPT
2: Solomon Given Name **BMM 602.13.e.2**
5 c/o General Delivery **Non-Domestic Mail**
Austin Texas Republic **Near 78767**
Approximately **Six Feet A Man** Eyes **Dark**
NOT A FICTION OR CITIZEN - WITHOUT RECOURSE

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Z **Florida** **American State National** **Z**



Notice
Private Automobile-Not for Hire

SOVEREIGN CITIZENS IN COURT

In court, sovereign citizens often:

- Decline court-appointed legal counsel
- File voluminous documents
- Become argumentative with judges, clerks, court reporters, and officers
 - Making statements such as:
 - *“Is this an admiralty law court?”*
 - *“I object to jurisdiction”*
 - *“I do not consent”*
 - *“I am a natural person and not a corporate entity”*
 - *“Is that a demand or a request?”*



A&E



The courts have
addressed (and
rejected) the most
common sovereign
citizen arguments

SOVEREIGN CITIZENS IN COURT

WAIVER OF THE RIGHT TO COUNSEL – *U.S. v. Jones*, 65 F.4th 926 (7th Cir. 2023)

- “On the one hand, sovereign-citizen theories are not just ‘bizarre,’ ... they also reflect misunderstandings about criminal jurisdiction. But there is no bright line rule barring sovereign citizens from representing themselves. To the contrary, a defendant ... can make a clear-eyed, tactical decision to mount a sovereign-citizen defense. ... Although the defense is almost certain to fail, the Sixth Amendment protects the right of defendants to ‘go down in flames if they wish[].’”

SOVEREIGN CITIZENS IN COURT

LACK OF JURISDICTION – *State v. Booher*, 978 S.W.2d 953 (Tenn. Crim. App. 1997)

- “Consent to laws is not a prerequisite to their enforceability against individuals. No person in the State of Tennessee may exempt himself or herself from any law simply by declaring that he or she does not consent to it applying to them. To do so would result in sheer anarchy.”

PAPER TERRORISM

- Sometimes, when a sovereign citizen feels that his/her rights have been violated, they will engage in what has sometimes been referred to as “paper terrorism”
- Essentially, the sovereign citizen files fraudulent / otherwise meritless liens against the public officials involved in the alleged violation of their rights.

This has happened here in Tennessee...

SOVEREIGN CITIZENS IN TENNESSEE: A CASE STUDY

- On July 4, 2015, Lee Harold Cromwell drove his truck in reverse through a crowd during a fireworks show in Oak Ridge, TN, killing a man and injuring 8 others
- While an investigation into the incident was ongoing, Cromwell filed \$137.5 million in liens on the personal property of various area public officials, claiming that the officials were involved in stealing his truck (~\$10k), which was seized after the July 4 incident
- He was convicted of offenses related to the July 4 incident in February 2017

THE AFTERMATH

- A joint investigation by the TBI and the FBI revealed that over a period of several years, Cromwell and 10 other “sovereign citizens” in East Tennessee had filed approximately \$2 billion worth of bogus liens against various government officials
- The UCC liens were filed against the public officials, encumbering their personal property, potentially plaguing the credit of the public officials for years.
- The 11 men were indicted in 2017 for filing fraudulent liens and forgery

DEFENDANT	CITY	COUNTS OF FORGERY; FILING FRADULENT LIEN	OUTCOME
Lee H. Cromwell	Oak Ridge, TN	14; 14 (28)	CONVICTED AFTER TRIAL – 25 years
Michael R. Birdsell	Andersonville, TN	8; 8 (16)	All counts nolle'd in 2020 Testified against other defendants
Austin G. Cooper	Clinton, TN	15; 15 (30)	CONVICTED AFTER TRIAL – 50 years
Victor D. Bunch	Powell, TN	17; 17 (34)	Pled guilty: Att. forgery (3), Fraudulent Lien (3) – 8 years suspended (supervised)
Christopher A. Hauser	Del Rio, TN	21; 21 (42)	CONVICTED AFTER TRIAL – 20 years
Ronald J. Lyons	Newport, TN	30; 30 (60)	CONVICTED AFTER TRIAL – 22 years
James M. Usinger	Greenville, TN	22; 22 (44)	CONVICTED AFTER TRIAL – 21 years
John J. Williams	Powell, TN	9; 9 (18)	Pled guilty: Fraudulent lien (4) – 6 years suspended (unsupervised)
George E. Williams	Powell, TN	3; 3 (6)	Pled guilty: Fraudulent Lien (3), Att. Forgery (2) - 8 years suspended (supervised)
Kenneth R. Foust	Clinton, TN	3; 3 (6)	Died in 2018

TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT AGREED

- The Tennessee Supreme Court accepted certain of the Defendants' requests for permission to appeal their convictions but only took up the issue of whether the evidence presented was sufficient to support the convictions of forgery.
- In a decision issued in May 2023, the Tennessee Supreme Court affirmed the forgery convictions, unanimously holding that the conduct of the defendants clearly fit within the definition of forgery under state law. *See State v. Lyons*, 669 S.W.3d 775 (Tenn. 2023).

FORGERY

TENN. CODE ANN. SEC. 39-14-114

- “A person commits an offense who forges a writing with intent to defraud or harm another.”
- “Forge” means to:
 - Alter, make, complete, execute or authenticate any writing so that it purports to:
 - Be the act of another who did not authorize that act;
 - Have been executed at a time or place or in a numbered sequence other than was in fact the case; or
 - Be a copy of an original when no such original existed;
 - **Make false entries in books or records;**
 - Issue, transfer, register the transfer of, pass, publish, or otherwise utter a writing that is forged within the meaning of subdivision (b)(1)(A); or
 - Possess a writing that is forged within the meaning of subdivision (b)(1)(A) with intent to utter it in a manner specified in subdivision (b)(1)(C)

MY EXPERIENCE WITH SOVEREIGN CITIZENS: JANE

In May 2021, a vehicle with expired tags was pulled over. The female driver ("Jane") refused to identify herself and stated that she was a private citizen and not a member of commerce. Jane refused to provide a valid driver's license and was taken into custody on driving without a license and expired registration based on her refusal to positively identify herself.

An arrest warrant was issued by a judicial commissioner.

Jane was bonded out by a relative.

Defendant's Signature: *By Jane Doe @ - Non Assumpsit / No Contact*
Street Address: *Refused*
City: *Refused* State: *Refused* Zip: *Refused*
Phone #: *Refused*
DL #: *Refused*
SSN: *Refused* DOB: *Refused*

Under Threat Duress and Coercion

Within days of her release, Jane sent the 2 arresting officers, the judicial commissioner who signed the arrest warrant, the booking officer who dealt with Jane in the jail, and the County Mayor a document titled “Notice of Counter Claim for Personal Injury.”

The document, which included Jane’s real name (albeit flanked by ©), stated that damages had been fixed at \$25,000.00 for each fifteen (15) minutes of Jane’s unlawful detention and/or obstruction of freedom of movement. She therefore claimed to be owed \$400,000.00 by each of the 5 “defendants” for the 4 hours she spent in detention.

The “causes of action” included:

- Unlawfully detaining Jane “based solely on her failure to display current license tags on her mode of transportation” because traffic violations are not crimes under existing law; and
- Requiring a “ransom for freedom”

NOTE: this cause of action is being taken in the peoples court which is a lawful court of record and you are bound by said court's ruling since these courts always rule and do not make opinion statements.

NOTICE OF FAULT AND
OPPORTUNITY TO CURE

You were served a NOTICE of a Counter Claim action being taken against you and you did not respond as required by law with any rebuttal of the claim(s) made, therefore, you have acquiesced to the points raised in said NOTICE and are now in a Fault position and I am hereby granting you ten (10) days from the date you receive this NOTICE OF FAULT AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE to do so by submitting legal verifiable evidence in rebuttal to the points raised in said legal action taken against you, which you received via certified mail on

May 24, 2021 # [REDACTED]

Your failure to respond and correct your fault will result in a DEFAULT JUDGMENT against you in both your corporate and personal capacity.

This is your final opportunity to respond and address my grievances filed by me against you by me, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] © a God created living woman upon the soil. I am not a corporate fiction created by and through the corporate government, you therefore may deal with me in your personal capacity as prescribed by law.

Further, I, [REDACTED] © the God created living woman defined herein saith naught. Done this 16th day of June in the year of our LORD two thousand twenty-one anno domini.

Sincerely, without prejudice,

[REDACTED] sui juris

Executor of the [REDACTED]
ESTATE/TRUST, CREDITOR/LIENHOLDER, AND
SOLE BENEFICIARY

In June 2021,
at least some of the
public officials received
a document titled
“Notice of Fault and
Opportunity to Cure.”

← NAME IN ALL CAPS – THE “CORPORATE” NAME

In July 2021, the public officials received file-stamped copies of a “Notice of Default Judgment” and a “Three (3) Day Notice to Settle” that had been filed with the County Register of Deeds. In the document, Jane identified herself as a “Judgement Holder”.

The Notice of Default Judgment stated:

“Each of you by your failure to respond to the eight (8) causes of action against each of you hereby and herein are in default and a sum certain amount of **five thousand dollars (\$5000)** per cause of action has now been established and agreed to by each of you as and for damages and injury to the herein identified injured party.”

GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO THE RESCUE!

- In 2018, after the East Tennessee sovereign citizen indictments, the General Assembly enacted T.C.A. § 66-21-105. The new law provides a way for public officials to contest a lien, encumbrance, or other document that is filed with the register of any county and reasonably constitutes a cloud on title of real property.
- “Public official” includes:
 - Any elected or appointed government official (state, county, metropolitan, or municipal) (**JUDICIAL COMMISSIONERS**)
 - A head of a governmental department or agency who is involved in implementing policy
 - A high-ranking employee within a branch of government who has primary responsibility for certain functions defined by statute
 - A first responder
 - A law enforcement officer

**T.C.A.
§ 66-21-105**

To contest the lien, a public official may file a notarized affidavit, signed under penalty of perjury, that contains:

- A recital designating the type of instrument, office, book, and page #;
- The affiant/public official's mailing address;
- A statement that the affiant is a public official;
- A statement that the affiant/public official believes the document was filed without any reasonable basis or legal cause, and an explanation of why; and
- A statement that the affiant/public official is not filing the affidavit contesting any document held by a bank, credit union, mortgage lender, the VA, etc.

T.C.A. § 66-21-105

The law requires the Tennessee Secretary of State's Office to create and maintain an affidavit to be used by public officials in contesting liens filed with a county register of deeds. See <https://sos.tn.gov/businesses/forms-and-fees> - "Notarized Affidavit Register of Deeds"

County Register of Deeds Fraudulent Lien Filings

-  [Uncontested Lien Affidavit \(PDF, 733.0KB\)](#)
-  [Notarized Affidavit Register of Deeds \(PDF, 721.1KB\)](#)
-  [Certification Form \(PDF, 660.1KB\)](#)
-  [Certification Form No Listing of Secured Party \(PDF, 672.3KB\)](#)

The Secretary of State's website also includes a form that can be used by public officials in contesting a fraudulent UCC lien filed with the Secretary of State. See <https://sos.tn.gov/businesses/forms-and-fees> - "UCC Fraudulent Lien Filing"

NOTARIZED AFFIDAVIT - COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS

This document must be filed in the County Register of Deeds office where the lien was filed. Please see the instructions to complete and submit this form.

For Office Use Only

No filing fee required

PUBLIC OFFICIAL

First: _____ MI: _____ Last: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Phone#: (_____) _____ Email: _____

CONTESTED DOCUMENT

Type of document: _____

Office document was filed in: _____

Book and Page number of the document: _____

ATTESTATION

State of Tennessee, County of _____ Affiant makes oath as follows:

By checking this box, I attest that I am a "public official" as defined under Title 66, Chapter 21, Part 1.

By checking this box, I attest that I believe, based on my personal knowledge, that the document was filed without any reasonable basis or legal cause.

In the space below, provide a detailed explanation that outlines the factual basis why the filed record lacks any reasonable basis or legal cause. If the explanation will not fit in the space provided, please attach a detailed explanation and write in the space below 'See Attached.'

NOTARIZED AFFIDAVIT - COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS

This document must be filed in the County Register of Deeds office where the lien was filed. Please see the instructions to complete and submit this form.

For Office Use Only

No filing fee required

By checking this box, I attest that I am not filing the affidavit contesting any document held by any of the following:

1. A state or national bank or trust company insured by the federal deposit insurance corporation or an operating subsidiary of such a bank or trust company;
2. A state or federal credit union insured by the national credit union administration;
3. A residential mortgage lender or an industrial loan and thrift company licensed by the Tennessee Department of Financial Institutions;
4. An entity regulated by the federal farm credit administration;
5. The federal housing administration (FHA);
6. A federal home loan bank;
7. The federal national mortgage association (FannieMae);
8. The federal home loan mortgage corporation (FreddieMac);
9. The federal agricultural mortgage corporation (FarmerMac);
10. The veterans administration (VA); or
11. Any lien, encumbrance, or other document that is filed with the register, where the mortgage electronic registration system is listed as the nominee for the originator, owner, or holder of the debt.

SIGNATURES

 Affiant's (Public Official) Signature

 Signature Date

 Notary Signature

My Commission expires: _____

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, 20 _____

**T.C.A.
§ 66-21-105**

- Once an affidavit is filed with the register of deeds, “the register shall indicate on any available indices that the document referenced” in the affidavit “is ‘Contested – Under Review.’”
- Within 3 days of the affidavit being filed, the public official must send a copy of the affidavit by registered or certified mail, with return receipt requested, to the party who filed the lien/document.
 - Delivery is complete upon acceptance, a showing of refusal to accept, or return of the affidavit as undeliverable or unclaimed.
 - If there is no address provided, there is a Certification Form that can be used.

**T.C.A.
§ 66-21-105**

- If the filing party has a good faith and reasonable basis / legal cause for filing the lien/document, then he/she has 20 business days from delivery of the affidavit to file an action in chancery court of the county where the document was filed, naming the public official as an interested party in the case caption.
- The chancery court action must be accompanied by a \$200 cost bond.

**T.C.A.
§ 66-21-105**

If no cause of action is filed within the 20-business-day time period allotted, the public official may file a signed certification of this fact, verified by the Clerk, with the register of deeds, along with an Uncontested Lien Affidavit. See <https://sos.tn.gov/businesses/forms-and-fees> - “Uncontested Lien Affidavit” and “Certification Form”

This certification serves as a release of the lien, encumbrance, or other document!

COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS - UNCONTESTED LIEN AFFIDAVIT

This document must be filed in the County Register of Deeds office where the lien was filed. Please see the instructions to complete and submit this form.

For Office Use Only

No filing fee required

PUBLIC OFFICIAL

First: _____ MI: _____ Last: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Phone#: (____) _____ Email: _____

CONTESTED DOCUMENT

Type of document: _____

Office document was filed in: _____

Book and Page number of the document: _____

Return receipt card number: _____

Return receipt card was mailed: _____ (date)

The return receipt card:

was returned indicating delivery was made on _____ (date)
MM/DD/YYYY

was not returned, therefore the affidavit is deemed uncontested

was returned undeliverable, therefore the affidavit is deemed uncontested

was refused, therefore the affidavit is deemed uncontested

AND

Twenty (20) days have lapsed since the date of delivery of the affidavit to the filing party or refusal or failure to sign the return receipt with no petition having been filed in response to the Contested Lien Affidavit; therefore, the affidavit is considered uncontested and this certification shall serve as a release of the contested document.

OR

I certify, under penalty of perjury, that the contested document did not contain the name or address of the filing party, plaintiff, complainant, lienor, or owner of the lien and therefore this certification shall serve as a release of the contested document.

COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS - UNCONTESTED LIEN AFFIDAVIT

This document must be filed in the County Register of Deeds office where the lien was filed. Please see the instructions to complete and submit this form.

For Office Use Only

No filing fee required

I certify under penalty of perjury the information contained on this document is accurate and correct.

Affiant's (Public Official) Signature

Signature Date

Notary Signature

My Commission expires: _____

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, 20 _____

County Register Signature

Date

Clerk and Master Name

Clerk and Master Signature

Date

Seal of the Clerk

CERTIFICATION FORM	
<p>This document must be filed in the County Register of Deeds office where the lien was filed. Please see the instructions to complete and submit this form.</p>	<p><i>For Office Use Only</i></p> <p><i>No filing fee required</i></p>
PUBLIC OFFICIAL	
<p>First: _____ MI: _____ Last: _____</p> <p>Mailing Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>Phone#: (____) _____ Email: _____</p>	
CONTESTED DOCUMENT	
<p>Type of document: _____</p> <p>Office document was filed in: _____</p> <p>Book and Page number of the document: _____</p>	
<p>_____ Affiant's (Public Official) Signature</p> <p style="margin-left: 150px;">_____ Signature Date</p> <p>_____ Notary Signature</p> <p>My Commission expires: _____</p> <p>Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, 20 _____</p>	

CERTIFICATION FORM	
<p>This document must be filed in the County Register of Deeds office where the lien was filed. Please see the instructions to complete and submit this form.</p>	<p><i>For Office Use Only</i></p> <p><i>No filing fee required</i></p>
<p>To be completed by Clerk and Master:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No petition has been filed</p> <p>_____ Clerk and Master Name</p> <p>_____ Clerk and Master Signature</p> <p>_____ Date</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Seal of the Clerk</p>	

SO, WHAT HAPPENED WITH JANE?

We filed the requisite paperwork to contest the liens/documents. Jane did not file an action in Chancery Court, and the liens were therefore removed.

**BUT WAIT,
THERE'S
MORE...**

After an investigation by the TBI, Jane was indicted in 2022 on 4 counts of Retaliation for Past Action and 3 counts of Filing a Lien Without a Legal Basis.

**T.C.A. 39-16-510 –
Retaliation for Past Action**

“A person commits the offense of retaliation for past action who harms or threatens to harm a . . . judge, [or] . . . a law enforcement officer . . . by any unlawful act in retaliation for anything the . . . judge . . . [or] law enforcement officer . . . did in an official capacity as . . . judge . . . or a law enforcement officer”

The offense is a Class E Felony.

**T.C.A. 39-17-117 –
Unlawful to Draw a Lien Against
Real or Personal Property
Without Legal Basis**

“It is an offense for any person to knowingly prepare, sign, or file any lien or other document with the intent to encumber any real or personal property when such person has no reasonable basis or any legal cause to place such lien or encumbrance on such real or personal property.”

The offense is a Class E Felony.

Jane waived her right to counsel in December 2022 and filed a document titled “TRUST DIRECTIVE OF THE ELIJAH TRUST”.

Jane then filed:

- A document titled “NOTICE OF AND RECISSION OF TRUST DIRECTIVE OF THE ELIJAH TRUST FOR CAUSE . . .” in January 2023;
- Several documents titled “NOTICE OF AND REPENTANCE OF SINS FOR CAUSE”, a “NOTICE OF AND RESCISSION OF NOTICE OF CLAIM” in January & February 2023;
- Several documents titled “NON-NEGOTIABLE NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE” in February, March, and July 2023, and February 2024;
- Several documents titled “NOTICE OF DISHONOR” in March, May, and June 2023, and January 2024 (she also filed a “CERTIFICATE OF DISHONOR” in February 2024)
- Several documents titled “NON-NEGOTIABLE NOTICE OF INQUIRY” in July 2023

Jane went to trial in early 2025 and represented herself.

She was convicted on all counts.



JANE'S TRIAL

While most dealings with sovereign citizens are simply frustrating for public officials, such encounters have sometimes turned violent.



OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING

- One of Timothy McVeigh's co-conspirators, Terry Nichols, subscribed to sovereign citizen beliefs.
- In February 1992, he attempted to renounce his U.S. citizenship by writing to the local county clerk in Michigan, stating that the political system was corrupt, and declaring himself a "non-resident alien."
- Several months later, he appeared in court and tried to avoid responsibility for some of his credit card bills (he owed approximately \$40,000 altogether), refusing to come before the bench, and shouting at the judge that the government had no jurisdiction over him.
- He is currently incarcerated at a supermax prison in Colorado, where he is serving 161 consecutive life sentences without the possibility of parole for his role in the bombing.



JERRY & JOSEPH KANE

WEST MEMPHIS, AR

2010

In 2010, Officer Bill Evans pulled over a white van for having an unusual-looking Ohio license plate.

It was discovered that the driver, Jerry Kane, did not have a driver license and the van was unregistered. Jerry's 16-year-old son, Joseph Kane, was in the passenger seat.

Officer Brandon Paudert soon arrived on the scene as backup, at which time Officer Evans attempted to pat down Jerry Kane.

Jerry resisted and Officer Evans and Jerry tumbled into the ditch.

At that time, Joseph Kane opened the passenger door to the van with an AK-47. Both officers were fatally injured, with Officer Evans sustaining 8 gunshot wounds, and Officer Paudert sustaining 14 gunshot wounds.

Jerry and Joseph Kane were stopped in a Walmart parking lot, where they were both killed in a shoot-off with police.

WEST MEMPHIS POLICE SHOOTING

- It was revealed that Jerry Kane traveled around the country with his son Joseph traveled the country with Jerry giving paid seminars on methods of “forestalling foreclosures”, lecturing that money and home loans are fictitious, and that people can simply sign a quitclaim deed and live in their houses mortgage-free (based on arguments of the “redemption movement”).



SOVEREIGN OFFICIAL TRAILER

IF YOU ENCOUNTER A SOVEREIGN CITIZEN...

- As public officials, you will undoubtedly come across some arrestees/defendants who make your job extra challenging.
- If you encounter a sovereign citizen during the course of your duties, remember to:
 - Exercise patience / maintain composure
 - Go through the bail factors as best you can
 - Don't attempt to argue
- If you ever find yourself in a situation where a sovereign citizen arrestee/defendant decides to engage in paper terrorism against you, do not fear! There are both civil, and criminal, remedies available for such conduct.

QUESTIONS?