

# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Robert L. Davis, Jr., Trustee of )  
Musiquaa Rayiys Bey PLT, )  
Complainant )  
v. )  
Spire Missouri, Inc. d/b/a Spire, )  
Respondent )

**File No. GC-2025-0276**

## ORDER DENYING RECONSIDERATION

Issue Date: May 2, 2025

Effective Date: May 2, 2025

On April 11, 2025, Robert L. Davis, Jr., Trustee of Musiquaa Rayiys Bey PLT, filed a complaint with the Commission against Spire Missouri, Inc. d/b/a Spire. The Commission issued a notice of deficiency on April 11, 2025, because Complainant is acting on behalf of a trust, which must be represented by an attorney under Missouri law.

Davis filed a response in opposition to the *Notice of Deficiency*. Davis requests that the Commission withdraw its notice of deficiency, allow Davis to proceed representing the trust in this complaint, and adjudicate the matter on the merits.

Davis states:

“The Commission’s Notice incorrectly asserts that a trustee must be an attorney to file a complaint on behalf of a trust. However, I am not engaged in the unauthorized practice of law. I am asserting rights associated with financial property belonging to the trust, including billing offsets, credits, and reporting instruments issued by Spire Missouri Inc. These actions are proper and authorized duties of a trustee under common law and are administrative in nature.”

Davis goes on to assert that *Collison v. Dir. of Revenue*, 621 S.W.3d 165 (Mo.banc 2021), applies to statutory or corporate entities, but does not apply in this case because Davis’ trust is not a statutory entity and does not operate as a corporate body.

The Commission disagrees with Davis' position. The reviewing court in *Collison v. Dir. of Revenue* found that ownership by an individual and ownership by a trust are not interchangeable. *Collison v. Dir. of Revenue* notes that statutory entities, such as trusts, are given benefits under the law not afforded natural persons. A trust creates a separate legal entity and placing property in a trust confers certain legal advantages, such as passing property without going through probate. However, a trust also has other legal consequences. The required representation of a trust by counsel before courts in Missouri (and by extension before the Commission) is one of those consequences. Davis and the trust are not one in the same. As an unlicensed individual, Davis has no right to represent anyone or any legal entity other than himself in his individual capacity.

*Collison v. Dir. of Revenue* does not draw a distinction between different types of trusts for the purpose of the representation requirement. The court states: "Indeed, the fundamental nature of a trust is such that it alters the legal nature of titled property" and "Missouri law, therefore, clearly distinguishes between natural persons and trusts; they are legally distinct entities."<sup>1</sup> As noted in the *Notice of Deficiency*, "A statutory entity such as a trust or corporation must appear in court through counsel, and, **while an individual property owner may appear pro se, a trustee cannot.**"<sup>2</sup> The Commission does not have the authority to do otherwise: no party can consent to the unauthorized practice of law.<sup>3</sup>

Therefore, the Commission will not withdraw its *Notice of Deficiency* and allow Davis to represent the trust in this complaint. The law requires that a licensed attorney represent a trust. The Commission will take no further action in this matter until such time

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<sup>1</sup> *Collison v. Dir. of Revenue*, 621 S.W.3d 165, 168 (Mo.banc 2021).

<sup>2</sup> *Collison v. Dir. of Revenue*, 621 S.W.3d 165, 168 (Mo.banc 2021).

<sup>3</sup> *Naylor Senior Citizens Housing, LP v. Side Const. Co., Inc.* 423 S.W.3d 238, 250 (Mo.banc 2014).

as the deficiency is corrected and will dismiss this complaint if the trust does not obtain a licensed attorney to represent the trust within 90 days from the date of this order.<sup>4</sup>

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. Robert Davis' request that the Commission reconsider and withdraw its *Notice of Deficiency* allowing him to represent the trust is denied.
2. This order is effective when issued.



**BY THE COMMISSION**

*Nancy Dippell*

Nancy Dippell  
Secretary

John T. Clark, Senior Regulatory Law Judge,  
by delegation of authority pursuant to  
Section 386.240, RSMo 2016.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2025.

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<sup>4</sup> Commission Rule CSR 4240-2.116(2) Dismissal.

**STATE OF MISSOURI**

**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.**

**WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2025.**



*Nancy Dippell*

**Nancy Dippell**  
**Secretary**

**MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**May 2, 2025**

**File/Case No. GC-2025-0276**

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**Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).**

**Sincerely,**



**Nancy Dippell  
Secretary**

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Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.