

Defendant Teachworth's control can only be described as a living-hell which caused permanent mental injuries to Plaintiff.

Plaintiff is a professional chef who creates customized menus and food options for her clients. Typically, Plaintiff works five-days a week at the client's home, preparing all of their meals and ensuring her clients receive adequate and healthy nutrition. In some cases, Plaintiff will actually live with her clients and cook for them on a daily-basis.

In August 2016, "Jenny," the chef for Defendant Joan Teachworth at that time, contacted Plaintiff. Jenny explained Defendant Joan Teachworth needed professional chef services because of her battle with cancer. Jenny told Plaintiff that she found a new position and the family needed a replacement. Jenny put Plaintiff into contact with Defendant Joan Teachworth's son, Jon Christopher Teachworth ("Jon Teachworth"). After negotiations, Plaintiff accepted the chef position. Defendant Joan Teachworth and her son Jon were Plaintiff's supervisors. They demanded that she work five and a half days a week, twelve hours a day. Defendants paid for Plaintiff's services by and through TFT Galveston Portfolio, Ltd. Her responsibilities included *only* chef related work.

Plaintiff started her job in September 2016. Beginning on the first day, Defendant Joan Teachworth criticized and critiqued every aspect of Plaintiff's cooking and menus. She demanded her food be cut a certain way, cooked a certain way and prepared a certain way. She would send back any food that did not meet her satisfaction and often requested conflicting orders which were impossible to complete. This type of behavior became routine.

As the weeks passed, Defendant Joan Teachworth's assistants began systematically quitting because of her actions. She lost her personal assistant and nearly

every housekeeper quit. By October 2016, Plaintiff was the last remaining employee under Defendant Joan Teachworth's control. As a result, Plaintiff's responsibilities suddenly shifted from being a chef to becoming the 24/7 caretaker of Defendant Joan Teachworth. Plaintiff cooked all of her meals, she assisted Defendant Joan Teachworth with showering, she checked her bowel movements when requested, she drove her to the hospital for her appointments, she created her errand and eating schedules, and she changed the bandages and tubes associated with Defendant Joan Teachworth's cancer treatment.

Instead of showing appreciation for Plaintiff's care, Defendant Teachworth verbally and physically abused Plaintiff twelve hours a day, nearly six days a week for several months. Some examples of Defendant Teachworth's extreme and outrageous conduct are:

- Defendant Teachworth defecated inside of a bathtub and requested that Plaintiff clean it out;
- Defendant Teachworth defecated on the tile floor and instructed Plaintiff to clean the floor;
- Defendant Teachworth would regularly defecate in her underwear and tell Plaintiff, "I just shit in my underwear. You need to clean it";
- Defendant Teachworth would defecate on toilet paper and present it to Plaintiff, asking her, "do you want a chocolate chip?"
- Defendant Teachworth would regularly stand one to three inches away from Plaintiff's face and scream at the top of her lungs, berating Plaintiff's intelligence and choices regarding cooking;
- When Defendant Teachworth would berate Plaintiff by screaming at her, she would purposefully defecate in her pants during the conversation and tell Plaintiff to clean her clothing;

- If Defendant Teachworth became frustrated with Plaintiff, she would remove all of her clothing and go into the back yard, get on all four extremities, and spread her genitals towards Plaintiff to elicit a response;
- Defendant Joan Teachworth used vile and vulgar language on a daily basis, including when she would threaten to fire Plaintiff; and
- During their arguments, Defendant Teachworth would frequently assault Plaintiff by physically charging at her. When doing so, Defendant Teachworth would put her arms straight down by her sides, ball her hands into fists, and walk quickly or lunge at Plaintiff, stopping uncomfortably close to Plaintiff.

In November 2016, Plaintiff contacted Defendant Jon Teachworth about his mother's actions and the hostile work environment created by her conduct. Plaintiff requested Jon Teachworth hire professional assistive care or medically trained personnel to help take care of Defendant Joan Teachworth. Plaintiff was concerned for the safety and well-being of Defendant Joan Teachworth and herself because of Defendant Joan Teachworth's increasingly abhorrent behavior. Plaintiff's request was denied. Instead, Defendant Jon Teachworth told Plaintiff to interview and hire new assistants if she wanted additional help.

Defendant Joan Teachworth's conduct did not improve. During the following weeks, Plaintiff made several additional requests to Defendant Jon Teachworth about hiring professional caregivers to assist with Defendant Joan Teachworth. These requests were all ignored. Defendant Jon Teachworth instructed Plaintiff to "try to hug Joan" when she became agitated. He said this would calm her down.

On December 5, 2016, Plaintiff cooked for Defendant Joan Teachworth as she normally did. Defendant Joan Teachworth entered the kitchen and began criticizing Plaintiff's actions. Noticing that Defendant Joan Teachworth was frustrated, Plaintiff followed Defendant Jon Teachworth's advice and tried to give her a hug. When Plaintiff

approached Defendant Joan Teachworth, she suddenly extended her arms outwards and shoved Plaintiff while shouting, “No!” The abrupt and unexpected assault caused Plaintiff to fall backwards and into the kitchen cabinetry. She immediately experienced sharp, burning pain in her cervical spine.

Plaintiff quit her employment with Defendants on January 5, 2017. As a result of the incident, Plaintiff suffers from constant neck and back pain. She also experiences tingling, numbness and radiculopathy in her bilateral hands and forearms. Defendant Joan Teachworth’s daily use of profanity, short temper, and her abusive, vile and vulgar dictatorial manner caused Plaintiff permanent emotional harm which still affects her to this day.

II. DISCOVERY PLAN

Plaintiff intends to conduct discovery under Level 2 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

III. PARTIES

Plaintiff is an individual who lives in League City, Texas

Defendant Joan Teachworth is an individual residing in the state of Texas. She may be served at 5023 Woodrow, Galveston, Texas 77551 or wherever found.

Defendant Jon Christopher Teachworth is an individual residing in the state of Texas. He may be served at 5023 Woodrow, Galveston, Texas 77551 or wherever found.

Defendant TFT Galveston Portfolio, LTD. is a domestic limited partnership doing business in the state of Texas. It may be served by and through its registered agent: Galen Mansee, 16203 Cimarron Drive, Magnolia, Texas 77355.

Defendant JDST Holdings, LLC. is a domestic limited liability company doing business in the state of Texas. It may be served by and through its registered agent: Joan D. Teachworth, 5023 Woodrow, Galveston, TX 77551.

Defendant TFT Holdings, LLC. is a domestic limited liability company doing business in the state of Texas. It may be served by and through its registered agent: Joan D. Teachworth, 5023 Woodrow, Galveston, TX 77551.

IV. VENUE AND JURISDICTION

Venue and jurisdiction are proper. All or substantially all of the events giving rise to this lawsuit occurred in this County. The relief requested is within the jurisdictional limits of this Court.

V. CAUSES OF ACTION

A. ASSAULT BY INFLICTION OF BODILY INJURY – DEFENDANT JOAN TEACHWORTH

Plaintiff incorporates all paragraphs above as if they were alleged herein.

At the time of the incident, Defendant Joan Teachworth intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly made contact with Plaintiff's person which caused bodily injury to the Plaintiff. Defendant Joan Teachworth's hands extended from her body and touched Plaintiff's person. Defendant's actions caused Plaintiff's person to hit or collide with kitchen cabinetry.

Defendant Joan Teachworth acted intentionally with respect to the result of her conduct because she had the conscious objective or desire to cause the assault upon Plaintiff's person. In the alternative, Defendant Joan Teachworth acted knowingly or recklessly with respect to the result of her conduct because she was aware that her conduct is reasonably certain to cause the result. Alternatively, Defendant Joan

Teachworth consciously disregarded a substantial and unjustifiable risk that harm would result from her conduct. The risk of Defendant Joan Teachworth's actions is of such a nature and degree that disregarding it constitutes a gross deviation from the standard of care an ordinary person would exercise under all circumstances as viewed from Defendant Joan Teachworth's standpoint.

Defendant Joan Teachworth's actions caused the Plaintiff's injuries. Plaintiff's injuries are the immediate and direct result of the assault because those injuries flow naturally from the assault. Specifically, Plaintiff sustained injuries to her cervical spine and nervous system as a result of Defendant Joan Teachworth's conduct. Plaintiff also sustained emotional distress and mental anguish.

B. INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS – DEFENDANT JOAN TEACHWORTH

Plaintiff incorporates all paragraphs above as if they were alleged herein.

Defendant Joan Teachworth acted intentionally or recklessly during Plaintiff's employment with her. Defendant Joan Teachworth's repeated and ongoing severe harassment of Plaintiff permits recovery. Defendant Joan Teachworth's conduct was extreme and outrageous and this conduct caused Plaintiff severe emotional distress. The conduct described herein brings the dispute outside the scope of an ordinary employment dispute and into the realm of extreme and outrageous conduct.

Each of these acts and omissions, singularly or in combination with others, constitute intentional infliction of emotional distress. As a result of Defendant Joan Teachworth's conduct, Plaintiff suffered permanent and significant injuries.

C. NEGLIGENCE – DEFENDANT JON TEACHWORTH

Plaintiff incorporates all paragraphs above as if they were alleged herein.

At the time of the accident, Defendant Jon Teachworth acted as Plaintiff's supervisor. Defendant Jon Teachworth had a duty to exercise ordinary care and provide a safe work environment for Plaintiff. That duty was breached, and such negligence was a proximate cause of Plaintiff's injuries.

Defendant Jon Teachworth breached his duty of reasonable care in one or more of the following ways, among others:

1. Failing to hire professional caregivers who are trained in 24/7 caregiving and support for individuals like Defendant Joan Teachworth;
2. Failing to warn Plaintiff of Defendant Joan Teachworth's violent propensities and behavior; and
3. Providing reckless instructions to Plaintiff about how to handle Defendant Joan Teachworth's behavior problems which resulted in Plaintiff's injuries

Each of these acts and omissions, singularly or in combination with others, constitute negligence, which was the proximate cause of this incident and the injuries sustained by Plaintiff.

D. GROSS NEGLIGENCE- ALL DEFENDANTS

Plaintiff incorporates all paragraphs above as if they were alleged herein.

Plaintiff will further show that the acts and/or omissions of Defendants, as described above, when viewed objectively from the Defendants' standpoint, involve an extreme degree of risk considering the probability and magnitude of the potential harm to others. Defendants had actual subjective awareness of the risk involved, but nevertheless proceeded in conscious indifference to the rights, safety, and/or welfare of the others, including Plaintiff. Defendants' actions during Plaintiff's employment were beyond reckless and caused severe harm.

As such, Defendants' actions and omissions constitute gross negligence and malice as those terms are understood by law.

E. ALTER EGO

Plaintiff incorporates all paragraphs above as if they were alleged herein.

Defendants TFT Galveston Portfolio, LTD., JDST Holdings, LLC, and TFT Holdings, LLC., are the alter egos of Defendants Joan D. Teachworth and Jon Christopher Teachworth. These business entities are organized and operate as mere tools or business conduits of Defendants Joan D. Teachworth and Jon Christopher. All of the aforementioned entities and Defendants Joan D. Teachworth and Jon Christopher are jointly and severally liable for each other's acts because they are the alter egos of one another.

VI. DAMAGES

Plaintiff seeks damages for physical pain and suffering, past and future; disfigurement and physical impairment, past and future; mental anguish; medical expenses, past and future; and loss of earning capacity, past and future. Because of the egregious nature of Defendants' actions, Plaintiff seeks punitive damages.

VII. REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE

Pursuant to Tex. R. Civ. P. 194, Plaintiff requests that each Defendant disclose within fifty (50) days of service of this Request for Disclosure, the information and/or material described in Rule 194.2.

VIII. REQUEST FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff respectfully demands a jury trial and tenders the appropriate fee with this petition.

IX. PRAYER

By reason of all the above and foregoing, and on account of the injuries suffered by Plaintiff as a result of this incident, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants damages set forth in this petition, within the jurisdictional limits of this Court. Plaintiff seeks damages in excess of \$1,000,000. Plaintiff also seeks pre and post judgment interest at the maximum legal rate, costs of court, and any other relief to which Plaintiff may be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

THE BUZBEE LAW FIRM

By: /s/ Anthony G. Buzbee

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