

Shutting Down a Scam Lawsuit in Three Days

August 29, 2025



Imagine waking up to a bank notification that you just received money from a total stranger.

That's exactly what happened to a recent out-of-state client of mine. Eight months pregnant, no ties to Virginia, and without a clue as to who the mystery sender was. Suspecting an honest mistake, or at worst, fraud, she immediately contacted her bank and had the mysterious Zelle transaction reversed that same day. Problem solved, right?

Not even close.

From Push Notification to Pressure Campaign

A few days after the reversal, my client began receiving text messages and phone calls from someone claiming to be the original sender. This individual insisted that she return the money, despite the bank having already reversed the transaction. The client calmly explained this and cut off contact. Then came the real twist.

Weeks later, she was served with a Warrant in Debt in Virginia from someone she had *never* heard of. Panic set in. Not only was she facing a court hearing in a state where she didn't reside, but she had less than a week to respond. That's when she called me.

Three Names, Zero Credibility

When I reviewed the case, it quickly became clear: this wasn't a legitimate debt collection, but rather a shakedown. The person who filed the lawsuit wasn't the one who originally Zelle'd her the funds, nor was it the same individual who had been texting and calling her. In fact, three different names were tied to this single scam. Furthermore, the claim was riddled with procedural issues, including questionable service, jurisdictional overreach, and no coherent claim. It had all the hallmarks of a desperate (and sloppy) attempt to intimidate someone into paying money they didn't owe.

Courtroom Showdown — Or Not

I appeared on her behalf at the hearing. When the would-be scammer saw I was there and prepared with a stack of papers, he looked stunned. Clearly, he didn't expect anyone to show up, let alone with legal representation ready to pick apart the claim. I laid out the numerous procedural deficiencies and jurisdictional arguments. The plaintiff folded. The case was dismissed immediately.

Why This Case Matters

This case serves as a reminder of how scammers are evolving and how the legal system can be weaponized in new ways to harass and intimidate. It's also a testament to how effective legal help can make a difference. With just a few days' notice, we were able to respond, appear, and get the case thrown out. Allowing the client to put the ordeal behind her.

If you've been blindsided by a suspicious lawsuit or served with something that just doesn't feel right, trust your instincts and don't wait. Getting a legal opinion early can be the difference between panic and peace of mind.