

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Jocelynn Shear Bliss, LLC	:	
	:	
v.	:	C-2024-3052538
	:	
FirstEnergy Pennsylvania Electric Company	:	

**INTERIM ORDER
DIRECTING COMPLAINANT TO CAUSE COUNSEL TO ENTER APPEARANCE**

On December 16, 2024, Jocelynn Shear Bliss, LLC (Complainant) filed a Formal Complaint (Complaint) with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) against FirstEnergy Pennsylvania Electric Company (FE PA, Company, or Respondent), alleging that the Company was threatening to shut off service or had already shut off service and requesting a payment arrangement (PAR). Under requested relief, the Complaint reads,

Payment arrangement. I was on arrangement when I started service and when they realized I was a business, I am now responsible for [the] whole amount at once, \$3000. A payment arrangement should be offered. When I spoke to West Penn they were very rude and said because I am a business, there is nothing they can do.

Complaint, pg. 3. Regarding service by the Commission, Complainant selected to be served by eService.

On January 6, 2025, Respondent filed an Answer to the Complaint. FE PA admits it provides service to Complainant at 6347 National Pike, Grindstone, PA (service location) and served a termination notice on November 26, 2024, due to a past due amount of \$3,158.60. FE PA denies it has active intent to terminate the Complainant's service as termination efforts ceased upon receipt of the instant Formal Complaint.

FE PA admits it advised Complainant that a commercial retail electric service is not eligible for a payment plan. The Company avers that Complainant was never issued a payment plan because the account is a General Service (GS) account. The Company further avers that Complainant has been advised once by the Company and three times by the Commission's Bureau of Consumer Services (BCS) that GS accounts are not eligible for a PAR. As to the remaining allegations, the Company specifically avers that at all times relevant to this proceeding, the Company's actions have been reasonable and performed in accordance with all applicable laws, as well as the Company's Commission-approved tariffs, the Public Utility Code, and Commission regulations and orders.

Finally, FE PA notes Complainant must be represented by counsel in these proceedings. It notes that the Complaint was signed by Complainant's owner, Jocelynn Frisco, who may not represent Complainant since she is not an attorney.

On February 19, 2025, the Commission issued a Hearing Notice assigning this matter to me and scheduling an evidentiary hearing for April 2, 2025. The Hearing Notice reads, in pertinent part,

REPRESENTATION. If you are an individual, you may represent yourself or you may have an attorney represent you. All others, including a partnership, corporation, trust, association, or governmental agency or subdivision, must be represented by an attorney licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania, or admitted *pro hac vice*. Only an attorney may represent someone else.

See Hearing Notice, pg, 2.

On February 19, 2025, I issued a Prehearing Order, which reads, in pertinent part,

REPRESENTATION. If you are an individual, you may represent yourself or you may have an attorney represent you. All others, including a partnership, corporation, trust, association, or governmental agency or subdivision, must be represented an attorney licensed to practice law in

Pennsylvania, or admitted *pro hac vice*. And, unless you are an attorney, you may not represent someone else.

See Prehearing Order, pg. 4 (citations omitted).

The Commission's regulations provide that "[i]n adversarial proceedings, partnerships, corporations, trusts, associations, agencies, political subdivisions and government entities shall be represented only by . . . an attorney." 52 Pa. Code § 1.21. An adversarial proceeding is defined as "a proceeding initiated by a person to seek authority, approvals, tariff changes, enforcement, fines, remedies or other relief from the Commission which is contested by one or more other persons and which will be decided on the basis of a formal record." 52 Pa. Code § 1.8.

A non-attorney owner/operator of a limited liability corporation may file a complaint, but, once an answer is filed, the limited liability corporation must thereafter be represented by counsel. *Cars R Us c/o Holman Copeland v. PGW*, Docket No. C-2008-2033437 (Order entered February 4, 2010). The absence of an attorney where one is required deprives the Commission of jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter. *Scheaffer v PPL Electric Utilities Corp.*, Docket No. F-2016-2577647 (Opinion and Order entered April 3, 2018).

The Commission's obligation to require attorneys in adversarial proceedings for parties other than individual *pro se* proceedings is well-settled:

In Pennsylvania, the Supreme Court is responsible for regulating the practice of law, and this Commission is bound by the Supreme Court's rules. The only persons authorized to practice law in Pennsylvania are as follows: (1) persons fully admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar; (2) persons admitted *pro hac vice* under Rule 301; and (3) persons qualified as certified legal interns under Rule 321. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court in *Shorz v. Farrell*, 327 Pa. 81, 193 A.20 (1937), held that if the nature of an administrative hearing is to determine questions of fact or interpretation of administrative law, then the hearing is of a judicial character. Any participation in such a hearing constitutes the practice of law. Accordingly, it would be

unlawful to allow non attorney representation in adversarial proceedings before the Commission.

James and Judith Simon v. Franklin Water Company, Docket No. C-00956589 (Order entered January 29, 1996).

Complainant clearly identifies itself as “Jocelynn Shear Bliss, LLC,” in the Complaint. A limited liability corporation is a business entity that, under the Commission’s rules and applicable case law, must be represented by counsel. Since FE PA has now filed an Answer to the Complaint, this proceeding is considered adversarial. While Ms. Jocelynn Frisco may continue to represent Complainant informally in attempts to resolve the Complaint outside of the evidentiary hearing, in order to proceed with the Complaint at an evidentiary hearing, Complainant must be represented by counsel.

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That, by **March 19, 2025**, Jocelynn Shear Bliss, LLC, shall cause counsel to enter his or her appearance in accordance with the provisions of 52 Pa.Code § 1.24(b).
2. That Complainant’s failure to comply with Ordering Paragraph 1 may result in dismissal of the Complaint.

Date: February 20, 2024

/s/
Emily I. DeVoe
Administrative Law Judge

**C-2024-3052538 - JOCELYNN FRISCO T/A JOCELYN'N SHEAR BLISS LLC v.
FIRSTENERGY PENNSYLVANIA ELECTRIC COMPANY**

Revised 2/19/2025

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Served via eService February 20, 2025

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Served via eService February 20, 2025