

159  
1920  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF

BALTIMORE CITY.

EVELYN OFFORD

VS.

CHARLES OFFORD

1718 Barnes St.

B-28492

BILL FOR DIVORCE

Mr. Clerk:-

117  
Please file.

Davis Evans

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF.

B-28492

J. STEWARD DAVIS

ATTORNEY AT LAW

215 SAINT PAUL PLACE

BALTIMORE, MD.

77 3' March 1920

EVELYN OFFORD : IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
VS. : OF  
CHARLES OFFORD : BALTIMORE CITY.

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TO THE HONORABLE, THE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

Your Oratrix complaining respectfully represents:

1. That she was married to her husband, Charles Offord on or about the 2nd day of October, 1920 and that they lived together as man and wife until the 27th day of January, 1923 when the defendant deserted the plaintiff.
2. That ever since said marriage your Oratrix has behaved herself as a faithful, chaste and affectionate wife toward the said Charles Offord.
3. That the said Charles Offord has on divers days and times since said marriage, committed the crime of adultery with divers, lewd and abandoned women in Baltimore City, whose names to your Oratrix are unknown., and said offense has not been condoned by your Oratrix.
4. That your Oratrix has not lived or cohabited with the said defendant since she discovered his said adulteries.
5. That there are no children born as issue of said marriage.
6. That both your Oratrix and the defendant are citizens of the State of Maryland, having resided in Baltimore City for more than three years prior to the filing of this bill.
7. Your Oratrix further states that she is without means to defray the expenses of this suit and avers that the defendant is employed and is making about thirty dollars per week. She is

advised by Counsel that she may petition this Honorable Court that the defendant be required to pay her a reasonable amount as Counsel fee and an amount sufficient to support herself during the pendency of this suit.

TO THE END, THEREFORE:

- (a) That your Oratrix may be divorced A Vinculo Matrimonii from the said Charles Offord.
- (b) Alimony pendente lite.
- (c) That she may resume her maiden name MASON.
- (d) That she may have such other and further relief as her case may require.

May it please your Honor to grant unto your Oratrix the Writ of Subpoena directed to the said Charles Offord, commanding and requiring him to be and appear in this Court on some day certain to be named therein to answer the premises and abide by and perfor, such decree or order as may be passed therein.

AND as in duty bound, etc.

*Davis Evans*  
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF.

P18

Ct. Ct.

159

192 5 B Docket No.

Evelyn Offord

vs.

Charles Offord

1718 Barnes St

SUBPOENA TO ANSWER BILL OF COMPLAINT

*Prw*  
*B*  
No. 28497

(2) 3

18 Mch

Filed 192 5

13 April  
Davis & Evans

4

SOLICITOR

6

Non Est  
(McKilley)

John E. Pote  
Sheriff

RETURNED TO

3/18 1895  
April 5  
Chas. R. Whiteford

Summoned and a Copy of the Process left with  
the defendant.

(McKilley)

Case \$0.80

John E. Pote  
Sheriff

4/9/25

EQUITY SUBPOENA

The State of Maryland

To Charles Offord

FILED  
1925  
MAY 10

of Baltimore City, Greeting:

WE COMMAND AND ENJOIN YOU, That all excuses set aside, you do within the time limited by law beginning on the second Monday of March next cause an appearance to be entered for you and your answer to be filed to the complaint of

Evelyn Offord

against you exhibited in the Circuit Court of Baltimore City,

HEREOF fail not, as you will answer the contrary at your peril.

WITNESS, the Honorable JAMES P. GORTER, Chief Judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, the 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 1925  
Issued the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, in the year 1925

*Chas. R. Whiteford* Clerk

MEMORANDUM: You are required to file your answer or other defense in the Clerk's Office, room 206, in the Court House, Baltimore City, within fifteen days after return day.

(General Equity Rules 11)

B159  
1925.

Docket

Ct. Ct.

65B

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Evelyn Ford  
vs.

Charles Ford

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**Decree Pro Confesso.**

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Q 2 8492

No.

(4)

Filed

19 April 1925

Evelyn Offord  
vs.

Charles Offord

IN THE  
**Circuit Court**  
OF  
BALTIMORE CITY.

March Term, 1925

The Defendant having been duly summoned (~~notified by Order of Publication~~) to appear to the Bill of Complaint, and having failed to appear thereto, according to the exigency of the writ, (~~said Order~~).

It is thereupon this 29 day of ~~May~~ in the year nineteen hundred and twenty five by the Circuit Court of Baltimore City, ADJUDGED, ORDERED and DECREED, that the complainant is entitled to relief in the premises, and that the bill of Complaint be and is hereby taken pro confesso against the defendant. But because it doth not certainly appear to what relief the Plaintiff is entitled, it is further *Adjudged*, and *Ordered*, that one of the Examiners of this Court, take testimony to support the allegations of the bill.

George A. Solter

Pd.

Doc. B  $\frac{159}{1925}$

**In the Circuit Court,  
OF BALTIMORE CITY**

**DEPOSITIONS**

*Evelyn Afford*

vs.

*Charles Afford*

No. *28492B*

**PLAINTIFF'S COSTS**

Examiners.....	<i>(57)</i>	\$ <i>9.00</i>
Copies.....		
Sheriff.....		
Stenographer.....		
		\$ _____

**DEFENDANT'S COSTS**

Examiners.....	\$ _____
Copies.....	_____
Sheriff.....	_____
Stenographer.....	_____
	\$ _____

*pd 20 May 1925*

*Evelyn Afford*

vs.

*Charles Afford*

In the Circuit Court

OF BALTIMORE CITY.

Decree Pro Confesso having been passed in said cause and notice having been given me by the Solicitor for the Plaintiff

of a desire to take testimony in the same, I, A. de RUSSY SAPPINGTON, one of the Standing Examiners of the Circuit Courts of Baltimore City, under and by virtue of an order of the above named Circuit Court, passed in said cause on the

*twenty-ninth* day of *April* 19*25*

the *twenty-ninth* day of *April* in the year nineteen

hundred and *twenty-five* at my office, in the city of Baltimore, in the State

of Maryland, and assigned the *thirtieth* day of *April*

in the same year at *one* o'clock in the *after-*noon and the

office of *Messrs. Davis & Evans,* in the City and State

aforsaid, as the time and place for such examination of witnesses in said cause;

at which last mentioned time and place I attended, due notice of such meeting

having been given, and proceeded in the presence of the Solicitor of the

*Plaintiff* to take the following depositions, that

is to say:—

8-4

Offord,

v.

Offord.

Testimony taken at the office of Mr. Davis,  
Baltimore, Maryland, April 30th., 1925,  
at one O'clock P. M.

Evelyn Offord, the Plaintiff in this case,  
produced on her own behalf, having been first duly  
sworn, deposeth and saith as follows, that is to  
say:

By the Examiner:

1 Q. State your name residence and occupation?

A. Evelyn Offord, 1319 East Madison Street;  
laundry work.

2 Q. Do you know the parties to this suit?

A. I am the Plaintiff and my husband is the De-  
fendant.

By Mr. Davis:

1 Q. When were you married?

A. 2nd., October 1920.

2 Q. Were you married by a Minister of the Gospel?

A. Yes.

3 Q. In Baltimore City

A. Yes.

4 Q. By a Religious Ceremony?

## Evelyn Afford

A. Yes.

5 Q. Have you been a resident of Baltimore City, State of Maryland, for more than two years prior to the filing of this suit?

A. Yes.

6 Q. Are there any children as the result of this marriage?

A. No.

8 Q. What was your conduct towards your husband while living together; how did you treat him?

A. I treated him as a wife should treat her husband; the best I could.

8 Q. State whether or not you were always a kind, affectionate and faithful wife?

A. Yes.

11 Q. Are the parties to this suit living together now?

A. No sir.

12 Q. Which left the other; did he leave you or did you leave him?

A. I left him.

13 Q. When?

A. January 1923.

14 Q. You charge your husband with adultery; do you know anything personally about that?

A. Yes.

Evelyn Afford.

15 Q. Tell us what you know of your own personal knowledge; why did you leave him January 27th., 1923?

A. Because he was keeping company with Bertha Frisby.

16 Q. Did they keep company before that?

A. Yes; ever since we were married; I left him three months after I was married to him.

17 Q. Why?

A. Because he was going with her and spending all of his time there and also he was buying her presents.

18 Q. After you left him,- where were you living with your husband the second time?

A. 428 North Spring Street.

19 Q. After you left him who moved into the house?

A. Bertha Frisby.

20 Q. Did you see them living together as husband and wife?

A. Yes.

21 Q. Was there a child born to Bertha Frisby after you left your husband?

A. Yes.

22 Q. Did you ever see your husband with the child?

Evelyn Afford.

AL Yes.

23 Q. Yes. Where have you seen him with it?

A. I have seen him with it in his arms.

24 Q. Did you ever go to the house where they were living?

A. Yes.

25 Q. Why did you go there?

A. I went to see if we could not come to some understanding.

26 Q. Was Bertha Frisby there?

A. Yes.

27 Q. What did he say?

A. He said that there was 'nt any need of me coming saying anything, because he was going his wife going as he pleased.

28 Q. Where is he living now?

A. On Barnes Street.

29 Q. Who is living there with him?

A. Bertha Frisby

30 Q. Have they any children there?

A. Yes; all the children are there.

31 Q. What children?

A. Three children.

32 Q. What name do they go by.

A. Under the name of Frisby, the big ones but I do not know the name of the other.

Evelyn Afford.

33 Q. Do any of the children that they have there, use his name?

A. Yes, the first one is names Charles Afford.

34 Q. While living with your husband when you went to Church with him, what would he do?

A. Sometimes he sent me home and he would go over and go home with Bertha; He would make me go up the street, and he would go the other way with Bertha.

35 Q. Since you discovered his adultery with Bertha Frisby in January 1923, have you lived or cohabited with your husband?

A. No sir, I have not.

36 Q. Do you wish to resume the use of your maiden name?

A. Yes.

37 Q. What is your maiden name?

A. Macey.

GENERAL QUESTION

Do you know or can you state any other matter or thing that may be to the benefit or advantage of the parties to this suit, or either of them, or that may be material to the subject of this, your examination, or the matters in question between the parties? If so, state the same fully and at large in your answer.

A.---

*Yes. Evelyn Afford*

Ida Ridout, a witness of lawful age, produced on behalf of the Plaintiff, having been first duly sworn, deposes and saith as follows, that is to say:

By the Examiner:

1 Q. State your name residence and occupation?

A. Ida Ridout, 1319 East Madison Street; house wife.

2 Q. Do you know the parties to this suit?

A. Yes.

By Mr. Davis:

1 Q. She is your step-daughter.

A. Yes.

2 Q. Were you present at the wedding?

A. No, but they were married from my home.

3 Q. Did Mrs. Afford and her husband live together as husband and wife?

A. Yes.

4 Q. Did they hold themselves out in the community as husband and wife, and is their reputation that of husband and wife?

A. Yes.

5 Q. Mrs. Offord testified that she left her husband January 27th., 1923; what do you know about that? Why did she leave?

Idea Ridout.

A. She left because of his attentions to Bertha Frisby, and she came to his home when he got ready for her to come there.

6 Q. Bertha Frisby?

A. Yes, Bertha Frisby, and while this wife was there, and the wife objected to her coming there; of course, that was the beginning of the disturbance.

7 Q. After the separation in January 27th., 1923, did you accompany Mrs. Offord to her husband's home?

A. Yes.

8 Q. What did you see when you went there?

A. I saw Mr. Offord and also Bertha Frisby there.

9 Q. Did you have any conversation with Afford?

A. Yes; we did.

10 Q. What was that conversation?

A. I told him that I came to try to reconcile him and his wife, and he said I had'nt anything to do with it, that there was'nt any sense in coming there after him because he knew what he was going to do, and that he was going to continue on as he was going, and my coming there was useless.

Idea Ridout.

11 Q. Now, after Mrs. Offord left her husband in January 1923, who moved into the house?

A. This Bertha girl.

12 Q. Do you mean that he is living there as husband and wife?

A. Yes.

13 Q. They are not living in that house now?

A. No, they went on Barnes Street; he died.

14 Q. Who is living there with him?

A. Bertha her husband, Mr. Offord, and the children.

15 Q. Do you mean that she has children.

A. Yes.

16 Q. By whom?

A. By Offord.

17 Q. Do you know how many children?

A. Three, I think.

18 Q. Have you seen him with any of the children?

A. I have seen two of them.

19 Q. With him?

A. No, not with him.

20 Q. Have you ever seen him take Bertha Frisby from Church?

Ida Ricout.

A. No, because I did not visit that Church.

21 Q. What was Mrs. Offord's conduct towards her husband while living together; how did she treat him?

A. She treated him as a wife.

22 Q. Kind affectionate and faithful wife?

A. Yes.

23 Q. Did she give him any cause or reason for committing this adultery with Bertha Frisby?

A. No sir.

24 Q. Has she lived with him or condoned his offense of adultery since she discovered it in January 1923?

A. No sir; she has been at my home the best part of the time when she was in the City.

25 Q. Has she been a resident of Baltimore City, State of Maryland, for more than two years prior to the filing of this suit?

A. Yes; from childhood.

26 Q. Are there any children as the result of this marriage?

A. No sir.

GENERAL QUESTION

Do you know or can you state any other matter or thing that may be to the benefit or advantage of the parties to this suit, or either of them, or that may be material to the subject of this, your examination, or the matters in question between the parties? If so, state the same fully and at large in your answer.

A.---

*No*

*Ida Ridout.*

No other witnesses being named or produced before me, I then, at the request of the Solicitor.....of the.....*Plaintiff* closed the depositions taken in said cause and now return them closed under my hand and seal, on this.....*19th* day of.....*May* in the year of Our Lord nineteen hundred and.....*Twenty-five* at the City of Baltimore, in the State of Maryland.

*A. de Russey Sappington* (SEAL).  
Examiner.

There are.....*70*.....Exhibits with these depositions, to wit:

Plaintiff's..... Exhibit */*.....

Defendant's..... Exhibit */*.....

*A. de Russey Sappington*  
Examiner.

I, A. de RUSSY SAPPINGTON, the Examiner before whom the foregoing depositions were taken, do hereby certify that I was employed in assigning a day, and taking the said depositions upon.....*two*.....days, on.....*both*..... of which I was employed by the Plaintiff....., and on.....*none*..... by the Defendant.....

*A. de Russey Sappington*  
Examiner.

Circuit Court

159

19 23-26 Docket No. ....

Evelyn Ford

vs.

Charles Ford

Order of Reference  
and Report

B

28492

No. ....

(6)  
Eve

30 May

Order Filed ..... day of ..... 19 25

Report Filed 1<sup>st</sup> day of June 19 25

*Evelyn Efford*

vs.

*Charles Efford*

IN THE  
**Circuit Court**  
OF  
BALTIMORE CITY

*May* Term, 1925

This case being submitted, without argument, it is ordered by the Court, this ~~15~~ <sup>20</sup> day of *May*, 1925, that the same be and it is hereby referred to *Ward B. Cox*, Esq., Auditor and Master, to report the pleadings and the facts, and his opinion thereon.

*George A. Solano*

**Report of Auditor and Master**

Bill for divorce a vinculo matrimonii and for the resumption of her maiden name filed by the wife against her husband on the ground of adultery. Code Art. 16 secs. 37-42.

Defendant summoned.

Plaintiff's residence in Baltimore City for more than two years proven.

The marriage proven.

The adultery proven.

A decree pro confesso was passed against the defendant and more than thirty days have since elapsed.

Case ready for decree.

*Ward B. Cox*

Auditor and Master.

June 1, 1925.

*Pd*

# CIRCUIT COURT

B 159  
1925 No. Docket

EVELYN OFFORD

VS.

CHARLES OFFORD

Recorded

Folio *239* 1925

## Decree of Divorce

B No. *28497*

*Filed 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 1925*

The within is a proper decree to be passed in this case.

*Murd B. Cox*  
Auditor and Master.

