

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

63 OF B 94  
BALTIMORE CITY.  
1923

CATHERINE DOWNS

VS.

NORMAN DOWNS

BILL FOR DIVORCE

Mr. Clerk:-

Please file.

J. Steward Davis  
Solicitor for Complainant

324908

J. Steward Davis  
DAVIS & BISHOP  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

BANNEKER BUILDING  
111 E. PLACANT STREET  
BALTIMORE, MD.

Ad. J. February 1923  
215 St. Paul Place

CATHERINE DOWNS : IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
VS. : OF  
NORMAN DOWNS : BALTIMORE CITY.

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TO THE HONORABLE, THE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

Your Oratrix complaining respectfully says:

- (1) That she was married to her husband, Norman Downs, on or about the 15th day of June, 1916.
- (2). That ever since said marriage your Oratrix has behaved herself as a faithful, chaste and affectionate wife toward the said Norman Downs.
- (3). That said Norman Downs has on divers days and times since said marriage, committed the crime of adultery with divers lewed and abandoned women in Baltimore City, whose names will be disclosed on the day of trial.
- (4). That there is one child, Edward, age four years, born as result of said marriage.
- (5). That your Oratrix has not lived or co-habited with the said Norman Downs since she discovered his adulteries.
- (6). That both your Oratrix and the defendant are citizens of the State of Maryland, having resided in Baltimore City for more than two years prior to the filing of this Bill.
- (7). Your respondent further states that she is destitute and without funds to defray the expenses of this litigation; further that she is without the means of support for herself and child. She is advised by Counsel that she is permitted to

petition this Honorable Court that the defendant shall be compelled to contribute a reasonable amount as alimony pendente lite towards the support of your Oratrix and her said child, and that she will also be awarded an amount in order to compensate her solicitor.

Your defendant is employed as a chauffeur and receives twenty-five dollars per week.

TO THE END THEREFORE:

- a. That your Oratrix may be divorced a Vinculo Matrimonii from the said Norman Downs.
- b. That she may have such other and further relief as her case may require.
- c. That this Honorable Court will decree that the defendant pay a reasonable sum as alimony pendente lite and an additional sum of counsel fee.
- d. Permanent alimony.
- e. Right to resume her maiden name (Handy).

May it please your Honor to grant unto your Oratrix the Writ of Subpoena directed against the said Norman Downs, commanding him 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 perform such decree or order as may be passed therein.

AND as in duty bound, etc.

*J. Steward Davis*  
SOLICITOR FOR COMPLAINANT.

159-165

94 3 B63 Ct. Ct.  
1923 Docket No.

Downs  
" Downs

SUBPOENA TO ANSWER BILL OF COMPLAINT

3 Pro  
No. 24908

(2) (3)  
13 Feb 1923  
" J. S. Carr X  
SOLICITOR

Non Est

Thomas F. Mully  
Sheriff

March 21 1923  
RETURNED TO  
Clerk  
CROSS & WHITEFORD

Thomas F. Mully  
Sheriff

Now Est

EQUITY SUBPOENA

The State of Maryland

To

*Norman Downs*

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 February next cause an appearance to be entered for you and your answer to be filed to the complaint of

*Catherine Downs*

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 8th day of January 1923

Issued the 8 day of February, in the year 1923

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.)

Ct. Ct.

192

Docket No.

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SUBPOENA TO ANSWER BILL OF COMPLAINT

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No. ....

Filed.....192

SOLICITOR



EQUITY SUBPOENA

The State of Maryland

On

*Norman Downs*



REISSUED TO *March* <sup>*2/13 1923*</sup> Return Day, 192 <sup>*3*</sup>  
*Chas R. Whiteford*  
Clerk

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 **February** next cause an appearance to be entered for you and your answer to be filed to the complaint of

*Catherine Downs*

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 **8th** day of **January** 192 **3**

Issued the *8* day of **February**, in the year 192 **3**

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.)

94  
1923  
63-B  
CIRCUIT COURT

19 Docket No.

Catherine Downer

vs.

Norman Downer

ORDER OF APPEARANCE

B-24908

Mr. Clerk

Please File

(4)

R. M. B. M. E.

Sol. for

No.

Filed 10 day of Dec 1923



Catherine Downer

vs.

Norman Downer

IN THE  
Circuit Court  
OF  
BALTIMORE CITY

Nov - Term, 1923

Mr. WHITEFORD, Clerk.

Enter my appearance for Defendant

*[Signature]*  
Solicitor

Norman Downer's

22.00 McCulloch. 2 fl. apt

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF  
BALTIMORE CITY.

*DJ 94*  
*1923*

CATHERINE DOWNS

VS.

NORMAN DOWNS

DEFENDANT'S ANSWER

*Mr. Clerk*  
*Please file etc.*  
*Roy S. Bond*  
*B 24908*

*15*  
ROY S. BOND  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
215 ST. PAUL PLACE  
BALTIMORE, MD.

FILED

*10 Dec 1923*  
Daily Record Co. Print, Baltimore, Md.

CATHERINE DOWNS : IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
VS. : OF  
NORMAN DOWNS : BALTIMORE CITY.

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TO THE HONORABLE, THE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

The answer of your respondent to the bill of complaint in the above entitled cause, respectfully says:

(1)

That he admits the first paragraph of the complainant's bill of complaint.

(2)

That he admits the second paragraph of the complainant's bill of complaint.

(3)

That he neither admits or denies the third paragraph of the complainant's bill of complaint.

(4)

That he admits the fourth paragraph of the complainant's bill of complaint.

(5)

That he admits the fifth paragraph of the complainant's bill of complaint.

(6)

That he admits the sixth paragraph of the complainant's bill of complaint.

WHEREFORE your respondent prays that the bill of complaint be dismissed with costs to the plaintiff.

  
SOLICITOR FOR RESPONDENT.



**CIRCUIT COURT**

94  
1923 3163 Docket No.

Downs

vs.

Downs

Order

19

Petition for leave to take  
Testimony and Order  
of Court thereon.

24908

No. (6)

< >

Fd

15 Jan 1924

Catherine Downes

vs.

Norman Downes

IN THE  
Circuit Court  
OF  
BALTIMORE CITY

To the Honorable the Judge of the  
Circuit Court of Baltimore City:

THE PETITION OF

Plaintiff

in this case, respectfully shows that she desire to take testimony in this case, and respectfully pray that leave be granted her to do so before one of the Standing Examiners of this Court.

Steward Davis  
Solicitor for Plaintiff

ORDERED, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January 1924, that

leave be granted to the parties to the cause, to take testimony, as prayed, before any one of the Standing Examiners of this Court.

Charles H. Stearns

Doc. B 94  
1923

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

**DEPOSITIONS**

*Catherine Louws*

vs.

*Norman Louws*

No. 24908 B

**PLAINTIFF'S COSTS**

Examiners..... \$ 5.00

Copies .....

Sheriff.....

Stenographer .....

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFENDANT'S COSTS**

Examiners..... \$ .....

Copies .....

Sheriff.....

Stenographer .....

*H. Q. Ward* \$ 19.24

3/13/11/10



Catherine Downs

vs.

Norman Downs

In the Circuit Court

OF BALTIMORE CITY.

The above cause being at issue

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

fifteenth day of January 1924, met on

the twenty-fifth day of March in the year nineteen

hundred and twenty-four at my office, in the City of Baltimore, in the State

of Maryland, and assigned the twenty-sixth day of March

in the same year at three o'clock in the afternoon and the

office of J. Stewart Davis, Esq., 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:—

*as per  
38  
Sent another  
Bill*

Downs,

v.

Downs.

Testimony taken at the office of Mr. Davis,  
Baltimore, Maryland, March 26th., 1923, at three  
O'clock P. M.

Catherine Downs, the Plaintiff in this case, pro-  
duced 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. Catherine Downs , 1710 Division Street; laundry work.
- 2 Q. Do you know the parties to this suit?
- A. I am the Plaintiff and my husband is the Defendant.

By Mr. Davis:

- 1 Q. When were you married?
- A. I do not exactly remember the date, but we have been married at least nine years.
- 2 Q. Were you married by a Minister of the Gospel.
- A. Yes.
- 3 Q. In Baltimore City?
- A. Yes.

Catherine Downs.

4 Q. By a Religious Ceremony?

A. Yes.

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

A. Yes.

6 Q. You have alleged in the Bill of Complaint that you were married about June 1916; is that about right.

A. Yes.

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

A. I treated him good.

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

A. Yes.

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

A. No sir.

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

A. He left me.

11 Q. When?

A. He left me April 10th., 1920.

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

A. Yes.

Catherine Downs.

13 Q. Tell us what you know?

A. Well, I met him and her on the street together several times, and when I saw him on the street one night he came, - he ran up into an alley, and this Marie Woods runs down the street, and I headed her off and I asked her where she was going and she said that she was going to meet Norman; that is all she said to me.

14 Q. Now did you have an opportunity to see your husband and charge him with adultery personally with this woman?

A. Yes.

15 Q. Did he admit or deny it?

A. He admitted it.

16 Q. Was that after the separation between you and your husband?

A. Yes.

17bQ. Have you lived or cohabited with him since you discovered his adulteries?

A. No sir.

18 Q. Have you lived or cohabited with him since April 10th., 1920?

A. No sir.

19 Q. Have you forgiven or condoned his offense in any way?

A. No.

C. Downs.

20 Q. There is one child as the result of this marriage; is there not?

A. Yes.

21 Q. What is the name and the age of the child?

A. Five years old,- named Edward.

22 Q. Do you want the custody of the child?

A. Yes.

23 Q. Are you able and willing to support, educate and rear this child?

A. Yes.

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.

Catherine Downs



Carrie Ringgold, 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. Carrie Ringgold, 1338 Division Street; house work.
- 2 Q. Do you know the parties to this suit?  
A. Yes.

By Mr. Davis.

- 1 Q. Are they husband and wife?  
A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Did they live together as husband and wife and were they always known and recognized in the community in which they lived as husband and wife?  
A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Has the Plaintiff been a resident of Baltimore City, State of Maryland, for at least two years prior to the filing of this suit?  
A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Are there any children as the result of this marriage?  
A. One.
- 5 Q. Name and age?

Carrie Ringgold.

A. The baby is about five years old.

6 Q. What is the name of the child?

A. Edward, I think.

7 Q. Do you think that she is the proper party to have the care and custody of the child?

A. Yes.

8 Q. And do you think that she is able and willing to support, educate and rear this child?

A. Yes.

9 Q. What was her conduct towards her husband while living together.

A. She always seemed to be a very good mother and a good wife.

10 Q. State whether or not she was always a kind, affectionate and faithful wife?

A. Yes.

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

A. No sir; they are not.

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

A. He left her.

13 Q. When?

A. About April 1920,- about two years ago.

14 Q. She has charged her husband with adultery; do you know anything personally about that.

Carrie Ringgold.

A? I know that I was with my husband one night, and I met him in a Chinese Restaurant on Pennsylvania Avenue with this woman, and he came over and he whispered in my ear for me please not to say anything to his wife about being with this woman, and then I heard they were living at 1025 Argyle Avenue, and I went there and I rang the bell, and I asked whether or not Mr. and Mrs. Downs lived there, and I went up stairs, and when I got there they asked me who was at the door, and the two of them were in there, and I peeked in.

15 Q. And who was in there?

A. This girl Marie and Mr. Downs.

16 Q. You saw them in the room together?

A. Yes.

17 Q. How did you see them?

A. I expected to see Mr. Downs and his wife (Plaintiff), but when I got to the door, the door was opened, and I opened the door a few inches, and I saw Mr. Downs and this girl Marie in there together, and then I thought that there was something wrong and I left.

18 Q. Let me understand you: You say that you heard that Mr. and Mrs. Downs lives at 1025 Argyle Avenue; when you got this information, you thought that Mr. and Mrs.

Carrie Ringgold.

Downs, the Plaintiff and Defendant, were living there; is that what you mean.

A. Yes.

19 Q. And you went up there to pay them a visit, and what did you find?

A. I found this girl Marie and Mr. Downs in there together; I had seen this girl once before and that is the reason that I knew that it was the same girl.

20 Q. Now, after seeing this, did you or not hunt up the real Mrs. Downs?

A. Yes; I saw her and I told her about it.

21 Q. What did she say?

A. She said no; that she was not living there; that she and her husband had been separated, and that he had gone to live with this woman, but I did not know anything about it.

22 Q. Now, at the time you saw Downs and this woman in the room together; how was Downs and the woman clothes?

A. Well, she looked to me to be dressing; she had her back to the bureau.

23 Q. Did she have on any clothes.

A. I can not just remember whether she had on all of her clothes or not.

Carrie Ringgold.

24 Q. Are you able to state whether or not she had a house dress or street clothes on.

A. No sir; she did not have street clothes on.

25 Q. How about a house dress?

A. I do not know whether she had a house dress on or not; it looked like something, but she was dressing as a matter of fact.

25 Q. How about him?

A. He has his clothes on, I think now; it has been so long ago, that I can not remember exactly.

26 Q. What sort of a room was this room that you saw them in?

A. It was a bed room.

27 Q. Did you see the bed in there?

A. Yes; there was a bed in there.

28 Q. When was this that you saw them in this bed room together.

A. I think that it has been a little over a year.

29 Q. Was it after the separation between the parties to this suit?

A. Yes.

30 Q. Has Mrs. Downs lived or cohabited with her husband since she discovered this adultery?

A. No sir; not to my knowledge.

Carrie Ringgold.

31 Q. Has she lived or cohabited with her husband since her separation from her husband about two years ago?

A. No sir.

32 Q. Has she forgiven or condoned his offense in any way?

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

Carrie Ringgold.

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 29th day of March in the year of Our Lord nineteen hundred and twenty-four at the City of Baltimore, in the State of Maryland

A. de Russey Sappington (SEAL).  
Examiner.

There are one 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.

94 Circuit Court  
19 24 B63 Docket \_\_\_\_\_

Downs

vs.  
Downs

=====  
SUBMISSION FOR DECREE.  
=====

Mr. Clerk,  
Please file,  
Stewart Davis  
Solicitor for Plaintiff.

B 24908  
No. (8)

Filed 29 March 19 20

Catherine Downs

VS.

Norman Downs

*In the Circuit Court  
of Baltimore City*

\_\_\_\_\_ TERM 19\_\_\_\_

To the Honorable \_\_\_\_\_

Judge of Said Court:

The above cause is respectfully submitted for  
decree and the 43rd General Equity Rule is hereby waived.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steward Davis

Solicitor for Plaintiff,

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
R. M. Bond

Solicitor for Defendant.

Circuit Court

94  
19 23 B63 Docket No.....

*Downs*

vs.

*Downs*

Order of Reference  
and Report *Roll*

B24908

No.....

*Robertson (9) ✓*

Order Filed *29* day of *March* 19 *24*

Report Filed.....day of.....19

Catherine Downs

vs.

Norman Downs

IN THE  
Circuit Court  
OF  
BALTIMORE CITY

Term, 19

This case being submitted, without argument, it is ordered by the Court, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1924, that the same be and it is hereby referred to Alexander H. Robertson, Esq., Auditor and Master, to report the pleadings and the facts, and his opinion thereon.

*Alexander H. Robertson*

Report of Auditor and Master

Bill filed by wife against husband for divorce a vinculo matrimonii on the ground of adultery, with custody of minor child, Code Article 16, Section 36. Defendant appears and answers by solicitor; authority in writing. Proof shows marriage, residence and adultery of the Defendant. The care and custody of the minor child should be awarded the Plaintiff. Case submitted and ready for decree.

*Alex H. Robertson*

Auditor and Master.



Circuit Court

94

B

19 23

No. 63

Docket

CATHERINE DOWNS,

vs.

NORMAN DOWNS,

DECREE OF DIVORCE

Recorded

Folio 92 1924

No. 24908

10

Filed

31" March

19 24

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

*Alva M. Robertson*  
Auditor and Master.

IN THE

CATHERINE DOWNS,

vs.

NORMAN DOWNS,

Circuit Court

OF

BALTIMORE CITY

MARCH

Term, 1924.

This cause, standing ready for hearing and being duly submitted, the proceedings were by the Court read and considered.

It is thereupon, this 31<sup>st</sup> day of March Anno Domini, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-four by the CIRCUIT COURT OF BALTIMORE CITY, Adjudged, Ordered and Decreed, that the said

CATHERINE DOWNS,

the above named complainant be, and she is hereby DIVORCED, A VINCULO MATRIMONII, from the defendant, NORMAN DOWNS.

The care and custody of the minor child, Edward Downs, are awarded the Plaintiff.

And the Plaintiff is hereby permitted to resume her maiden name, Catherine Handy.

The Court retaining jurisdiction over the child for all purposes

And it is further Ordered, that the said Plaintiff pay the cost of this proceeding.

Charles R. Whiteford

I, CHARLES R. WHITEFORD, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Baltimore City, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the decree taken from the record of proceedings in said cause.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and affix the seal of the said Court, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_\_

Clerk Circuit Court of Baltimore City.