

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

Francis v. Meyer

Francis · No. No. 468, 2025 · Decided May 5, 2026

SUMMARY

The Delaware Supreme Court dismissed Madeline Francis’s appeal from a Family Court matter because she failed to file an opening brief and did not respond to a show-cause notice. The dismissal was deemed unopposed and entered under Delaware Supreme Court Rules 3(b)(2) and 29(b).

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of the State of Delaware
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Gary F. Traynor
JURISDICTION	Supreme Court of the State of Delaware
DECIDED	May 5, 2026
DOCKET	No. 468, 2025
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Appellant's appeal from the Family Court of the State of Delaware was dismissed for failure to file an opening brief and failure to respond to a show-cause notice.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	precedential
PARTIES	Madeline Francis v. Maxwell Meyer

TOPICS

- appellate procedure
- family law procedure
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- appellate procedure
- family law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether the appeal should be dismissed because the appellant failed to file an opening brief and failed to respond to the Court's show-cause notice.

HOLDINGS

1. An appeal may be dismissed when the appellant fails to file the required opening brief and fails to respond to a properly issued show-cause notice.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

This appeal was subject to a deadline for filing the appellant's opening brief. The appellant did not file the brief, did not provide an updated address, and did not respond to the Court's show-cause notice despite notice being sent by certified and first-class mail.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The appellant's opening brief was due March 12, 2026, but was not filed. After a brief-delinquency notice and two show-cause notices, including one sent by certified mail and another by first-class mail, the appellant neither updated her address nor responded by the April 27 deadline. The Delaware Supreme Court dismissed the appeal as unopposed under Supreme Court Rules 3(b)(2) and 29(b).

DISPOSITION

dismissed

OPINION

Francis, Madeline v. Maxwell Meyer

PER CURIAM.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

MADELINE FRANCIS, 1 §

§ No. 468, 2025 Respondent Below, § Appellant, § Court Below–Family Court § of the State of Delaware v. § § File No. CN21-04474 MAXWELL MEYER, § Petition No. 25-10895 § Petitioner Below, § Appellee. § Submitted: April 28, 2026 Decided: May 5, 2026

ORDER

On March 16, 2026, the Chief Deputy Clerk sent a notice of brief delinquency to the appellant, Madeline Francis, because she had not filed an opening brief by the March 12 deadline set by the Court. On March 27, the Chief Deputy Clerk issued a notice, sent by certified mail, to Francis directing her to show cause why this appeal should not be dismissed for her failure to file an opening brief. The United States Postal Service tracking information sheet shows that the notice was left at Francis's address on April 3. On April 14, the Chief Deputy Clerk re-sent the notice to show cause via first-class mail. A timely response to the notice was due on or before April 27. To date, Francis has not provided an updated address to the Court, responded to

1 The Court previously assigned pseudonyms to the parties under Supreme Court Rule 7(d). the notice to show cause, or filed an opening brief. Under the circumstances, dismissal of this appeal is deemed to be unopposed. NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that this appeal be

DISMISSED under Supreme Court Rules 3(b)(2) and 29(b). BY THE COURT: /s/ Gary F. Traynor
Justice 2

Retrieved from lawtools.ai · <https://lawtools.ai/cases/state/supreme-court-of-the-state-of-delaware-supreme-court-of-the-state-of-delaware/2026/francis-v-meyer-3cr3168c>