

COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIRST DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Lillian Ward a/k/a Lillian A. Ward a/k/a Lillan Ann Ward v. Stone
Street Capital, LLC

No. 01-25-00483-CV · No. 01-25-00483-CV · Decided December 9, 2025

SUMMARY

The First District Court of Appeals of Texas dismissed Lillian Ward’s appeal for lack of jurisdiction because her notice of appeal was filed more than ten years after the trial court’s final order approving the assignment of structured settlement payments. The court also dismissed all pending motions as moot.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Court of Appeals for the First District of Texas
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Justice Guerra; Justice Guiney; Justice Johnson
JURISDICTION	Court of Appeals for the First District of Texas
DECIDED	December 9, 2025
DOCKET	01-25-00483-CV
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Appellant sought review of the trial court's April 20, 2015 Final Order Approving Assignment of Structured Settlement Payments. The court of appeals dismissed the appeal because the notice of appeal was filed approximately ten years after the order and was therefore untimely.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Jurisdictional issue reviewed as a matter of law; a timely notice of appeal is required to invoke the court of appeals' jurisdiction.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published
PARTIES	Lillian Ward a/k/a Lillian A. Ward a/k/a Lillan Ann Ward v. Stone Street Capital, LLC

TOPICS

- appellate jurisdiction
- final judgment rule
- appellate procedure
- mootness
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court of appeals had jurisdiction over an appeal filed more than thirty days after entry of the trial court's final order.
2. Whether the appeal should be dismissed for lack of jurisdiction when the appellant failed to show that the notice of appeal was timely filed.

HOLDINGS

1. A notice of appeal from a final judgment must generally be filed within thirty days after the judgment is entered, and Ward's notice filed on June 24, 2025, was untimely as to the trial court's April 20, 2015 order.
2. The court of appeals must dismiss an appeal for lack of jurisdiction when the notice of appeal was not timely filed.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"Absent a timely filed notice of appeal, we lack jurisdiction over an appeal." (at 1)

"We dismiss the appeal for lack of jurisdiction. See TEX. R. APP. P. 42.3(a), (c), 43.2(f)." (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The trial court entered a Final Order Approving Assignment of Structured Settlement Payments on April 20, 2015. Ward did not file her notice of appeal until June 24, 2025. After being directed to demonstrate that the appeal was timely and within the court's jurisdiction, she filed an unsigned response that failed to establish either point.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The 125th District Court of Harris County, Texas, entered the challenged final order on April 20, 2015. Ward filed her notice of appeal on June 24, 2025. After the court notified her that it appeared to lack jurisdiction and requested a response, Ward filed an unsigned response that did not establish timely filing or appellate jurisdiction. The court dismissed the appeal and all pending motions as moot.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

OPINION**PER CURIAM.**

Opinion issued December 9, 2025 In The Court of Appeals For The First District of Texas NO. 01-25-00483-CV LILLIAN WARD A/K/A LILLIAN A. WARD A/K/A LILLAN ANN WARD,

Appellant V. STONE STREET CAPITAL, LLC, Appellee On Appeal from the 125th District Court Harris County, Texas Trial Court Case No. 2015-15107 MEMORANDUM OPINION On June 24, 2025, appellant, Lillian Ward, also known as Lillian A. Ward and Lillian Ann Ward, proceeding pro se, filed a notice of appeal from the trial court's April 20, 2015 "Final Order Approving Assignment of Structured Settlement Payments." Appellant's June 24, 2025 notice of appeal was not timely filed to invoke the jurisdiction of this Court.

We therefore dismiss the appeal for lack of jurisdiction. Absent a timely filed notice of appeal, we lack jurisdiction over an appeal. See TEX. R. APP. P. 25.1. Generally, a notice of appeal of a final judgment must be filed within thirty days after the entry of judgment. See TEX. R. APP. P. 26.1.

Accordingly, in order to invoke this Court's appellate jurisdiction over the trial court's April 20, 2015 order, appellant was required to file a notice of appeal on or before May 20, 2015. Accordingly, appellant's June 24, 2025 notice of appeal was not timely filed.

On October 28, 2025, the Court notified appellant that it appeared the Court lacked jurisdiction over the appeal because her notice of appeal from the trial court's April 20, 2015 order was not timely filed. Appellant was directed to file a written response within ten days demonstrating, with citation to law and the record, that the Court had jurisdiction over the appeal.

On November 10, 2025, an unsigned response to the Court's order was filed. The response failed to establish that appellant's notice of appeal was timely filed, or that the Court had jurisdiction over the appeal. Appellant's June 24, 2025 notice of appeal was therefore not timely filed, and we lack jurisdiction over the appeal. See TEX. R. APP. P. 25.1(a)(1).

2 We dismiss the appeal for lack of jurisdiction. See TEX. R. APP. P. 42.3(a), (c), 43.2(f). All pending motions are dismissed as moot. PER CURIAM Panel consists of Justices Guerra, Guiney, and Johnson. 3