

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF
FLORIDA, TAMPA DIVISION

Sunstream Corporation, Inc. v. Stefan Petrov and Boating World Pro
Shop, LLC

Petrov · No. 8:24-CV-02424-WFJ-AAS · Decided January 21, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida ordered Stefan Petrov and Boating World Pro Shop, LLC to show cause why default should not be entered for failing to attend a court-ordered hearing and to cooperate in scheduling mediation. The court also warned that Boating World must obtain counsel because a corporate entity cannot represent itself, and that failure to comply by February 27, 2026, would result in default.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Amanda Arnold Sansone
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division
DECIDED	January 21, 2026
DOCKET	8:24-CV-02424-WFJ-AAS
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The court considered the plaintiff's motion for sanctions based on the defendants' alleged failure to cooperate in scheduling court-ordered mediation and issued an order requiring the defendants to show cause why default should not be entered.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished interlocutory district-court order; generally nonprecedential.

TOPICS

- sanctions
- default
- mediation
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the defendants should be required to show cause why default should not be entered for failing to attend the court-ordered hearing and failing to comply with the order requiring the parties to schedule mediation.
2. Whether Boating World Pro Shop, LLC must obtain counsel admitted to practice before the court because a corporate entity may not represent itself.

HOLDINGS

1. The court ordered Stefan Petrov and Boating World Pro Shop, LLC to show cause in writing by February 27, 2026, why default should not be entered for failing to attend the required hearing and failing to comply with the mediation-scheduling order.
2. Boating World Pro Shop, LLC may not represent itself and was required to obtain counsel admitted to practice before the Middle District of Florida; failure to obtain counsel and show cause by February 27, 2026, would result in default being entered against it.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The court ordered the parties to schedule mediation and separately required the defendants and defense counsel to attend a sanctions hearing in person. Defense counsel indicated that the defendants knew of the attendance order by January 14, 2026. Although attorney Matthew Adams appeared at the January 20 hearing, Stefan Petrov and Boating World Pro Shop, LLC did not appear.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The court had previously ordered the parties to schedule mediation and later ordered the defendants and defense counsel to appear in person at a sanctions hearing. The court held the hearing on January 20, 2026. Defense counsel appeared, but Stefan Petrov and Boating World Pro Shop, LLC did not. The court ordered both defendants to show cause in writing by February 27, 2026, and warned that failure to comply could result in default.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Progressive Express Ins. Co. v. C&F Transp., LLC., No. 1:22-CV-20775, 2022 WL 17588749, at *1 (S.D. Fla. Oct. 13, 2022)
- Palazzo v. Gulf Oil Corp., 764 F.2d 1381, 1385 (11th Cir. 1985)

OPINION

Petrov

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

TAMPA DIVISION

SUNSTREAM CORPORATION, INC.,

Plaintiff, v. Case No: 8:24-CV-02424-WFJ-AAS STEFAN PETROV and

BOATING WORLD PRO SHOP, LLC,

Defendants. _____/

ORDER

On January 20, 2026, the court held a hearing on the plaintiff's motion for sanctions (Doc. 44) against the defendants for failure to cooperate in scheduling court-ordered mediation. The order setting the hearing required defendants, Stefan Petrov and Boating World Pro Shop, LLC (Boating World), and defense counsel to appear in person at the hearing. (Doc. 46). Attorney Matthew Adams (who moved to withdraw shortly before the hearing) appeared. In response to the court's questioning, Attorney Adams indicated that the defendants were aware, at least as of January 14, 2026, of the order (Doc. 46) requiring them to attend the hearing. The defendants, Stefan Petrov and Boating World, did not appear. The following is ORDERED:

(1) By February 27, 2026, Mr. Petrov and Boating World must show cause in writing as to why a default should not be entered against them for failing to comply with the Order directing in person attendance (Doc. 46) and for failing to comply with the Order requiring the parties to schedule court-ordered mediation (Doc. 41).

(2) The defendants are warned the failure to comply with this Order may also result in a default being entered against them. Boating World is further warned a corporate entity cannot represent itself and it must obtain counsel admitted to practice before this court. *Progressive Express Ins. Co. v. C&F Transp., LLC.*, No. 1:22-CV-20775, 2022 WL 17588749, at *1 (S.D. Fla. Oct. 13, 2022) (citing *Palazzo v. Gulf Oil Corp.*, 764 F.2d 1381, 1385 (11th Cir. 1985)). Failure to obtain counsel and show cause by February 27, 2026, will result in a default being entered against Boating World. ORDERED in Tampa, Florida, on January 21, 2026.

AMANDA ARNOLD SANSONE

United States Magistrate Judge