STATE OF MICHIGAN

COURT OF CLAIMS

EUGENE EDWARD MASKELL,

Plaintiff,

v

Case No. 26-000229-MZ

Hon. Randy J. Wallace

LISA POSTHUMUS LYONS, in her official capacity as Kent County Clerk, JOHN/JANE DOE CLERK, in their individual capacity as Deputy Circuit Court Clerk or Court Staff Member responsible for the data entry of plaintiff's 2022 Judgment of Sentence, HEIDI E. WASHINGTON, in her official capacity as Director of the Michigan Department of Corrections, MIKE BOWKER, in his individual capacity as MDOC Lead Parole Agent/Employee, and CHRISTOPHER DECHAMPS, aka CRIS DECHAMPS, in his individual capacity as Alpena County MDOC Parole Agent/Employee,

Defendants.
_____ /

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

On the Court's own motion, the Court orders plaintiff to show cause why defendants Lisa Posthumus Lyons, John/Jane Doe Clerk, Mike Bowker, and Christopher Dechamps should not be dismissed for lack of jurisdiction under MCL 600.6419(1)(a).

"The Court of Claims is a court of legislative creation. Its statutory powers are explicit and limited." *Council of Orgs & Others for Ed about Parochiaid v Michigan*, 321 Mich App 456, 466; 909 NW2d 449 (2017) (quotation marks and citation omitted). The jurisdiction of the Court of Claims is limited to claims brought "against the state or any of its departments or officers." MCL

600.6419(1). Included in the statutory definition of "the state or any of its departments or officers" is

> any state governing, legislative, or judicial body, department, commission, board, institution, arm, or agency of the state, or an officer, employee, or volunteer of this state or any governing, legislative, or judicial body, department, commission, board, institution, arm, or agency of this state, acting, or who reasonably believes that he or she is acting, within the scope of his or her authority while engaged in or discharging a government function in the course of his or her duties. [MCL 600.6419(7).]

The Court is "continually obligated to question sua sponte" its jurisdiction over a person or the subject matter of a case. See *O'Connell v Dir of Elections*, 316 Mich App 91, 100; 891 NW2d 240 (2016) (quotation marks and citation omitted). In accordance with the Court's ongoing obligation to question its jurisdiction, the Court has reviewed the complaint in this case. The October 28, 2026 complaint does not show on its face that defendants Posthumus Lyons, John/Jane Doe Clerk, Mike Bowker, and Christopher Dechamps are "the state or any of its departments or officers." Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. Plaintiff is directed to show cause within 14 days of the date of this Order how this Court has jurisdiction over defendants Posthumus Lyons, John/Jane Doe Clerk, Mike Bowker, and Christopher Dechamps

2. Should plaintiff fail to respond by the deadline or to provide an adequate response, these defendants will be dismissed.

Date: October 30, 2026

Hon. Randy J. Wallace
Judge, Court of Claims