

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS
FOURTEENTH DIVISION
PROBATE DIVISION**

FILED 02/02/11 16:16:54
Larry Crane Pulaski Circuit Clerk
CR01

**IN THE MATTER OF
JOHN WILLIAM GLASGOW, A MISSING PERSON**

No. POT 2008-1220

PETITION FOR DECLARATION OF DEATH

Petitioner Melinda Glasgow, whose address is 3918 South Lookout in Little Rock, Arkansas, and whose interest in the matter of John William Glasgow, a missing person, is that Petitioner is the wife of John William Glasgow, seeks a declaration of his death due to his being missing for three years as of January 28, 2011 and in support, states:

1. Petitioner married John Glasgow on June 6, 1992. At the time of John's disappearance on January 28, 2008, Melinda and John were living in the marital residence at 3918 South Lookout and had lived there since July, 1995.
2. John was last seen in his home on the night of Sunday, January 27, 2008. Early in the morning of Monday, January 28, 2008, he apparently left the couple's home. His vehicle was seen by a neighbor leaving his house on South Lookout in Little Rock at 5:15 a.m., presumably going to his workplace at CDI Contractors just down the hill.
3. John did not show up for work at CDI that day and the family immediately became alarmed because this was completely unprecedented and very out of character for him.

4. During the afternoon of January 28, 2008, the family made a request that John's cell phone service provider, Alltel, track the last known location of his cell phone. Later that evening, the family filed a missing person report with the Little Rock police.

5. The next day, Tuesday January 29, Alltel provided information that John's cell phone had last 'pinged' off one of the mobile phone carrier's towers at Petit Jean Mountain at approximately 7:15 a.m. on Monday. Calculations of where precisely the phone had been at the point when it last communicated with the cell tower pointed to an area north of the Arkansas River in Pope County. A search of that vicinity ensued. The Pope County Sheriff's Department, assisted by State Police, John's brother, Roger Glasgow, and John's closest friend, Mitch Chandler, led this initial search. William Clark, CEO of CDI Contractors, and several others from CDI participated in this initial search of the area where Alltel thought the phone had been when it last made contact with the microwave tower. No sign of John was found in that area. Alltel later determined that the triangulation method used to determine a precise location was flawed because the tower had been facing in the opposite direction from what the Alltel personnel presumed when the calculation was done.

6. Later on the morning of January 29, the family received a report that John's vehicle had been found in the parking lot in front of Mather Lodge at Petit Jean State Park in Conway County. State Park rangers and the Conway County Sheriff's Department, headed by chief investigator Sonny Stover, secured the vehicle. Glasgow, Chandler,

Clark and the other people from CDI arrived shortly thereafter. The vehicle doors were unlocked and a computer case containing John's laptop, cell phone (with dead battery), company credit card, and office key, were in the backseat. John's debit card was in the glove compartment. The vehicle was impounded by Conway County Sheriff's Department and later the Arkansas State Police conducted a forensic examination of the vehicle. This examination failed to turn up any forensic evidence at all – no fingerprints from anybody, no blood, hair, or other body substances were found. The vehicle was clean.

7. Later Tuesday evening, State Park officials and the Conway County Sheriff's Department put out a call to organize search teams with bloodhounds to comb the mountain. Another search team, headed by George Stowrains, of the Arkansas Forestry Department, formed that same day. The searchers fanned out in organized sectors out from Mather Lodge.

8. An intense search continued for three days, assisted by the helicopter from the Arkansas State Police, and volunteers. Other than his vehicle, no trace was found that John was ever on the mountain. The bloodhounds failed to pick up any scent trails of John leading in any direction away from his car. Eventually the Sheriff's office and the State Forestry Department concluded that John was not on Petit Jean.

9. Starting Tuesday evening, and continuing over the next couple of weeks, the Conway County Sheriff's Department obtained and reviewed surveillance video from

numerous business establishments in and around the route John's vehicle presumably would have taken to reach Petit Jean from his Little Rock home. This review involved videos from convenience stores, motels, restaurants and banks. The law enforcement personnel also interviewed numerous persons at these locations. The family printed and posted "missing" flyers with John's photograph and vital statistics at numerous places in and around the Petit Jean/Morrilton/ Little Rock areas.

10. No credible information ever surfaced that anyone along the presumed path or in the investigated area had seen John.

11. During this same time, family and authorities searched John's home to determine what he had been wearing and what he might have taken with him when he left his house. As best as it could be determined, John was wearing khaki pants, "walking" shoes, and a green down jacket. Other than what was found in his vehicle, he took nothing with him but his wallet and a watch.

12. Subsequent reviews determined that all funds in John's bank account were still there and accounted for, and that all the money he kept in a private safe in his home was there.

13. There were no outgoing or incoming calls on his cell phone that were not recognized. There were no e-mails or other communications on his laptop or home computer, except from known family and friends.

14. From the first several days following John's disappearance, law enforcement officers and detectives, including personnel from the Conway County Sheriff's Department, Arkansas State Police, and Little Rock Police Department, continued their investigations, including placing John's DNA on file with the FBI, and placing his information on the FBI missing persons list. They also interviewed persons who had last seen John before his disappearance.

15. From February to May, 2008, two private investigators arranged by John's family spent numerous hours working on his case in an attempt to uncover any clues as to what happened. One was a former chief investigator from the United States Drug Enforcement Agency and the other was a well regarded private investigator from New York. Neither was able to uncover any useful information.

16. In mid-February, 2008, the family established a website, "Find John Glasgow," which contained photographs, film, and biographical information about John, together with the known circumstances of his disappearance. Reward amounts up to \$100,000 were offered for information leading to John's whereabouts, dead or alive. The website is still up and running and contains a tip line. No useful information has come through the website or the tip line.

17. John's information has been listed on several national registries for missing persons, including the CUE Center for Missing Persons, the "Let's Bring Them Home"

missing persons advocacy organization, and Texas EquSearch. These are all in addition to the FBI registry which has international circulation.

18. All four of Little Rock's network affiliate television stations, ABC, NBC, CBS, and Fox, ran numerous news programs regarding the disappearance in February/March, 2008. In addition to this local coverage, the case has received extensive national media coverage. The following is a partial list of the publicity Petitioner is aware that has been given to her husband's disappearance:

- A segment on the Nancy Grace Show on CNN in February, 2008.
- Numerous articles in *Arkansas Business* from February 2008 to present concerning John's disappearance.
- An extensive article in the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* in March, 2008.
- An article in the *New York Post* newspaper in April, 2008.
- A one hour special program on Channel 7, KATV Television in Little Rock in April, 2008.
- An extensive feature story in the March 2009 addition of *Portfolio Magazine*, a national business publication.
- A 30 minute segment on Fox Television's America's Most Wanted – Missing Person Series in October, 2009.

- A one hour show on John's story on The Investigation Discovery Channel, "Disappeared Series" first aired on November 29, 2010, and will continue periodically during the current season.

19. In spite of all this attention to the case, much of it national and international in scope, no worthwhile tips or leads have been generated. For three years, no member of John's family, nor any of his friends or business associates, have heard from him.

20. No tips from any source have been received which would indicate that he is alive somewhere. Except for his vehicle being found at Petit Jean, John Glasgow disappeared without a trace. Three years have passed with an intensive effort to find him or some evidence of what happened to him. Despite this passage of time and this exhaustive effort, no solid clues have come from any source as to what happened to John.

21. The law in Arkansas presumes that someone is dead if he has been missing for five years. A.C.A. §16-40-105. However, there is "virtual unanimity in modern cases, at least implicitly, that proof may be made that a person is dead at any time. In the face of evidence indicating that a person probably died, it is not necessary for a prescribed period of time to elapse. Although a presumption of death may arise under certain circumstances, it is universally recognized that death may be proven by circumstantial evidence before the maturation of any presumptive period; the existence of a presumption does not preclude proof of death before the presumption applies." 45 Am. Jur. Proof of Facts 3d 307 (Originally published in 1998)

22. To all who loved and cared about him, the near certitude that he is dead is overwhelming and unbearably painful. Yet, they have no body and no closure. They need to begin moving beyond this painful tragedy.

23. The circumstantial evidence of John's death is substantial. John has been missing for three years without any credible information surfacing in that period that would suggest he might be alive somewhere. The evidence is to the contrary. He took nothing with him on the morning he disappeared except the clothes on his back and what small amount of money he had in his wallet. He was evidently without a cell phone because his was found in the car. He had no car because it was found at Petit Jean, and all plane, train and bus routes were checked out by law enforcement for any indication that he had left by some other means. Nothing was found.

24. John has drawn no funds from his bank accounts and took no money from the safe at his home. He had no other sources of money by which he could have supported himself for the past three years if he had been alive. He has had no communication with any outside persons through his laptop or cell and home phones, according to all the records of these accounts in his name. For three years he has been listed as a missing person on national "hot lines," including the FBI list, with his DNA and fingerprints posted, but there have been no positive hits. The family has kept his name/photographs/video posted through a web site, and listed him with many private missing person organizations. There has been an extraordinary amount of local and

national media coverage from shortly after his disappearance, up to as recently as the November 30, 2010 airing on Investigation Discovery channel of a program about his case.

25. John had absolutely no motive to disappear. He had very powerful incentives to stay. He was in no financial difficulty. His house and cars were paid for and he had no debt. He had plenty of money in the bank and loved his well paying job as the chief financial officer at CDI. He was on the cusp of getting partial ownership of one of the most successful building contractor companies in the region where he could expect a seven figure annual income.

26. John had no history of depression or mental health issues. He had never been on any kind of medication for psychological ailments. He had a very stable, loving relationship with his wife and family. His involvement with his large family of brothers and sisters was the most important thing in life to him.

27. John was extremely conscientious and absolutely dependable in every way. He never left home or his job without an explanation and he never went anywhere without family or friends accompanying him. He was habitually punctual. He was never late or away from his home or job without informing people.

28. Among experts in the field of missing persons it is well known that in the modern era of electronic technology, to simply "disappear" alive, without leaving or subsequently producing some detectable signs is virtually impossible. There are simply

too many means of detecting digital footprints, particularly with regard to money. To stay missing for any length of time requires funding for food, travel and lodging. In today's electronic age, use of funds will inevitably leave a trail. There is no such trail for John in the three years since his disappearance.

29. LaDonna Meredith is an expert in the field of missing persons. She has stated under oath that it is her opinion, after reviewing all the available information, that John Glasgow is almost certainly dead. Her affidavit is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

30. This is a painful and grievous conclusion for the Petitioner and family of John Glasgow to reach. They above all others would like to see some glimmer of hope that John was alive. She and they, however, have faced the reality that he is in all likelihood not alive.

31. Petitioner seeks a declaration of death by the court so that a death certificate can be issued and she can start the process of healing the loss of her beloved husband, and begin an orderly administration of his estate.

32. Petitioner is providing notice of these proceedings to John's heirs at law who are interested persons in this matter. In addition to the Petitioner, as surviving spouse, the heirs, their respective relationships to the decedent, and their residence addresses are as follows:


<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Roger Glasgow, sibling	200 Magnolia Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72202
Dennis Glasgow, sibling	3412 Buckhorn Trail, Little Rock, AR 72211
Miriam Delay-Friant, sibling	57 Spyglass Hill, Oakland, CA 94618
Gary Glasgow, sibling	2316 W. Main, El Dorado, AR 71730
Donna Glasgow Bliss, sibling	2105 Bluebird Drive, Springdale, AR 72764
Ramona Glasgow, sibling	436 Black Oak Way, Lodi, CA 95242
Randall Glasgow, sibling	16 Sullivan Road, Nashville, AR 71852

33. The missing person, John Glasgow, will be provided notice via publication of warning notice after the filing of this petition. This notice will state that the missing person has sixty (60) days to contest the petition. Another warning notice shall be published once the petition is granted, stating that the missing person has one hundred eighty (180) days from the date of the order declaring his death to contest the declaration or otherwise his estate will be disposed of in accordance with law.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays for a declaration by this court that John William Glasgow is dead and that the state of Arkansas issue a death certificate in accordance with the court's declaration; and for all other appropriate relief.

Respectfully submitted,

WILSON, ENGSTROM, CORUM & COULTER
Post Office Box 71
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203
Telephone: (501) 375-6453

By: 
Nate Coulter, Ark. Bar No. 85034

Affidavit of LaDonna Meredith

LaDonna Meredith states under oath as follows:

My name is LaDonna Meredith and I live at 3606 West Beech Drive, Rogers, Arkansas 72756. I am the founder and president of Let's Bring Them Home ("LBTH"), a non-profit missing persons advocacy group which has been in existence since 2000. LBTH is a part of the National Center for Missing Adults, one of the nation's leading missing persons organizations. LBTH operates a national missing adults program providing services and coordination between various government agencies, law enforcement, media, and the families of missing adults, as well as safety education for all ages. LBTH supports the national missing and unidentified persons system (NamUs), a clearing house for missing persons and unidentified decedent records.

I have earned a B.A. degree in Journalism from the University of Arkansas, and was accepted into the Graduate Studies Program at John Brown University where I pursued a dual Masters of Science degree in marriage and family therapy, and community counseling. I have also attended a graduate program at UALR with a focus in Criminal Justice. From 2007 to present I have served as the Development Director for Arkansas Support Network which is a family support program for individuals who have disabilities. I have also been recognized by AARP, Arkansas State Police, Arkansas Governor and the Arkansas Sheriff's Association for work on the Jacob's Project/Silver Alert in the state of Arkansas; have worked with the Morgan Nick Foundation, and have been commissioned by the University of Arkansas Press to co-write a book on missing adults and children in the United States.

I have personally been involved in the case of John W. Glasgow, a missing person. I have assisted the Glasgow family with counseling, public relations efforts, law enforcement coordination, press releases and assistance in listing Mr. Glasgow with various national and international alert systems for missing persons. I have been informed of the following steps which have been taken in efforts to determine what might have happened to Mr. Glasgow, and whether he is likely alive or dead:

- Search and rescue efforts led by Arkansas State Parks, Arkansas Forestry Service, Arkansas State Police, and Conway County Sheriff's Department, including several days of search efforts in the Petit Jean area where his vehicle was found by numerous trained individuals and two S&R dog teams.
- Additional search efforts made after the official search was called off, including volunteer S&R teams from two counties in Arkansas, volunteer S&R dog team and handlers, multiple independent searches made by family members, friends and volunteers.
- Law enforcement investigation conducted by the Conway County Sheriff's Department, the Arkansas State Police, and the Little Rock Police Department, including the obtaining and reviewing of video surveillance tapes from hotels, motels, restaurants, banks, convenience stores, and other locations in areas where it was thought Mr. Glasgow's vehicle could have traveled, and the interviewing of persons who last saw him.
- Review of Mr. Glasgow's banking, credit card, phone and computer records.
- Review of medical records which show no serious or life threatening medical condition at the time of his disappearance, nor any history of depression or mental health issues.



- Forensic examination of Mr. Glasgow's vehicle for forensic evidence such as fingerprints, blood, hair, bodily substances, or foreign objects.
- Additional investigations made by two private investigators arranged by the family who spent numerous hours working on the case in an attempt to uncover any clues as to what happened. One was a former chief investigator from the United States Drug Enforcement Agency and another was a well regarded private investigator from New York.
- Massive missing person poster campaign, including the placing of posters in public parks, trail heads, convenient stores, restaurants, and other private businesses in many counties surrounding the Arkansas River Valley in Western Arkansas from Little Rock to Fort Smith, and via truckers and Salvation Army locations across the country.
- Purchase of a quarter-page ad in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette by the family.
- Two postcard campaigns in targeted areas in Little Rock.
- A dedicated web-site, www.findjohnglasgow.com has been online since immediately after the disappearance.
- Monetary rewards for information leading to the location of Mr. Glasgow, dead or alive, at various levels up to \$100,000.
- National television coverage via the Nancy Grace Show, America's Most Wanted, and a one hour episode on the Investigation Discovery "Disappeared" series.
- Thirty minute documentary on Little Rock's KATV Channel 7, and additional coverage by Fox 16, KTHV and KARK TV.
- Newspaper coverage in Arkansas Business, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Log Cabin Democrat, Jonesboro Sun, Arkansas Times, El Dorado News, Nashville Leader, Nashville News, and New York Post.
- Extensive articles in Wall Street Journal, CFO Publication, and Portfolio Magazine.
- Listing on FBI Vicap web site for missing persons; DNA, fingerprints and dental records available.
- Listing on the following missing persons web pages: National Center for Missing Adults, America's Most Wanted, National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, North American Missing Person's Network, The Charlie Project, Project Jason, and Help Find the Missing.

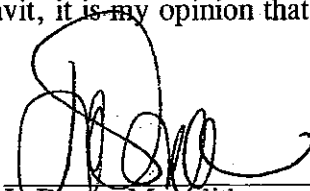
It is my understanding that no evidence has been uncovered from any of these efforts which would indicate what happened to John Glasgow. No member of John's family, nor any of his friends or business associates have heard from him since he disappeared. Thus, his absence has been continual and without explanation from the time of his disappearance until the present; persons most likely to hear from him have heard nothing; and he cannot be located by diligent search and inquiry.

In my opinion, to simply disappear alive under these circumstances, without leaving or subsequently producing detectable signs, is virtually impossible. It is well documented in the field of missing persons that those who voluntarily disappear intending to remain alive leave behind discernible signs of their motive to do so, such as financial difficulties, depression or mental illness, marital or family difficulties, fugitive or criminal law difficulties, or prior history of disappearing for periods of time without explanation. None of these signs are present in Mr. Glasgow's case. In addition, in this modern era of electronic technology, it is near impossible to disappear alive without leaving digital footprints, particularly with regard to money. To stay missing for any length of time requires funding for food, travel and lodging.

Obtaining and using such funds will inevitably leave a trail. There is no such trail for Mr. Glasgow in the three years since his disappearance.

Based upon my education, training and experience in the field of missing persons, under the circumstances described above in this affidavit, it is my opinion that John Glasgow is almost certainly now deceased.

FURTHER affiant sayeth not.



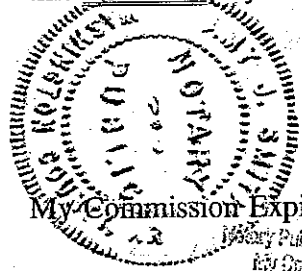
LaDonna Meredith

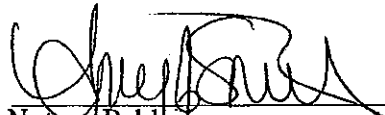
1-27-2011
Date

STATE OF ARKANSAS

COUNTY OF BENTON

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me, a Notary Public, on
this 27 day of January, 2011.





Notary Public