

From: [Joel Foreman](#)
To: [Melissa Garber](#)
Cc: [Troy Crews](#)
Subject: RE: Permit #50694
Date: Friday, August 30, 2024 10:53:17 AM

Thanks-

Any time you have divorcing spouses who own property as tenants by the entirety (as spouses) you are going to confront situations where one comes back to object to what the other is doing to the property.

In these instances, we need to adopt the position that an objection by either spouse will cause us to hold any permitting activities until the dispute between the spouses is resolved. Marital homestead rights is something the divorce court can resolve, so when an objection is made, we need to contact BOTH spouses and inform them:

1. We received an objection, to what permit or activity, and from which spouse; and
2. We will not issue permits or proceed with any permit so long as one of the owners is objecting to this office; and
3. The owners need to reconcile their differences on this issue and both need to notify us in writing; or
4. The owners need to confer with their attorneys or take the matter before the judge in their case for an order directing how the permitted activity should be completed.

Thanks,

Joel

Joel F. Foreman
County Attorney
Columbia County, Florida
p. 386-752-8420
jforeman@columbiacountyfla.com
www.columbiacountyfla.com

Florida's Government in the Sunshine Law (the "Sunshine Law") prohibits any gathering (including via electronic mail) of two or more members of the same board, outside of a duly noticed meeting, to discuss some matter which will foreseeably come before that board for action. Therefore, if replying to this correspondence please be aware of who the addressees are to avoid an inadvertent violation of the Sunshine Law. Also, please note that electronic mail sent or received by elected officials or staff for Columbia County may be public records in accordance with Chapter 119, Florida Statutes. The information contained in this transmission may contain information that is privileged, confidential or otherwise protected under State and Federal law. It is intended only for the use of the person(s) named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, dissemination, distribution or duplication of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail or phone and destroy all copies of the original message. If the reader of this email is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please delete this email, destroy any hard copies thereof, and notify the sender immediately.

From: Melissa Garber <mgarber@columbiacountyfla.com>

Sent: Friday, August 30, 2024 9:05 AM

To: Joel Foreman <jforeman@columbiacountyfla.com>

Cc: Troy Crews <troy_crews@columbiacountyfla.com>

Subject: Permit #50694

Good morning,

Mrs. Hartley reached out to me this morning regarding this permit and a question I'm not sure how to answer. She is going through a divorce. The situation is a lot to type. If you could give me a call, I could better explain. Thanks! Have a great day!

"When we strive to become
better than we are, everything
around us becomes better too."



Melissa Garber

Administrative Supervisor
Columbia County
Building and Zoning
135 NE Hernando Ave, Suite B-21
Lake City, Florida 32055
Ph (386) 758-1008