

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF GREENVILLE)

Chad Connelly,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
vs.)
)
Olga Lisinska and Palmetto Kids First)
Scholarship Program, Inc.)
)
Defendants.)
_____)

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Case No.: 2021-cp-23-

Summons

TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE-NAMED:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the complaint herein, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your answer to this complaint upon the subscriber, at the address shown below, within thirty (30) days after service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to answer the complaint, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

s/Geoffrey K. Chambers

Geoffrey Chambers
411 Walnut Street, #10646
Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043
Phone: 864-508-0899
Email: Geoffrey@CPerlgroup.com
Attorney for Plaintiff Chad Connelly

This 21st day of December 2021
Columbia, SC

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
)	THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF GREENVILLE)	Case No.: 2021-cp-23-
Chad Connelly,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	Complaint in a Civil Action
)	
vs.)	
)	
Olga Lisinska and Palmetto Kids First)	
Scholarship Program, Inc.)	
)	
Defendants.)	
_____)	

Plaintiff Chad Connelly, by and through his counsel, will show this Honorable Court as follows:

Parties

1. Plaintiff Chad Connelly is a resident of Prosperity in Newberry County, South Carolina.
2. Upon information and belief, Defendant Olga Lisinska is a resident of 403 McCarter Avenue, Greenville, SC in Greenville County, South Carolina.
3. Upon information and belief Defendant Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) with an address listed as 403 McCarter Avenue, Greenville, SC.

Jurisdiction and Venue

4. Jurisdiction is proper in Greenville County Court of Common Pleas.
5. Venue is proper in Greenville County South Carolina as both Defendants are located or reside at the same address at 403 McCarter Avenue, Greenville, SC 29615.

Background Facts

6. Defendant Lisinska is a very intelligent, very capable and college educated woman.
7. Defendant Lisinska was and/or is the executive director, director of operations and registered agent of an organization called Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program, Inc.
8. Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program, Inc. was created as a scholarship funding organization under a tax credit proviso allowing organizations to raise money and

distribute scholarships to children with exceptional needs. Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program, Inc. was created under section 501(c)(3).

9. Upon information and belief Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program Inc. has brought in \$30 of income total for calendar years 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. Calendar year 2019 is the last year made publicly available for the Defendant Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program, Inc.
10. On October 8, 2014, the Department of Revenue initiated a review and audit of Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program, Inc. due to reported improprieties.
11. The Department of Revenue issued a report of its findings in August 2015. The agency action was not appealed by Palmetto Kids First. The legislature changed the law following the SCDOR audit report to exclude groups like Palmetto Kids First. The legislature created one scholarship funding organization which does business as Exceptional SC.
12. Exceptional SC started operations in the summer of 2016.
13. Following the creation of Exceptional SC, Defendants Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program and Lisinska continued to send emails to their contact list and operate a web presence and Facebook page. Defendant Lisinska used the resources and contacts of Palmetto Kids First to attack Exceptional SC and lobby for a change in the law back to what allowed Defendant Lisinska to participate and profit in South Carolina's tax credit scholarship program.
14. Upon information and belief Defendant Lisinska traveled from Greenville to Columbia to lobby for legislation in years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.
15. Upon information and belief Defendant Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program, Inc. or Defendant Lisinska operated a motorhome advertising Palmetto Kids First from 2016 or earlier until 2020. Upon information and belief, the motor home asset is not listed on Defendant Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program's tax returns as an asset.
16. Defendants used the contact information, web presence and social media presence of Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program, Inc. to harass and attempt to create discord for the newly created Exceptional SC scholarship funding organization. The communications of Defendants Lisinska and Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program, Inc. made an argument that South Carolina should return to the prior system that allows Defendants to

participate. The tactic was and is to levy allegations that Exceptional SC is incompetent, Exceptional SC is corrupt and Exceptional SC personnel are engaged in illegal activities. The purpose of these communications was to create failure of the Exceptional SC program and argue to the legislature that it should return to a system that allows Defendants to profit by operating a tax credit scholarship program.

17. The emails, web postings and social media postings were designed to create mistrust and sow discord in the community regarding Exceptional SC.
18. In late 2017, Exceptional SC hired Plaintiff Connelly as an executive director. Plaintiff was hired for the purposes of advocacy towards donors and the legislature. Plaintiff was paid a salary for his services pursuant to a contract with Exceptional SC. The contract and payments on that contract were approved by the board of directors of Exceptional SC.
19. Control of funds, access to funds and spending decisions of Exceptional SC at all times relevant to this complaint was statutorily granted to the Department of Revenue and a board of five people appointed by the legislature.
20. Consistent with the governing statute, Plaintiff never had access to funds or decision-making authority regarding the funds of Exceptional SC.
21. The governing statute requires a CPA to compile financial statements on Exceptional SC and the report be included in a report released to the legislature each year.
22. Upon information and belief, on or about January 15, 2020, Defendant obtained the annual report of Exceptional SC that was released and made public on January 15, 2020.
23. The annual report of Exceptional SC released on January 15, 2020, reported annual fundraising was lower than prior years. It reported Exceptional SC currently had a positive balance of \$58,330 it was allowed to spend to meet expenses. The January 15, 2020, DOR report does not have findings that funds were wrongfully spent, misappropriated or embezzled in the tax credit program. If those circumstances existed, they would be reported by the CPA.

The Pattern of False and Defamatory Statements:

24. Upon Information and Belief, on Saturday January 25, 2020, Defendant Lisinska published via mass email going to members of the legislature, school administrators,

parents and other members of the community an email stating that Exceptional SC fundraising was low and expenses exceeded the 2% of income for the year 2019. This email was published on the web at mailchimp.com and on the Palmetto Kids First Facebook page. The email was signed by Defendant Lisinska. This email was the first in a long series of emails and web postings that constitute a malicious defamatory campaign against Plaintiff that paints the picture that Plaintiff committed a crime and embezzled money from Exceptional SC.

25. In the January 25, 2020 email signed by Defendant Lisinska the following words under a photo of someone putting cash in their pocket:

“News Flash!!! 1/15/2020 CPA Report shows \$183,578 “taken” from scholarship funds... and \$99,935 “misappropriated” in expenses over 2% maximum legal limit. Embezzlement? Exceptional SC charges \$331,445 in fees.”

26. The false statement conveys by insinuation and plain language that Plaintiff embezzled or misappropriated money. This is a malicious false statement with a plain meaning.

27. The January 25, 2020 newsletter signed by Defendant Lisinska has the following text:

“**#FireChadConnelly** was entrusted with our children's scholarship funds ... he then appears to have CONVERTED those funds to his own use?” The words are false, malicious and have plain meaning. The statement is known to be false by Defendant Lisinska. The insinuation conveys Plaintiff embezzled funds.

28. On January 27, Defendant sent an email to every member of the South Carolina House of Representatives and a substantially similar email to every member of the South Carolina Senate. The email again accused Plaintiff of embezzlement. The email was received by Alan Clemmons on January 27. The email came from Defendant Lisinska’s email address Olga@apogeetax.com and was signed Olga Lisinska. In the email Defendant Lisinska stated:

“The Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Fund’s (aka Exceptional SC) annual January 15th, 2020 financial report was just released by SCDOR & Exceptional SC’s CPA. \$99,935 of what was supposed to be scholarship money was misappropriated. In other words, Exceptional SC & CHAD CONNELLY paid themselves \$99,935 more than the legal maximum allowed by the law ... AND TOOK THAT MONEY FROM CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIPS! Please click on the link for more

details: <https://www.palmettokidsfirst.org/2020/01/chad-connelly-misappropriate-99935/> Are we missing something? Was paying themselves \$99,935 over the 2% legal limit the legislature's intent? OR WAS IT EMBEZZLEMENT IF IT WENT INTO THE POCKETS OF CHAD CONNELLY WITHOUT THE BOARD'S KNOWLEDGE? Don't just take my word for it, ASK THE BOARD IF THEY KNEW!!! Would love to hear your thoughts on this. Other legislators are trying to fix the program ... please join us. Olga Lisinska 843-901-8035 (cell) olga@apogee-tax.com

Olga Lisinska
403 McCarter Ave
Greenville, SC 29615
8439018035”

29. The words “OR WAS IT EMBEZZLEMENT IF IT WENT INTO THE POCKETS OF CHAD CONNELLY WITHOUT THE BOARD'S KNOWLEDGE?” insinuates and states through plain language that Defendant Connelly committed the crime of embezzlement and show Defendant Lisinska’s knowledge of the definition of embezzlement. The words are false, malicious and have plain meaning. The statement is known to be false by Defendant Lisinska. The insinuation and plain meaning are Plaintiff embezzled money.

30. On Saturday July 25, 2020, an email signed by Defendant Lisinska, published to the internet at Mailchimp.com and on the Palmetto Kids First Facebook page, contained the following text:

Yep, it is GETTING WORSE!!!

“More questions than answers look at the bank statement details. WHO is getting those BIG CHECKS?!?!?!?”

EMBEZZLEMENT CONTINUES???: Remember, they only raised \$64,627 in June ... at 2% that is \$1,293 in allowed expenses ... yet they spent \$3,768 on payroll for Becky. What about Chad & Dave Wilson ... \$\$\$.

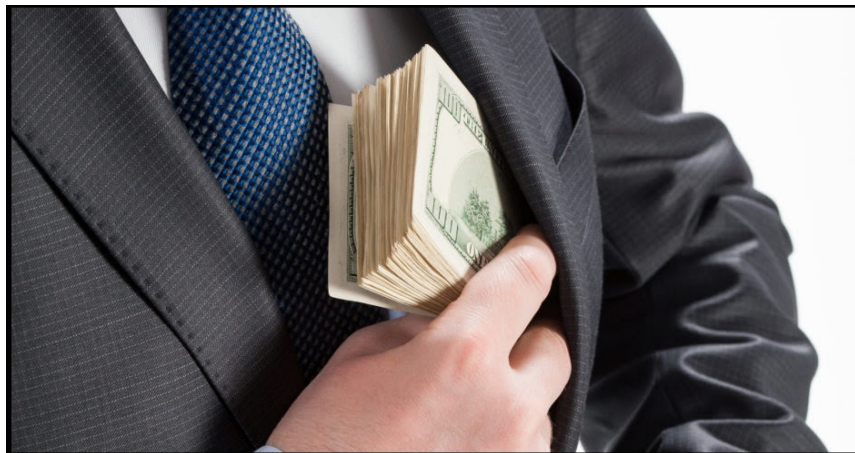
People ... when this all comes out ... and it will ... it is going to be HUGE!!!
#FireChadConnelly”

31. The words “Its getting worse”, “EMBEZZLEMENT CONTINUES”, “People... when this comes out ... and it will... its going to be HUGE!!!” insinuate and convey Chad Connelly has committed the crime of embezzlement. The statement is false, has plain meaning and is malicious. The falsity is known to defendants.
32. On August 20, 2020 Defendants sent a mass email that was published to the Palmetto Kids First Facebook page, mailchimp.com and the Palmetto Kids First distribution list. The mass email was signed by Defendant Lisinska. The mass email published by Defendants states:

“And then there is the 2% Administrative Fee Cap ... and allegations of EMBEZZLEMENT. That all came out January 25th, 2020 ... based on CPA & DOR financial reports. It is ongoing and not going to be pretty when it all comes out (hopefully sooner rather than later with these new developments) ... but if anything ... this overspending may be the straw that broke the camel's back ... at least with the SC Department of Revenue.

The ongoing question? So, was all this apparently illegal activity limited to just Chad Connelly and Tom Persons ... who seemed to be driving the ship into the ground and refusing all requests for transparency ... and were aided by their CPA Firm (who is now not "independent" ... which is a huge red flag) & their lawyer(s) and backed up by the SC Department of Revenue (who actively opposes this program for political reasons) ... or is it a broader problem?

More to come on all of this ... we are sure.



NEWS FLASH!!!: 1/15/2020 CPA Report shows \$183,578 "taken" from scholarship funds ... and \$99,935 "misappropriated" in expenses over 2% maximum legal limit. Embezzlement? Exceptional SC charges \$331,445 in fees.

“We really hope we never have to use the name (**not so**) **Exceptional SC** ever again!!! Will it be the last time? It all depends on what happens next ... in the next week or so with the remaining FOUR Exceptional SC Board Members. Will they take advantage of the OPPORTUNITY???”

“YES ... believe it or not ... this can ALL be fixed, and fixed soon. There is no reason all \$12 MILLION can not be raised before 12/31/2020 if we have independent non-profits involved. We have no doubt we can do it ... and fund the scholarships quickly!!!”

33. The words “and allegations of EMBEZZLEMENT”, “So, was all this apparently illegal activity limited to just Chad Connelly and Tom Persons”, and “based on the CPA and DOR reports” insinuate and state Plaintiff has committed the crime of embezzlement and a CPA report shows misappropriation and embezzlement, are intended to harm plaintiff, are false, malicious, have plain meaning and known to be false by Defendant Lisinska.
34. The words “based on the CPA and DOR reports” is a false statement that insinuates credibility to Defendants false statements about findings of misappropriation and embezzlement by Plaintiff. The statement by Defendant Lisinska, along with the January

15, 2020 DOR Report excerpts posted in the January 25, 2020 email Defendant Lisinska signed, is an admission of having studied the January 15, 2020 CPA financials contained in the January 15, 2020 DOR Report on Exceptional SC. The effort to cut excerpts and convey meaning not intended by the January 15, 2020 DOR Report shows extensive knowledge of the DOR Report. Knowledge and study of the DOR Report is also knowledge the DOR Report does not contain a finding of missing money, embezzlement or misappropriation of funds. Defendants knew this was a false statement.

35. The words: "That all came out January 25th, 2020" indicate the first date of publication of the embezzlement narrative by Defendants Lisinska and Palmetto Kids First.
36. The words "this can ALL be fixed, and fixed soon. There is no reason all \$12 MILLION can not be raised before 12/31/2020 if we have independent non-profits involved. We have no doubt we can do it ... and fund the scholarships quickly!!!" show Defendants' motive of attacking Plaintiff was to paint Exceptional SC in a false negative light in an effort to influence legislation. The end goal being to allow Defendant Lisinska to profit from raising scholarship funds under a different tax credit program.
37. On August 1, 2020, Defendants published to recipients, Facebook and mailchimp.com an email signed by Defendant Lisinska. The email contained the following words:

"And then there is the 2% Administrative Fee Cap ... and allegations of EMBEZZLEMENT. That all came out January 25th, 2020 ... based on CPA & DOR financial reports. It is ongoing and not going to be pretty when it all comes out (hopefully sooner rather than later with these new developments) ... but if anything ... this overspending may be the straw that broke the camel's back ... at least with the SC Department of Revenue.

Nobody seemed to care (other than a few of our legislator friends ... not even the mainstream press) when kids did not get funding ... and schools were closing over this mess ... but when "important" people might have serious legal liability ... and perhaps criminal charges ... that fear perhaps is what spurred someone to ACT ... finally!!!

The ongoing question? So, was all this apparently illegal activity limited to just Chad Connelly and Tom Persons ... who seemed to

be driving the ship into the ground and refusing all requests for transparency ... and were aided by their CPA Firm (who is now not "independent" ... which is a huge red flag) & their lawyer(s) and backed up by the SC Department of Revenue (who actively opposes this program for political reasons) ... or is it a broader problem?"

38. The following text in the August 1, 2020 email insinuates and conveys that Plaintiff committed the crime of embezzlement, which is malicious, false and known to be false by Defendants:

“and allegations of EMBEZZLEMENT.”, “but when "important" people might have serious legal liability ... and perhaps criminal charges”. “So, was all this apparently illegal activity limited to just Chad Connelly and Tom Persons”

39. The false statements in the August 1, 2020 email insinuate and convey Plaintiff embezzled money and broke the law. The statements are false, have plain meaning and are malicious. The falsity is known to defendants.
40. On or about May 23, 2021, Palmetto Kids First sent out a mass email that was published to the Palmetto Kids First Facebook page, mailchimp.com and the Palmetto Kids First distribution list. The email was signed by Defendant Lisinska. The email overtly states Plaintiff committed the crime of embezzlement, the statements are false, malicious, have plain meaning and are known to be false by Defendants. The email stated:

“Back-Fire!!!: But what people are talking about... Chad Connelly and Embezzlement... That is “real” CRIMINAL EMBEZZLEMENT!!!

The entire system is trying to protect him... But with this many people seeing what is going on... I don't see how he has ANY CHANCE of getting out of this mess.”

Distribution of Published Statements by Palmetto Kids First Mass Email

41. Defendant Lisinska sent an email to the South Carolina Department of Revenue on May 17, 2018, at 10:33 AM in which she alleged the Saturday Morning Palmetto Kids First email distribution contained “2400+” recipients. The email was signed by Defendant

Lisinska. The mass email recipient list received all false statements except the email sent to legislators on January 27, 2020.

42. Upon information and belief former Clemson Professor Constancio Nakuma, school administrator Susan Sachs, school administrator Dana Blackhurst, parent Melanie Pruitt and parent Tracy Chandler are among the “2400+” email recipients referred to by Defendant Lisinska.
43. Defendant’s January 27, 2020 email was received by all members of the South Carolina House of representatives. Upon information and belief, a similar email was sent to members of the South Carolina Senate.

Defendants’ Knowledge of Law and Operations of Exceptional SC

44. On Saturday November 4, 2017, Defendant Lisinska signed a mass email that announced the hiring of Plaintiff Chad Connelly. The email showed a keen awareness of the statutorily described roles of the board, Department of Revenue and Plaintiff. Defendant Lisinska’s email stated Plaintiff Chad Connelly was hired for fundraising. It also stated: **“A "structural" problem?: As we have reported hundreds of times ... the issue is a legal and technical tax problem. It is an unconstitutional problem** due to the fact Exceptional SC is government run with its government appointed Board and administered by the SC Department of Revenue.” This structure of statutorily defined duties remained in place under new law in effect during the pendency of matters conveyed in this complaint.
45. On April 21, 2018, Defendants posted a legislative update of the bill that became governing law for Exceptional SC during the pendency of matters conveyed in this complaint.
46. On April 27, 2018, Defendants posted to Facebook a legislative update giving analysis of the details changed in subcommittee on the bill that became permanent law governing Exceptional SC operations.
47. On May 2, 2018, Defendants posted to Facebook a legislative update on the bill that became permanent law governing Exceptional SC operations.
48. On May 11, 2018, Defendants published on Facebook a legislative update with analysis of changes for the bill that became permanent law governing Exceptional SC operations.

49. On May 14, 2018, Defendants published an infographic containing detailed analysis of the changes to the bill that became permanent law governing Exceptional SC operations.
50. On May 17, 2018, Defendants published a mass email and posted it to Facebook and Mailchimp.com an announcement that H4077 had passed and provided the infographic detailing every change made in H4077. The email was signed by Defendant Lisinska.
51. To provide accurate legislative analysis and an accurate description of duties of Chad Connelly, SCDOR and the Board of Directors, Defendant Lisinska would necessarily have to be infinitely familiar with the provisions of South Carolina Code Sections 12-6-3790. Through this familiarity with statute, Defendant Lisinska knew Plaintiff did not have authority or access to funds of Exceptional SC.

Defendants' Knowledge of Falsity and Actual Malice

52. The November 4, 2017 email signed by Defendant Lisinska required detailed knowledge of SC Code Section 12-6-3790(B)(3-4), which reads in part, "In concert with the public charity directors, the department shall administer the public charity including, but not limited to, the keeping of records, the management of accounts, and disbursement of the grants awarded pursuant to this section." Knowledge that the directors and SCDOR, not Plaintiff, had authority over the finances shows Defendant Lisinska knew her allegations Plaintiff overspent, misappropriated or embezzled money were false and actual malice exists.
53. At all relevant times during the matters of this complaint South Carolina Code Section 12-6-3790(B)(5)(d) required a copy of a compilation, review, or audit of the fund's financial statements, conducted by a certified public accounting firm be submitted to the legislature annually. Upon information and belief Defendants were keenly aware of this statutory requirement as they requested a copy annually on the date of the release of the report.
54. In a January 25, 2020 email signed by Defendant Lisinska and published to the Palmetto Kids First distribution list, Defendants claim to have reviewed the January 15, 2020 Exceptional SC CPA financial report in detail. Defendants posted excerpts from the January 15, 2020 Exceptional SC CPA financial report on the web, Facebook and to mass email. The January 15, 2020 CPA financial report concluded Exceptional SC had a

positive cash balance it was allowed to spend and it did not make findings of misappropriation, embezzlement, wrongdoing or illegal activity.

55. The January 15, 2020 CPA Report does not report findings of missing money or embezzlement. Upon information and belief, Defendants knew the January 15, 2020 DOR Report does not contain findings of missing money, misappropriation or embezzlement. Defendant's publication of the DOR Report and excerpts along with efforts to mischaracterize the CPA financial report findings show evidence of actual malice through Defendant's knowledge of falsity of their statements that the CPA financial report contained in the January 15, 2020 DOR report on Exceptional SC shows missing money existed, funds were misappropriated and embezzlement occurred.
56. Phrasing defamatory statements as questions and using question marks to avoid defamation liability is common internet knowledge.
57. The January 25, 2020 email contained a statement that: "he then appears to have CONVERTED those funds to his own use?". The question mark following the statement does not make it less a statement of fact. The question mark does show an effort by defendants to use a question mark in an attempt to shield from a defamation cause of action. The statement is false, malicious, intended to convey the message Plaintiff embezzled money and known to the Defendants to be false and unsupported.
58. Defendant's care and diligence to imply through questions and to place question marks after defamatory statements that Plaintiff embezzled money from Exceptional SC is strong evidence of Defendants knowledge of falsity of their statements and thus actual malice.

**For a First Cause of Action:
Piercing the Corporate Veil and Dissolution**

59. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all facts and allegations in paragraphs 1-58 and 73-83 as if incorporated herein.
60. Upon information and belief Defendant Lisinska made a good living under a prior South Carolina Law allowing organizations like Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program Inc. to raise money for scholarships under a state tax credit program. Not only did Defendant Lisinska make money as an employee of Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program, Inc.,

but she also profited tremendously from her ownership of Scholarship Services, an entity that had an “excess benefit transaction” worth hundreds of thousands of dollars per year to Defendant Lisinska. This revenue stream ended for Defendant Lisinska with a Department of Revenue audit of Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program, Inc. and resulting legislative action.

61. Exceptional SC replaced the program under which Defendants operated a scholarship program. Defendant Lisinska has continuously attacked the new scholarship fundraising organization (Exceptional SC) in attempts to paint a negative picture of Exceptional SC. The Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program Inc. entity is Defendant Lisinska’s vehicle to publish Defendant Lisinska’s tortuous disinformation and defamation campaign that is harmful to Plaintiff and many other individuals. Defendant Lisinska’s motive behind these efforts is to create a false narrative to help efforts to restore law to the status ended by Defendants’ own actions uncovered in a South Carolina Department of Revenue audit of Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program, Inc.
62. Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program, Inc. was incorporated in 2013 and had legitimate purpose through Calendar year 2015. The legitimate purpose was raising funds for special needs scholarships and granting said scholarships.
63. Following a 2016 legislative change, the legitimate purpose of Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program, Inc. ended.
64. Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program, Inc. became a facade of Defendant Lisinska and Defendant Lisinska’s husband. Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program, Inc. was used to attack members of the community and organizations through its communications. It was also used to lobby for legislation. It is not permissible for a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization to lobby and attempt to influence legislation. Using Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program as a vehicle to spread a defamatory message is not a legitimate purpose of a non-profit charitable organization.
65. Prior content on Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program mass emails was intended to defraud, misleading to the public and conveyed that they could accept tax credit donations and offer scholarships during a time period this was not allowed by law.
66. Defendant Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program, Inc. lacks involvement or oversight from officers and directors other than Defendant Lisinska and Defendant Lisinska’s

husband. To wit, a South Carolina Department of Revenue audit of Palmetto Kids First outlined this lack of involvement existed as early as 2014 or 2015.

67. Upon Information and Belief, Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program, Inc. fails to follow corporate formalities.
68. Upon information and belief Defendant Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program Inc. failed to keep corporate records. A South Carolina Department of Revenue noted this problem as far back as year 2015.
69. Per information, belief and tax returns, Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program, Inc. has raised \$30 in the past six years. The amount of income is insufficient to own and maintain a motorhome, maintain a web page and web presence, travel to Columbia during the legislative session or pay for use of the Mailchimp.com platform. Defendant Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program Inc. is grossly undercapitalized.
70. Because of the gross undercapitalization, Palmetto Kids First would necessarily have comingling of funds and assets from Defendant Lisinska and Defendant Lisinska's husband.
71. Plaintiff prays this honorable Court shall pierce the corporate veil of Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program Inc. and allow liability for these wrongful defamatory acts to rest squarely on the Defendant perpetrating the acts.
72. Plaintiff further prays for an order from this Honorable Court permanently dissolving Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program Inc. because it is used to perpetrate acts outside of the bounds of any legitimate purpose and not allowed for a non-profit charitable organization. Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program Inc. has outlived its legitimate purpose as a scholarship program and is now used as a vehicle to perpetrate fraudulent, deceptive and tortuous acts.

**For a Second Cause of Action:
Defamation**

73. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all facts and allegations in paragraphs 1-72 as if incorporated herein.
74. Defendants made false statements alleged and insinuated Plaintiff embezzled, converted and misappropriated funds belonging to Exceptional SC.

75. The meaning of the false statements is plain. The statements are false. The statements are malicious.
76. The false statements were published widely to the web and via email and were not privileged communications. Defendants published the written false statements listed in paragraphs 24 through 40 of this complaint on the internet, to email and to social media. Emails containing these false statements were sent to thousands of individuals including specific named individuals listed in the preceding paragraphs.
77. Defendant Lisinska signed the communications, and the communications were published through Defendant Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program Inc. The Defendants are at fault for publishing the communications with false and defamatory statements.
78. The Defendants had knowledge the statements were false and any reasonable person in their shoes would also know the statements are false.
79. The Defendants exhibited behavior showing extreme knowledge of relevant facts. Defendants exhibited care to construct statements in a way that would be more difficult to show an overt statement in a manner that shows knowledge of the falsity of their statements. Defendants had actual malice.
80. The false statements allege Plaintiff committed a crime of moral turpitude and are actionable absent a showing of specific harm. However, specific harm does in fact exist.
81. The statements caused damage to Plaintiff in the form of lowering his esteem in society, tarnishing of his reputation, tarnishing of goodwill and loss of revenue to the non-profits that employ Plaintiff. The loss of revenue resulting from the false statements eventually contributed to Plaintiff's employer no longer having a financial position to retain his services.
82. The widespread impact and damage of Defendants' defamation campaign to Plaintiff's reputation and public image is best shown in a Facebook post by an individual named Scott Geer which reads: "I cannot imaging(sic) a person embezzling money stealing from special needs children. This isn't about politics, that is pure evil." Mr. Geer was talking about Plaintiff Chad Connelly and responding to a post about Plaintiff Chad Connelly. Mr. Geer is a member of the public not known to Plaintiff Connelly.

Prayer for Relief:

83. Plaintiff prays this Honorable Court will issue an Order that:

- a. Awards Plaintiff damages in an amount of six million dollars or other amount this Court deems appropriate;
- b. Requires Defendants publicly post a statement recanting the false allegations in wording and manner approved and ordered by the Court;
- c. Restrains Defendants from further disparaging Plaintiff or Plaintiff's former and present business interests, including but not limited to Exceptional SC;
- d. Dissolves Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program, Inc.; and
- e. Pierces the Corporate Veil of Palmetto Kids First Scholarship Program, Inc.

Respectfully Submitted

s/Geoffrey K. Chambers

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Attorney for Plaintiff

This 21st Day of December 2021

Columbia, SC