

**James C Jones, Jr.**

155 Howery Street  
Christiansburg, Va. 24073  
540.449.5433

**Statement**

**A Christiansburg Divorce Lawyer Forged a Court Order to Obtain Social Security Benefits**

This lawyer spent three years planning a ruse to help his client gain illegal support from her husband. Karen L. Jones was the high-income earner by a significant margin, and her husband, James C. Jones Jr., was ordered with having to pay support after she left him. John Huntington, the lawyer, described the situation as “*unfortunate*” in early 2003, so they developed a plan over the next three years.

Karen L. Jones liquidated as much equity from her husband's separate estate as she could. They hired an IRS Special Consultant to cover their tracks; however, he was fired from the case when it was learned that James C. Jones had previously contacted him for advice on uncovering embezzlement by his wife. While working for Huntington, the consultant forgot to mention this contact to James C. Jones until he was caught.

By early 2006, Karen L. Jones deposited around \$200,000 per year into her bank account during the scam. She then went to court seeking \$8,000 per month in support from her husband, whose annual paycheck was \$25,000, when he received one. Karen L. Jones was his CFO and had manipulated his finances for years to position herself for the big payout. James C. Jones fired her when he realized something was wrong in April 2006. In June 2006, she filed for divorce, claiming constructive desertion, even though she was at fault, and her lawyer was aware of her adultery.

Karen L. Jones should have been paying her husband support but hired another expert witness to use her fraudulent accounting to conceal their wrongdoing and muddy the waters with the court.

As a result, James C. Jones was ordered to pay her \$1,509 per month, his entire paycheck, plus provide health insurance, which added another \$1,000 a month in expenses. After being jailed over child support he could not pay in June 2012, while under appeal, a friend paid the support in full

plus an extra \$41,000. This was a mistake, and after another year of child support payments, he had it eliminated, finally done by August 2013.

As soon as the support payments were eliminated, a fraudulent court order went to the Social Security Administration for \$3,136 per month, ordering them to pay Karen L. Jones. There was no such court order because there was no hearing. Social Security processed it as legitimate without asking questions. They notified James C. Jones by letter but were unable to discuss the matter due to privacy concerns; they would not share the order or any information about his children because they were Karen L. Jones's children too. Karen L. Jones wanted to collect benefits for the time the children were under joint shared custody. The children were 6, 8 and 10 when Karen L. Jones moved out in 2006 and 12 and 14, 16 when the \$3,136 per month fraudulent order went through.

Karen L. Jones collected James C. Jones's benefits until each child turned 18. Ironically, James Jones was disabled and didn't have to pay support since he stopped working in April 2008. He and his lawyer informed the court and Huntington by letter in March 2008, and his lawyer quit the case when he discovered they were fleecing James C. Jones for years and committing several crimes in the divorce process. James C. Jones had more lawyers quit, and the last one told him the divorce was a "*criminal matter*" in 2012 a few weeks before an appeal was due. James C. Jones had to conduct his own divorce in 2010 after David Skewes abruptly quit without any excuse more than "*I cannot be involved*" in March 2008. There was a Motion to Quash the support and other matters on the table while waiting for transcripts of the July 12, 2007, hearing that set the \$1,509 per month support amount under fraud, during the hearing. Somewhere between Huntington and his client, what they turn red into SSA was fabricated. The Division of Child Support Services, which was involved by then, could have fabricated it, as they were the ones responsible for receiving all the child support by law before they jailed James C. Jones in June 2012. The lawyer for them, Anne Marie Chidester admitted in court James C. Jones did not know they were involved in the case in April 2013, at a support hearing to eliminate support. All of this was done while his case was under appeal to prevent him from appealing the matter by jailing him. It is hard to believe we live in a state that would take such extreme actions to silence the victims.

These actions are reminiscent of the Ferguson, MO, riots and were addressed by the DOJ Civil Rights Division, 2016 Dear Colleague letter to all courts to beware of constitutional protections about the ability to pay. The Supreme Court case *Turner v. Rogers* warned about these protections

and the need to investigate the ability to pay before incarcerating people. The Commonwealth of Virginia intentionally went after James C. Jones at the request of Huntington, with no question about it.

###