

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND  
FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

STATE FARM MUTUAL AUTOMOBILE  
INSURANCE COMPANY,

Petitioner,

v.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATES OF FLORIDA, L.L.C.,  
a/a/o Margaret Meek,

Respondent.

Case No. 2018-CA-011096-O

Lower Case No.: 2017-SC-6830-O

---

Petition for Writ of Certiorari  
from the Orange County Court,  
Eric H. DuBois, County Judge.

Paul L. Nettleton, Esquire, and  
Joseph H. Lang, Jr., Esquire,  
for Petitioner.

Chad A. Barr, Esquire,  
for Respondent.

Before DAWSON, SHEA, and LATIMORE, J.J.

PER CURIAM.

In this PIP case, State Farm Mutual Auto Insurance Co. (State Farm), the Defendant below, timely seeks certiorari review of the trial court's Order on August 8, 2018 Hearing, which was entered in favor of Emergency Medical Associates of Florida, L.L.C. (EMA), the Plaintiff below.<sup>1</sup>

We summarily deny the petition.

A discovery dispute between State Farm and EMA resulted in the trial court's Order on August 8, 2018 Hearing, which ruled that State Farm and non-parties were in contempt of court,

---

<sup>1</sup>We dispense with oral argument. Fla. R. App. P. 9.320.

and that EMA was entitled to monetary sanctions.<sup>2</sup> According to State Farm, the parties' underlying discovery dispute has been resolved. State Farm urges that the court's Order on August 8, 2018 Hearing was a departure from the essential requirements of law because it contained contempt rulings that were not announced by the court at the hearing and were otherwise unwarranted by the record. State Farm also urges that the court's imposition of monetary sanctions and the stigma caused by the court's contempt ruling result in irreparable harm.

However, contrary to State Farm's position, we determine that any error that might be present in the trial court's Order on August 8, 2018 Hearing may be readily corrected on direct appeal. *See Caruso v. Super Vision International, Inc.*, 845 So. 2d 947, 948 (Fla. 5th DCA 2003). Therefore, we conclude that appellate review by certiorari at the present time is inappropriate. *See Reeves v. Fleetwood Homes of Fla., Inc.*, 889 So. 2d 812, 822 (Fla. 2004) ("Limited certiorari review is based upon the rationale that 'piecemeal review of nonfinal trial court orders will impede the orderly administration of justice and serve only to delay and harass.'") (quoting *Jaye v. Royal Saxon, Inc.*, 720 So. 2d 214, 215 (Fla. 1998)); *Martin-Johnson, Inc. v. Savage*, 509 So. 2d 1097, 1098 (Fla. 1987) ("[C]ommon law certiorari is an extraordinary remedy and should not be used to circumvent the interlocutory appeal rule which authorizes appeal from only a few types of non-final orders."). As in *Caruso*, we deny State Farm's petition "without a determination on the merits, since any error can be corrected on direct appeal." 845 So. 2d at 948.

Accordingly, it is hereby **ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** as follows:

1. State Farm's petition for writ of certiorari, filed on October 11, 2018, is **DENIED** without prejudice to State Farm challenging the trial court's Order on August 8, 2018 Hearing on direct appeal.

---

<sup>2</sup> The Order provided that EMA could "seek a ruling from the Court on the amount of the sanctions, in the form of Plaintiff's attorney's fees and costs, at any time following the date of this Order."

2. EMA's motion for appellate attorney's fees pursuant to section 627.428, Florida Statutes, filed on November 21, 2018, is **CONDITIONALLY GRANTED**, in an amount to be determined below and subject to EMA's ultimate success in the underlying case.

3. State Farm's Motion to Travel Together and Notice of Related Cases, filed on November 21, 2018, is **DENIED AS MOOT**.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Chambers, at Orlando, Orange County, Florida, on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

---

DANIEL P. DAWSON  
Presiding Circuit Judge

SHEA and LATIMORE, J.J., concur.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished to the Honorable Eric H. DuBois, Orange County Judge, Orange County Courthouse, 425 N. Orange Ave., Orlando, FL 32801; Paul L. Nettleton, Esquire, Carlton Fields Jordan Burt, P.A., P.O. Box 3239, Tampa, FL 33601-3239 at [pnettleton@carltonfields.com](mailto:pnettleton@carltonfields.com) ; Joseph H. Lang, Jr., Esquire, Carlton Fields Jordan Burt, P.A., P.O. Box 3239, Tampa, FL 33601-3239 at [jlang@carltonfields.com](mailto:jlang@carltonfields.com) ; and Chad A. Barr, Esquire, Law Office of Chad A. Barr, P.A., 986 Douglas Ave., Suite 100, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714 at [service@chadbarrlaw.com](mailto:service@chadbarrlaw.com) and [chad@chadbarrlaw.com](mailto:chad@chadbarrlaw.com) , on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

---

Judicial Assistant