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1-22-2007

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY vs. One \$154.00 in
U.S. Currency Other miscellaneous property,
Seized From: Katherine Gregory, Date of Seizure:
December 10, 2004, Claimant: Katherine Gregory

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**BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OF THE
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY**

IN THE MATTER OF:

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

v.

**One \$154.00 in U.S. Currency
Other miscellaneous property
Seized From: Katherine Gregory
Date of Seizure: December 10, 2004
Claimant: Katherine Gregory**

**DOCKET NO: 19.01-094511J
(D.O.S. Case No. D7601)**

INITIAL DEFAULT ORDER

This matter was heard Nashville, Tennessee, on January 22, 2007, before Lynn M. England, Administrative Law Judge, assigned by the Secretary of State, and sitting for the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Safety. Orville Orr, Staff Attorney for the Department of Safety, represented the State.

The subject of this hearing was the proposed forfeiture of the subject property for its alleged use in violation of T.C.A. §53-11-201 et seq. and §40-33-201 et seq.

Katherine Gregory, Claimant, did not appear at the hearing. The State therefore moved for an initial **default** and dismissal of the case. The motion was **granted** based upon the following findings of fact and conclusions of law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Claimant's attorney was sent notice of the hearing by certified mail at his address of record. A copy of the postal green card shows Linda Rhine signed for the notice.
2. Claimant did not appear on the day of the hearing, nor did an attorney appear on Claimant's behalf.

3. The State had its witnesses available and was ready to go forward to prove its case.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ANALYSIS

1. Department of Safety Rule 1340-2-2-.17(1) provides, in relevant part:
 - (d) No default shall be entered against a claimant for failure to attend except upon proof, by the filing of the return receipt card, that the Legal Division has given notice of hearing.
 - (e) Upon default by a party, an administrative judge may enter either an initial default order or an order for an uncontested proceeding.

2. Department of Safety Rule 1340-2-2-.17(2) states, in relevant part:

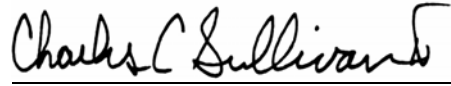
Upon a default by a claimant, a claimant’s claim shall be stricken by initial default order.

3. The State’s motion for default being granted, it is therefore **ordered** that Claimant’s **claim be stricken**. The claim being stricken, it is as if no claim had ever been filed, which constructively evokes T.C.A. §40-33-206(c). That section states: “If a claim . . . is not filed with the applicable agency within the time specified . . . the seized property shall be forfeited and disposed of as provided by law.”

This Initial Order entered and effective this 7th day of February, 2007.

Lynn M. England
Administrative Judge

Filed in the Administrative Procedures Division, Office of the Secretary of State, this 7th day of February, 2007.

Handwritten signature of Charles C. Sullivan, II in cursive script.

Charles C. Sullivan, II, Director
Administrative Procedures Division