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Christian L. Trowbridge vs. Safety

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**BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OF THE
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY**

IN THE MATTER OF:

**TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF
SAFETY AND HOMELAND
SECURITY**

**DOCKET NO: 19.01-127409J
(D.O.S. Case No. N6004)**

v.

**One 2004 Ford Taurus
VIN NO.: 1FAFP55S44G185962
Seized From: CHRISTIAN
TROWBRIDGE
Date of Seizure: March 4, 2013
Claimant: CHRISTIAN
TROWBRIDGE
Lien Holder: N/A**

INITIAL DEFAULT ORDER

This matter was heard in Knoxville, Tennessee, on August 19, 2014, before Rob Wilson, Administrative Law Judge, assigned by the Secretary of State, and sitting for the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Safety. Patrick Rice, 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.

Christian Trowbridge, 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 was sent notice of the hearing by certified mail at his address of record. A copy of the postal green card shows that the notice was delivered to Claimant's last address of record but was returned as undeliverable.
2. Claimant failed to 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.”

Accordingly, the 2004 Ford Taurus is hereby forfeited to the seizing agency.

This Initial Order entered and effective this _____ day of _____ 2014.

Rob Wilson
Administrative Judge

Filed in the Administrative Procedures Division, Office of the Secretary of State,
this _____ day of _____ 2014.



J. Richard Collier, Director
Administrative Procedures Division