OPINION SUMMARY
MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS EASTERN DISTRICT

DIVISION ONE

PATRICIA K. FISH, Appellant, v. BRIAN D. FISH, Respondent.	))))))))	ED113890 Filed: November 10, 2026

Appeal from the Circuit Court of St. Louis County
The Honorable Natalie P. Warner

Patricia K. Fish (Mother) appeals the judgment of the trial court terminating the court's prior contempt order against Brian D. Fish (Father) for failure to pay child support and other expenses, violating the parties' parenting plan in numerous respects, and failure to indemnify Mother and hold her harmless for several civil lawsuits resulting from Father's alleged forgery of Mother's signature on financial documents. Mother argues the trial court erred in determining Father had purged his contempt because it failed to consider evidence she submitted and miscalculated what Father still owed to Mother.

AFFIRMED IN PART; REVERSED AND REMANDED IN PART.

DIVISION ONE HOLDS:
The trial court abused its discretion in failing to reopen the evidence to receive a signed copy of Mother's Exhibit 2, in that all parties were aware of its contents and it was material because it might substantially affect the trial court's determination as to child support due. The trial court's judgment finding Father purged his contempt was without substantial evidence to support it and was against the weight of the evidence in that it erroneously applied Father's pre-bankruptcy-compromise payments to amounts remaining due following the bankruptcy compromise. Applying Father's payments pro-rata to each debt included in the January 2019 contempt judgment, there was still $14,969.85 due that was not settled by the bankruptcy compromise in November 2022. Only two of Father's $1,000 payments came after the bankruptcy compromise, leaving $12,969.85 remaining unpaid from the trial court's January 2019 contempt judgment. Finally, we find the trial court did not err in limiting the issues to be determined on Mother's motion for warrant and commitment to only Father's monetary obligations under the contempt order, as only those can be purged at this point, and Mother is still free to seek other remedies for Father's failure to comply with the other orders in the January 2019 contempt judgment.

Opinion by: Gary M. Gaertner, Jr., Presiding Judge
Robert M. Clayton III, Judge; Michael S. Wright, Judge, concur.

Attorney for Appellant: Patricia K. Fish, pro se

Attorney for Respondent: Benjamin T. Aranda

This summary is not part of the opinion of the court. It has been prepared for the convenience of the reader and should not be quoted or cited.