

UNREPORTED  
IN THE APPELLATE COURT  
OF MARYLAND

No. 1350

September Term, 2024

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ALEXIS HUERTA

v.

LILIANA VILMARY HUERTA

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Shaw,  
Ripken,  
Meredith, Timothy E.  
(Senior Judge, Specially Assigned),

JJ.

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PER CURIAM

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Filed: April 2, 2025

\*This is a per curiam opinion. Under Rule 1-104, the opinion is not precedent within the rule of stare decisis nor may it be cited as persuasive authority.

On May 2, 2023, the Circuit Court for Prince George’s County entered an order which modified a previously issued child support order, and directed Alexis Huerta, appellant, to pay Liliana Huerta, appellee, \$1,500 per month as child support for their minor children. On June 5, 2024, appellee filed a petition for contempt claiming that appellant had willfully failed to comply with his child support obligations under the May 2023 order. The court issued a show cause order, and a hearing on the contempt petition was held before a magistrate on August 26, 2024. Following that hearing, the magistrate issued an order discharging the show cause order because appellee had failed to serve a copy of the contempt petition on appellant. A new show cause order was issued on September 4, 2024, which directed appellant to show cause why the contempt petition should not be granted and ordered the parties to appear for a hearing on December 16, 2024. Appellant filed a notice of appeal on September 9, 2024.

With limited exceptions an appeal may be taken only from a final judgment. Md. Code Ann., Courts and Judicial Proceedings § 12-301 (1974, 2020 Repl. Vol.). To constitute a final judgment, the trial court’s determination must either decide and conclude the rights of the parties involved or deny a party the means to prosecute or defend rights and interests in the subject matter of the proceeding. *Nnoli v. Nnoli*, 389 Md. 315, 324 (2005) (citing *Rohrbeck v. Rohrbeck*, 318 Md. 28, 41 (1989)). We look to whether any future order was to be issued or whether any further action was to be taken in a case to determine whether an order or ruling is a final appealable judgment. *Id.* There are three limited exceptions to the final judgment rule under which interlocutory orders may be appealed in Maryland: (1) appeals from interlocutory orders specifically allowed by statute;

(2) immediate appeals permitted under Maryland Rule 2-602; and (3) appeals from interlocutory rulings allowed under the common law collateral order doctrine. *Salvagno v. Frew*, 388 Md. 605, 615 (2005).

Here, the only orders entered by the court within 30 days prior to appellant filing his notice of appeal were the August 26 order discharging the previously issued show cause order, and the September 4 show cause order. *See* Maryland Rule 8-202(a) (“Except as otherwise provided . . . the notice of appeal shall be filed within 30 days after entry of the judgment or order from which the appeal is taken.”). Neither of these orders, however, constituted a final judgment as appellee’s contempt petition against appellant has not yet been resolved. Moreover, neither order meets the criteria for an appealable interlocutory order. Consequently, the appeal must be dismissed.

**APPEAL DISMISSED. COSTS TO BE PAID BY APPELLANT.**