

Circuit Court for Frederick County
Case No. C-10-FM-20-000919

UNREPORTED*

IN THE APPELLATE COURT

OF MARYLAND

No. 2527

September Term, 2024

IMAD SOUBRA

v.

ANDRESSA MARTINS DO AMARAL

Friedman,
Zic,
Kenney, James A., III
(Senior Judge, Specially Assigned),

JJ.

Opinion by Zic, J.

Filed: February 19, 2026

* This is an unreported opinion. This opinion may not be cited as precedent within the rule of stare decisis. It may be cited for its persuasive value only if the citation conforms to Maryland Rule 1-104(a)(2)(B).

Imad Soubra, Esq., appellant, filed the instant “interlocutory appeal” challenging the Circuit Court for Frederick County’s denial of his request for attorney’s fees.¹ Mr. Soubra, who is not a party to the underlying proceedings, does not have standing to appeal the circuit court’s order. For this reason, and as explained in more detail below, we dismiss.

For a period in 2023, Mr. Soubra represented the defendant, Jamal El Byad, in the underlying divorce proceedings against Andressa Martins Do Amaral, appellee.^{2, 3} On July 11, 2024, Ms. Martins Do Amaral’s boyfriend called Mr. Soubra and “demanded information from [him] with regards to his bills to [his former client,] Mr. El Byad.” The following day, Ms. Martins Do Amaral served Mr. Soubra with a subpoena, which requested information about billing and payments resulting from his prior representation of Mr. El Byad. Mr. Soubra then filed an “Emergency Ex Parte Motion to Quash[,]” in

¹ Mr. Soubra phrased the question on appeal as follows:

1. Did the trial court err or abuse its discretion for not awarding attorney fees to a former attorney in the matter for protecting former client’s information where opposing party issued a frivolous subpoena requesting documents that are privileged and confidential and have a former counsel testifying on their behalf as well as a non-attorney requesting information from a former attorney about a former client?

² Mr. Soubra states that “his appearance was terminated on June 1, 2023.” Absent from the record, however, is Mr. Soubra’s entry of appearance. We assume that Mr. Soubra began representing Mr. El Byad at some point after December 15, 2022, when the circuit court struck Mr. El Byad’s former counsel’s appearance, but before June 1, 2023, when the court “terminated” Mr. Soubra’s appearance.

³ Ms. Martins Do Amaral did not file an appellate brief.

which he asked the court to enjoin further contact by Ms. Martins Do Amaral and her boyfriend and to order Ms. Martins Do Amaral to pay “reasonable attorney fees associated [with] any work done involving her [s]uboepena[.]” The court granted Mr. Soubra’s request to enjoin further contact but denied the request for reasonable attorney’s fees. Mr. Soubra appealed.

In Maryland, the right to appeal must be conferred by statute. *See, e.g., Mateen v. Saar*, 376 Md. 385, 399 (2003) (“[T]here is now no common law right of appeal under Maryland law.”) (quoting *State v. Green*, 367 Md. 61, 79 (2001)). Pursuant to § 12-301 of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings (“CJP”) Article of the Maryland Code (1974, 2020 Repl. Vol.), “a *party* may appeal from a final judgment entered in a civil . . . case by a circuit court.” (Emphasis added.)

Put simply, Mr. Soubra is not a party to the divorce proceedings between Ms. Martins Do Amaral and Mr. El Byad. Mr. Soubra does not explain how, as a non-party to these proceedings, he has standing to appeal the circuit court’s order. Accordingly, we hold that Mr. Soubra’s appeal is not properly before this Court and dismiss.⁴

APPEAL DISMISSED; COSTS TO BE PAID BY APPELLANT.

⁴ We express no opinion on either the merits of Mr. Soubra’s appeal or the finality, for appeals purposes, of the order challenged.