

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR  
MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.:

JODI BRUCE, as Personal Representative of the  
ESTATE OF MICHELLE STEVENS,

Plaintiff,

vs.

AUSTIN HARROUFF,

Defendant.

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**COMPLAINT**

COMES NOW, the Plaintiff, JODI BRUCE, as Personal Representative of the ESTATE OF MICHELLE STEVENS, by and through her undersigned counsel, and hereby sues the Defendant, AUSTIN HARROUFF, and states as follows:

**GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

1. This is an action for damages over fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00), and otherwise within the jurisdiction of this court.
2. Venue is proper in Martin County, Florida, as the incident giving rise to this Complaint occurred in Martin County, Florida.
3. Plaintiff, JODI BRUCE, at all times material hereto, was and is the Personal Representative of the ESTATE OF MICHELLE STEVENS, deceased (Martin County Circuit Court, Probate Division, Case No.16000792 CP AX MX). The beneficiary of the estate is Jeff Mishcon.
4. Defendant, AUSTIN HARROUFF (hereinafter "HARROUFF), is and was a

resident of Martin County, Florida, is over the age of 18 years and is otherwise sui juris.

5. At all times material hereto, HARROUFF was the habitual user of:
  - a) illegal drugs including, but not limited to:
    - a. Marijuana;
    - b. Cocaine;
    - c. Hallucinogenic mushrooms (“shrooms”);
    - d. Acid;
    - e. Methamphetamines; and
    - f. Ecstasy;
  - b) prescription drugs without a prescription including, but not limited to:
    - a. Vyvanse;
    - b. Adderall; and
    - c. Xanax.
  - c) alcohol while under the legal drinking age, including regularly engaging in “binge drinking,” drinking alcohol to excess, and drinking alcohol until he “blacked out.”

6. HARROUFF frequently used and was permitted to use and abuse the above illegal drugs, prescription drugs and alcohol within his parents’ homes.

7. In the days prior to August 15, 2016, HARROUFF endeavored to prepare hallucinogenic mushrooms “shrooms.”

8. As a result of HARROUFF’s habitual use of the above substances, he stated to friends and family that he was “evolving,” “immortal,” a “centaur” and/or had “super powers.”

9. HARROUFF frequently and chronically committed aggressive and violent acts, prompting his family member(s) to lock their doors at night in fear.

10. On or about August 14, 2016, one (1) day prior to the killings giving rise to this Complaint, HARROUFF's father took him to a gun and knife show where HARROUFF was permitted to purchase a switchblade knife weapon.

11. Prior to the purchase, HARROUFF had recorded song lyrics specifically alluding to and/or fantasizing about his desire to kill "with a knife."

12. On the evening of August 15, 2016, HARROUFF was with his parents when he became aggressive and violent.

13. HARROUFF, in the presence of his parent(s), consumed the contents of a bottle labeled Wesson cooking oil mixed with Parmesan cheese which was believed to contain the "shroom" concoction.

14. HARROUFF then stormed off into the night with the switchblade knife weapon.

15. Thereafter, HARROUFF, in possession of the switchblade knife, illegally entered the home of MICHELLE STEVENS and John Stevens, III, and confronted MICHELLE STEVENS.

16. HARROUFF then attacked MICHELLE STEVENS, inflicting serious and catastrophic bodily injuries with weapons including his switchblade knife and fists.

17. The serious and grave injuries intentionally inflicted by HARROUFF upon MICHELLE STEVENS include:

- a. nine (9) stab wounds, most of which to her back;
- b. eight (8) fractured ribs;

- c. complete fracture of the left humerus;
- d. skull fracture;
- e. multiple fractures to the facial bones – mandible, maxillia and nasal bridge;
- f. three (3) knocked out teeth;
- g. multiple loosened teeth;
- h. stab wounds puncturing her lungs;
- i. stab wounds puncturing her aorta;
- j. scalp lacerations; and
- k. various other lacerations and contusions to the head and face.

18. MICHELLE STEVENS died from the catastrophic injuries inflicted by HARROUFF.

19. Immediately thereafter, John J. Stevens, III returned home to discover the bloodied body of his wife, MICHELLE STEVENS, being mutilated by HARROUFF.

20. HARROUFF then attacked John Stevens, III, inflicting serious and catastrophic bodily injuries upon John J. Stevens, III.

21. AUSTIN HARROUFF proceeded to bite and otherwise eat John J. Stevens, III.

22. John Stevens, III died from the catastrophic injuries inflicted by AUSTIN HARROUFF.

### **COUNT I – WROUNGUL DEATH**

23. Plaintiff reaffirms and realleges the allegations in paragraphs one through 22 as though fully set forth herein again.

24. On August 15, 2016, HARROUFF brutally, intentionally, and without

provocation attacked MICHELLE STEVENS in her home.

25. HARROUFF intentionally inflicted serious and grave injuries upon Michelle Stevens including:

- a. nine (9) stab wounds, most of which to her back;
- b. eight (8) fractured ribs;
- c. complete fracture of the left humerus;
- d. skull fracture;
- e. multiple fractures to the facial bones – mandible, maxillia and nasal bridge;
- f. three (3) knocked out teeth;
- g. multiple loosened teeth;
- h. stab wounds puncturing lungs;
- i. stab wounds puncturing the aorta;
- j. scalp laceration; and
- k. various other lacerations and contusion to the head and face.

26. MICHELLE STEVENS died as a result of the catastrophic injuries intentionally imposed by HARROUFF.

27. HARROUFF's acts constitute one or more felonies as defined in Fla. Stat. 782.04(1)(a); 775.087; and/or 810.02(2).

28. MICHELLE STEVENS suffered fatal injuries and the ESTATE OF MICHELLE STEVENS is entitled to medical expenses, funeral expenses, loss of earnings, loss of prospective net accumulation and any other damages available appropriate and permitted under the Florida's Wrongful Death Act. These losses are permanent, continuing and occur in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, JODI BRUCE, as Personal Representative of the ESTATE OF MICHELLE STEVENS, demands judgment for damages against Defendant, AUSTIN HARROUFF, including pre-judgment interest and all costs incurred in bringing this action.

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

DATED THIS 7<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2018.



EVAN FETTERMAN  
KRISTIAN BIE  
FETTERMAN & ASSOCIATES  
[pleadingsEIF@lawteam.com](mailto:pleadingsEIF@lawteam.com)  
[pleadingsKB@lawteam.com](mailto:pleadingsKB@lawteam.com)  
648 U.S. Highway One  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408  
Telephone: (561) 845-2510  
Facsimile: (561) 845-7381  
Florida Bar No.: 155710  
Florida Bar No.: 155710