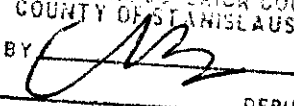


ORIGINAL

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

MANATT, PHELPS & PHILLIPS, LLP
MARGARET LEVY (Bar No. 66585)
JOSEPH E. LASKA (Bar No. 221055)
11355 West Olympic Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90064
Telephone: (310) 312-4000
Facsimile: (310) 312-4224

Attorneys for Plaintiff
PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

FILED
03 OCT -3 PM 2:46
CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
BY 
DEPUTY

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS

PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE
COMPANY,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SCOTT L. PETERSON, an Individual;
THE ESTATE OF LACI D. PETERSON;
and DOES 1-10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. **341999**

COMPLAINT IN INTERPLEADER

[Filed concurrently with Notice of Application
and Application to Invest Interpleader Funds in
Insured, Interest-Bearing Account]

1 Plaintiff Principal Life Insurance Company ("Principal") complains of the above-
2 named defendants, and each of them, as follows:

3 JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4 1. This action is a civil action under the provisions of Code of Civil Procedure
5 section 386. This court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to section 386(b) as two or more
6 adverse claimants are claiming or may claim to be entitled to life insurance proceeds currently in
7 the possession or custody of Principal, which claims may give rise to multiple liability.

8 2. Jurisdiction in this Court is proper as the amount in controversy exceeds
9 \$25,000.

10 3. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure
11 section 395 as a substantial part of the events giving rise to the potential claims of Defendants
12 occurred in this judicial district.

13 THE PARTIES

14 4. At all times material hereto, Principal was and now is a corporation duly
15 organized and existing under the laws of the State of Iowa, with its principal place of business in
16 the State of Iowa. Principal is authorized to transact and is transacting the business of insurance
17 in the State of California.

18 5. Principal is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that defendant
19 Scott L. Peterson ("Peterson"), an individual, resides in Modesto, California, and is currently
20 incarcerated at Stanislaus County Jail in Modesto, California.

21 6. Principal is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that an estate for
22 Laci D. Peterson (the "Estate") has not yet been created.

23 7. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate,
24 representative, or otherwise, of defendants named herein as Does 1 through 10, inclusive, are
25 unknown to Principal, who therefore sues said defendants by such fictitious names. Does 1
26 through 10, and each of them, are claiming or may claim to be entitled to life insurance proceeds
27 payable as a result of the death of Laci D. Peterson. Principal will seek leave of court to amend
28 this Complaint to show their true names and capacities once the same has been ascertained.

1 to whom the proceeds of the Policy rightfully should be paid. Further, payment of such proceeds
2 to any one of the named defendants at this time would subject Principal to the risk of multiple
3 and/or inconsistent liabilities.

4 16. Principal files this Complaint in good faith and without collusion with any
5 of the parties hereto. Principal has no interest in the aforementioned proceeds due and owing
6 under the Policy or any portion thereof, save and except as stakeholder.

7 17. Principal has been required to retain the services of counsel in California
8 for the purpose of protecting its interests arising from the claims and potential claims of
9 defendants, and each of them, as described above, and will be called upon to pay its attorneys for
10 the services to be rendered by them with respect thereto. In addition, Principal will be compelled
11 to incur costs and disbursements in the prosecution of this action. Such attorneys' fees, costs and
12 disbursements are and should be a legal charge upon the disputed stake, and the same should be
13 paid to Principal out of the monies deposited with this Court, pursuant to section 386.6 of the
14 Code of Civil Procedure.

15 WHEREFORE, Principal prays for judgment as follows:

16 1. That this Court decree that this Complaint in Interpleader is properly filed
17 and that this is a proper cause for interpleader;

18 2. That defendants, and each of them, be ordered to interplead and settle or
19 litigate among themselves their respective rights and claims to the proceeds under the Policy,
20 including accrued interest, due and owing by reason of the death of the Decedent;

21 3. That Principal be released, discharged and forever acquitted of and from
22 any and all liability of any kind or nature whatsoever to any of the parties hereto on account of the
23 Policy or the proceeds due and owing thereunder;

24 5. That Principal be dismissed from this action, with prejudice;

25 6. That Principal be awarded its costs of suit incurred herein, including its
26 reasonable attorneys' fees to be paid from the interpleaded funds; and

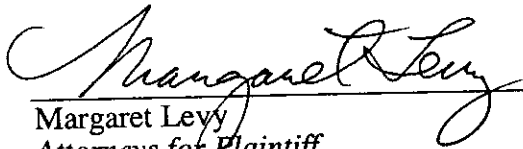
27
28

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

7. For such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: October 2, 2003

MANATT, PHELPS & PHILLIPS, LLP
MARGARET LEVY
JOSEPH E. LASKA

By: 
Margaret Levy
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Principal Life Insurance Company

40670503.1