

Michael Jordan Petitions Court to Dismiss Paternity Lawsuit

by Anthony Caruso on March 6, 2013

Hall of Fame basketball player Michael Jordan petitioned a Georgia courtroom to dismiss a paternity suit allegedly claiming that Pamela Smith's 16-year-old son is Jordan's biological son.

In her lawsuit, Smith asks Jordan take a paternity test, pay child support and share uninsured medical expenses. In addition, Smith requests that her son's last name be changed to Jordan. The former basketball superstar, who called the suit "shameless," said the paternity of Smith's son was "conclusively established" in divorce filings between Smith and her former husband, Glenville Reynolds. Jordan's spokesperson released a statement to The Associated Press noting that Jordan would fight the lawsuit and begin proceedings of his own to reclaim his good name.

"Public records show that the paternity of the child was established in a prior case in this same court many years ago and that Michael Jordan is not the father," said Estee Portnoy. "He also filed a counterclaim seeking sanctions for the false claims made against him. It is unfortunate that well-known figures are the target of these kind of claims. Michael Jordan will vigorously defend himself and his reputation."

This is not the first time a high-profile star has faced a paternity lawsuit from a former flame, and these types of allegations have become increasingly common under entertainment law. For example, teen heartthrob Justin Bieber recently faced similar paternity claims from fan Mariah Yeater, which were later dismissed