

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF VENTURA**

**Tentative Ruling**

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**2025CUWT039460: ALMA VARGAS vs LIFE, INC., A CALIFORNIA  
CORPORATION; et al.  
01/15/2026 in Department 43**

**Motion to Compel Defendant Lillian Bruce's Responses to Plaintiff's Form Interrogatories  
(Set One)**

The morning calendar in courtroom 43 will normally begin at 8:45. Please arrive for your hearing no later than 8:30 a.m. The door will be opened before the calendar is called.

The Court allows appearances by CourtCall and Zoom. Refer to the Courtroom 43 webpage for more information about remote appearances. If appearing by CourtCall, call in no later than 8:30 a.m. If you wish to appear by CourtCall, you must make arrangements with CourtCall by 4:00 p.m. the court day before your scheduled hearing. Requests for approval of a CourtCall appearance made on the morning of the hearing will not be granted. No exceptions will be made.

For Zoom appearances, all counsel appearing by Zoom must email the court at Courtroom43@ventura.courts.ca.gov with a simultaneous copy to all other counsel/self-represented parties no later than 3:00 p.m. the court day before the hearing. INCLUDE THE PHRASE "ZOOM APPEARANCE ON (DATE OF HEARING)" IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF YOUR EMAIL. The email must identify the person who will make the appearance. You will receive the login information for your appearance in reply to your email. If appearing by Zoom, log into the hearing no later than 8:30 a.m. The Court will transfer you to the meeting room when your matter is called. Additional instructions can be found on the Courtroom 43 webpage. When you log in to Zoom, be sure that your name and the case name are used as your Zoom name. IF YOU DO NOT FOLLOW ALL OF THESE INSTRUCTIONS, YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO APPEAR BY ZOOM AT THE HEARING.

With respect to the tentative ruling below, no notice of intent to appear is required. If you wish to submit on the tentative ruling you can fax notice to Judge Coats's secretary, Ms. Brantner at 805-477-8790, stating that you submit on the tentative. Or you may email Courtroom43@ventura.courts.ca.gov with all counsel copied on the email. Do not call in lieu of sending a fax or email. If you submit on the tentative without appearing and the opposing party appears, the hearing will be conducted in your absence. If you are the moving party and do not advise the Court that you submit on the tentative, or you do not appear at the hearing, the Court may deny your motion irrespective of the tentative.

Unless stated otherwise at the hearing, if a formal order is required but not signed at the hearing, the prevailing party shall prepare a proposed order and comply with CRC 3.1312 subdivisions (a), (b), (d) and (e). The signed order shall be served on all parties and a proof of service filed with the court. A "notice of ruling" in lieu of this procedure is not authorized.

**Motions:**

**2025CUWT039460: ALMA VARGAS vs LIFE, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION; et al.**

- (1) Motion to compel responses to Request for Production of Documents, Set One (Defendant Life);
- (2) Motion to compel responses to Form and Special Interrogatories, Set One (Defendant Life);
- (3) Motion to compel responses to Form Interrogatories, Set One (Defendant Shaun Bruce); and
- (4) Motion to compel responses to Form Interrogatories, Set One (Defendant Lillian Bruce).

**Tentative Ruling:** The motion to compel responses to Form Interrogatories, Set One (motion (4) against Defendant Lillian Bruce) is vacated without prejudice to renewal when and if the bankruptcy stay is lifted.

There is no order from bankruptcy court extending the automatic stay to non-debtor Defendants Shaun Bruce and LIFE, Inc. and no order has been requested or issued by this Court granting a discretionary stay.

The motions to compel responses to discovery from Defendants Shaun Bruce and LIFE, Inc. (motions (1) through (3)) are GRANTED.

Shaun Bruce is ordered to serve code compliant, verified responses to Form Interrogatories, Set One without objection, on or before March 13, 2026.

LIFE, Inc. is ordered to serve code compliant, verified responses to Form Interrogatories, Set One, Special Interrogatories, Set One, and Inspection Demands, Set One, without objection, on or before March 13, 2026.

Monetary sanctions are awarded as follows:

\$950 against Defendant Shaun Bruce, payable to plaintiff's counsel on or before February 14, 2026.

\$1,900 against Defendant LIFE, Inc., payable to plaintiff's counsel on or before February 14, 2026.

Moving party is ordered to serve notice of the Court's ruling.