

Circuit Court for Montgomery County
Case No. 149721

UNREPORTED
IN THE COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS
OF MARYLAND

No. 359

September Term, 2018

IN THE MATTER OF KEITH RAYMOND

Friedman,
Beachley,
Moylan, Charles E., Jr.
(Senior Judge, Specially Assigned),

JJ.

PER CURIAM

Filed: July 1, 2019

*This is an unreported opinion, and it may not be cited in any paper, brief, motion, or other document filed in this Court or any other Maryland Court as either precedent within the rule of stare decisis or as persuasive authority. Md. Rule 1-104.

Terrance Alan Groman filed a petition to change his name to Keith Raymond in the Circuit Court for Montgomery County. Additionally, he sought to change his race and nationality from “White/U.S. citizen” to “Dutch/American National.” On February 5, 2018, the circuit court entered an order changing appellant’s name from Terrance Alan Groman to Keith Raymond but declining to change his race and nationality. On February 26, 2018, Mr. Raymond filed a motion for reconsideration, which the court denied on April 6, 2018. Mr. Raymond now appeals, raising three issues that reduce to one: whether the court abused its discretion in denying his motion for reconsideration.¹ Because the court lacked the authority to grant Mr. Raymond’s request to change his race and nationality, we shall affirm.

Although Maryland Rule 15-901 allows a person to file a petition for change of name, there is no Maryland law that gives the circuit court the authority to enter an order changing a person’s race and nationality such that they would cease to be a United States citizen. Nor does the court’s refusal to do so under the circumstances violate Mr. Raymond’s constitutional rights, as he claims. Rather, voluntary renunciation of United States citizenship is controlled by federal law, specifically 8 U.S.C § 1481. And if Mr.

¹ Because Mr. Raymond filed his motion for reconsideration more than 10 days after the court entered the order denying his request to change his race and nationality, it did not toll the time for him to appeal that order. Consequently, his appeal is only timely as to the court’s order denying his motion for reconsideration. *See* Maryland Rule 8-202 (stating that a party must file his or her notice of appeal “within 30 days after entry of the judgment or order from which the appeal is taken”).

Raymond wishes to renounce his citizenship, he may attempt do so in accordance with that statute by filing a pleading or paper in the appropriate jurisdiction.

**JUDGMENT OF THE CIRCUIT
COURT FOR MONTGOMERY
COUNTY AFFIRMED. COSTS
TO BE PAID BY APPELLANT.**