

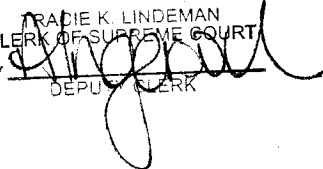
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

MARK E. RANSOM,
Appellant,
vs.
LOIS A. RANSOM-HESS,
Respondent.

No. 61662

FILED

NOV 14 2013

TRADIE K. LINDEMAN
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY 
DEPUTY CLERK

ORDER OF AFFIRMANCE


This is a proper person appeal from a district court order dismissing an action for declaratory relief concerning the validity of a marriage. Second Judicial District Court, Washoe County; Egan K. Walker, Judge.


The parties were married in Nevada on July 16, 1993. An Illinois court entered an order dissolving the marriage on October 28, 2008. In 2011, appellant filed the underlying action for declaratory relief in the Nevada district court, seeking a declaration that the parties' 1993 Nevada marriage was void. Appellant argued that at the time of their 1993 marriage, respondent was still married to another man and that she did not finalize her divorce until July 22, 1993, six days after her marriage to respondent. In dismissing appellant's complaint, the district court declined to exercise jurisdiction on the basis that the Illinois court was the proper forum to address appellant's claim.


On appeal, appellant contends that the district court had authority to grant an annulment under NRS 125.360 because his marriage to respondent was void. Appellant argues that the court's decision leaves him, as the injured spouse, without a remedy.

Having reviewed the record, we conclude that the district court properly declined to exercise jurisdiction. NRS 125.360 gives Nevada district courts the authority to annul marriages obtained within this state. Nevertheless, a court may defer jurisdiction to another court as a matter of comity. *Mianecki v. Second Judicial Dist. Court*, 99 Nev. 93, 97-98, 658 P.2d 422, 424 (1983). Under the principle of comity, "the courts of one jurisdiction may give effect to the laws and judicial decisions of another jurisdiction out of deference and respect." *Id.* at 98, 658 P.2d at 424-25. Here, the Illinois court assumed jurisdiction over the dissolution of the parties' marriage, retains continuing jurisdiction over the parties' divorce, and was the appropriate forum to determine the legal status of the parties' marriage. Under these circumstances, we conclude that the district court properly dismissed appellant's complaint. Accordingly, we

ORDER the judgment of the district court AFFIRMED.

 , J.
Gibbons

 , J.
Douglas

 , J.
Saitta

cc: Hon. Egan K. Walker, District Judge
Mark E. Ransom
Lois A. Ransom-Hess
Washoe District Court Clerk