

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS**

**RELIANCE STANDARD LIFE
INSURANCE COMPANY,**

Plaintiff,

v.

MANCY COLEMAN, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:25-cv-02587-HLT-GEB

ORDER

Plaintiff Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company filed a complaint in interpleader. Doc. 1. The case involves life insurance proceeds paid on behalf of decedent George Coleman. Defendants Mancy Coleman and Willie Mae Watson Coleman are potential beneficiaries. Plaintiff claims no interest in the proceeds. Mancy Coleman answered. Doc. 6. Willie Mae Watson Coleman has not, and the clerk entered default against her at the request of both Plaintiff and Mancy Coleman. Docs. 11-12.¹

When it sought entry of default, Plaintiff also filed a motion for default judgment. Doc. 9. Typically, a motion for default judgment is premature until the clerk enters default. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 55 (providing a two-step process). Plaintiff's motion also takes no position regarding the competing claims of Defendants. Doc. 10 at 4. It states on information and belief that Mancy Coleman will be seeking default judgment on the merits and leaves her "to her own proof." *Id.* Plaintiff states it "stands ready to either (i) deposit the funds with the court or (ii) issue payment

¹ "Interpleader defendants can utilize Rule 55 when other parties fail to defend." *Life Ins. Co. of N. Am. v. Jenkins-Dyer*, 2009 WL 1559778, at *1 (D. Kan. 2009).

directly to the proper party as the Court may direct.” *Id.* Once that occurs, Plaintiff will seek to be discharged from further liability. *Id.* at 4-5.

To date, no motion has been filed by Defendant Mancy Coleman. Plaintiff’s motion also does not provide any basis for the Court to enter default judgment at this time. *See Mrs. Condies Salad Co. v. Colo. Blue Ribbon Foods, LLC*, 858 F. Supp. 2d 1212, 1216-19 (D. Colo. 2012) (setting out requirements for granting default judgment). While the Court appreciates the issues in this case may not be contested, it cannot move the case forward on the current record.

To the extent Mancy Coleman intends to seek default judgment, she must do so by **July 31, 2026**. At that time, Plaintiff may renew its motion for default judgment or else file an appropriate motion to deposit the funds and discharge it from further liability in this case.

THE COURT THEREFORE ORDERS that Plaintiff’s Motion for Default Judgment Against Willie Mae Watson Coleman (Doc. 9) is DENIED WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

THE COURT FURTHER ORDERS that any motion for default judgment by Plaintiff or Defendant Mancy Coleman must be filed by **July 31, 2026**. If no motion is filed, Plaintiff may file an appropriate motion seeking discharge from this case.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: June 25, 2026

/s/ Holly L. Teeter
HOLLY L. TEETER
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE