

No. 1-07-0088

be reversed unless there has been an abuse of discretion. People v. Jura, 352 Ill. App. 3d 1080, 1085 (2004). Hearsay is an out-of-court statement offered to establish the truth of the matter asserted. People v. Rodriguez, 312 Ill. App. 3d 920, 928 (2000). Generally, hearsay is inadmissible because of the lack of an opportunity to cross-examine the declarant. People v. Jura, 352 Ill. App. 3d 1080, 1085 (2004). Nonetheless, even if hearsay evidence is improperly admitted, reversal is not warranted where the matter has been proven by properly admitted evidence. People v. Torres, 18 Ill. App. 3d 921, 929 (1974); People v. Monroe, 366 Ill. App. 3d 1080, 1091-92 (2006) (noting that the erroneous admission of hearsay is harmless error when it is cumulative of the testimony provided by live witnesses subjected to cross-examination).

The letters in question are dated February 28, 2005, March 9, 2005, May 17, 2005, and June 22, 2005. The February 28 letter is from defendant's attorney, Vorberg, to plaintiff. In it, Vorberg states that, in order to determine whether there is a mechanical problem with the vehicle, she needs the vehicle keys, which plaintiff had not supplied her. She states:

"As you know, the car has been stored at [our] facility since the date you towed the car to the facility. Because of your refusal to bring the car keys, [Buick's] personnel has been unable to conduct a diagnostic inspection of the vehicle. It will, of course, be necessary for you to allow access to the vehicle at some point in order to succeed on the merits of the case. We will believe it will serve all concerned if an inspection takes place in the short-term; and the parties can work toward a mutually agreeable resolution of this matter."

The March 9 letter is written by defendant's finance manager, Ed Earley, to the Illinois