

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FAMILY COURT
DOMESTIC RELATIONS BRANCH**

ERICA GOODMAN,

Plaintiff,

v.

MATTHEW WILLIAMS

Defendant.

Case No. 2016 DRB 004059

Judge STEVEN M WELLNER

ORDER FOR ALTERNATIVE SERVICE

This child custody case concerns minor child Madison Rose Williams, born January 29, 2016. Pending before the Court is Defendant's Motion to Modify Custody, filed January 30, 2024. The Court held a hearing on April 19, 2024. Defendant represented himself. Plaintiff did not appear.

At the hearing, Defendant reported that he served Plaintiff by texting a copy of the documents to a phone number that he knew to be "in her household." The Court called this telephone number during the hearing, hoping to locate Plaintiff. Someone identifying himself as Plaintiff's father, Luke Saunders, answered. He reported that Plaintiff is travelling and said he did not know how to reach her. The Court then called Plaintiff at her telephone number in the Court's records, and nobody answered.

The Court concludes that Defendant has not properly served Plaintiff. The Court will, however, permit Defendant to serve Plaintiff by (1) emailing the documents to her at the email address the parties have used to communicate;¹ and (2) alternative service by posting.

The Court finds that Defendant meets the requirements for alternative service pursuant to Super. Ct. Dom. Rel. R. 4(c)(4)(A)(ii). Defendant's application to proceed without prepayment of costs was previously approved; therefore, the Court also finds that Defendant meets the requirements for service by posting in the clerk's office and on the court's website. *See* Super Ct. Dom. Rel. R. 4(c)(4)(D). As required by the rules, the Clerk of the Court will post the notice below for a period of twenty-one calendar days.

Accordingly, it is hereby

ORDERED that Defendant **SHALL SERVE** Plaintiff by email, if he has not already done so. It is further

ORDERED that the **Clerk of the Family Court of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia SHALL POST** the following Order for a period of twenty-one calendar days:

¹ On April 19, 2024, Defendant filed proof of service stating that he served Plaintiff a copy of the motion and the summons by email.

Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Case No. 2016 DRB 004059

Erica Goodman, Plaintiff

v.

Matthew Williams, Defendant

On January 30, 2024, Defendant Matthew Williams filed a Motion to Modify Custody of minor child M.R.W., born January 29, 2016.

The Court will hold a hearing in this case on **May 29, 2024, at 2:15 PM, in Courtroom JM-5** of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, located at 500 Indiana Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001. If Plaintiff Goodman does not appear at the hearing or otherwise respond to Defendant Williams' motion, the Court may grant Defendant Williams' requested relief without further input.

So ordered on April 23, 2024.
Judge Steven M. Wellner

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: April 24, 2024



STEVEN M WELLNER
Associate Judge

By U.S. Mail and Email:
Erica Goodman
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Plaintiff

Matthew Williams
MATTHEW.A.WILLIAMS95@GMAIL.COM
Defendant

By email:
Family Court Clerk's Office