

## **Rule 72. Enforcement of Foreign Judgments**

A copy of a judgment, decree or order of a court of the United States, or of any other court entitled to full faith and credit in the District of Columbia, may be filed with the Clerk by the party who obtained it or by that party's attorney. The judgment sought to be filed shall be authenticated in accordance with District of Columbia law. The party or counsel shall accompany the filing with the information called for in any form prescribed by the Clerk, and shall pay the filing fee established by the Court. A foreign judgment filed with the Clerk shall have the same effect and be subject to the same procedures, defenses, or proceedings for reopening, vacating, or staying as a judgment of the Superior Court and may be enforced or satisfied in the same manner, subject to the provisions of the Uniform Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act of 1990, D.C. Code §§ 15-351 through 15-357.

### **COMMENT**

Rule 72 is intended to implement the Uniform Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act of 1990 (D.C. Code §§ 15-351 - 15-357), which has been adopted by the District of Columbia. As a "Uniform Act," it should be construed to effectuate its general purpose to make consistent the law of all jurisdictions that enact it. Accordingly, where there are no interpretations of the Act's provisions in this jurisdiction, guidance may be found in the decisions of other jurisdictions that have adopted the Act. While the Act was intended to provide a simple and expeditious procedure to enforce a foreign judgment in the District of Columbia, it does not impair the right of a party to resort to the cumbersome prior practice of bringing suit to enforce a foreign judgment.

The Rule is not intended to preempt the provisions of other locally-adopted uniform acts dealing with Family Division matters. See the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act (D.C. Code §§ 16-4501 - 4524); the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act (D.C. Code §§ 46-701 - 726).