

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

OBINNA ONUORA,	:	
	:	
Plaintiff,	:	
	:	
v.	:	Case No. 2023 DRB 3224
	:	Judge Veronica Sanchez
	:	
EBONY BRAWNER,	:	
	:	
Defendant.	:	

SCHEDULING ORDER AND ORDER FOR SERVICE BY POSTING

This matter came before the Court on March 26, 2024, for an initial hearing on Plaintiff's Complaint for Custody, filed on September 22, 2023, concerning the minor child, Shamiya Brawner (DOB: 01/26/2012). Plaintiff appeared pro se. Defendant did not appear.

Mr. Onuora testified that despite his best efforts he has been unable to locate and serve the defendant. Plaintiff further testified he is unaware of the current status of the CFSA investigation involving Ms. Brawner but to the best of his knowledge the investigation is still ongoing.

The Court will grant Plaintiff's Oral request to serve Ms. Brawner by posting. Before an order allowing service by publication or posting may be issued, Mr. Onoura must demonstrate that he made a diligent but futile effort to locate Ms. Brawner and must furnish the Court with the following:

- (1) the time and place at which the parties last resided together;
- (2) the last time the parties were in contact with each other;
- (3) the name and address of the last employer of the Defendant either during the time the parties resided together or at a later time if known to the Plaintiff;
- (4) the names and addresses of those relatives known to be close to the Defendant; and
- (5) any other information which could furnish a fruitful basis for further inquiry by one truly bent on learning the present whereabouts of the Defendant. From such basic information, the Plaintiff should then detail for the Court the particular efforts which have been made in the effort to ascertain the Defendant's present address.

Bearstop v. Bearstop, 377 A.2d 405, 408 (D.C. 1977).

Plaintiff has become aware Defendant was evicted from her last known address from Defendant herself the last time he saw her in person when the minor child came to be in his custody in September of 2023. Plaintiff testified at both the February 9, 2024 hearing and the March 26, 2024 hearing that he sent Defendant a picture of the summons by text message but was unaware at the time that he was required to provide a photo of his filings as well, Plaintiff has since been unable to contact Defendant to serve her with all other documents. Mr. Onoura further testified that after being provided with a photo of the summons, Ms. Brawner asked Plaintiff over a facetime call if that meant he was seeking full custody of the minor child thus indicating her awareness of the case. Mr. Onoura does not now have a current phone number or email for the Defendant and represents that Ms. Brawner has not attempted to contact the minor child. Plaintiff further represented that the minor child communicates with her sisters who live in Texas, but they have also not had any recent contact with Ms. Brawner. Mr. Onoura also attempted to contact Defendant's grandfather, who is currently incarcerated, and was unable to assist in contacting Ms. Brawner. Plaintiff also spoke with defendant's grandfather's ex-wife, who is considered to be Defendant's grandmother, and was also unable to provide contact information for Ms. Brawner. The Court takes judicial notice that Ms. Brawner has a pending case, 2023 DVM 1102, and that in that case she has an outstanding bench warrant for failure to appear.

Based on the foregoing, the Court finds that Mr. Onoura has made diligent efforts to locate Ms. Brawner. In addition, the Court finds that Mr. Onoura has demonstrated that publication pursuant to SCR-Dom. Rel. Rule 4(f) would impose a substantial financial hardship. *See* D.C. Code § 13-340(a). Therefore, the Court authorizes service by posting of the below notice for a period of twenty-one days in the Clerk's office of the Family Division. To allow time for service

by posting the Court will set a status hearing to allow proper time for service.

Accordingly, based on the record of this case, it is this 26th day of March, 2024, the Court hereby

ORDERED that the attached notice shall be posted in the Clerk's Office of the Family Division of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and on its website for a period of twenty-one calendar days in order to serve Defendant Ebony Brawner and notify her of the present action in which she is a party. It is further,

ORDERED that parties shall appear **for an in person** for a status hearing on **May 29, 2024 at 2:00PM** in Courtroom JM-3 (500 Indiana Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001 **This will be your only notice. You will not receive a reminder by email.** Failure to appear may result in issuance of a default, a dismissal, or sanctions. It is further

ORDERED that if Ms. Brawner does not file a responsive pleading within twenty (20) days of receiving notice from posting pursuant to SCR-Dom. Rel. Rule 12(a), the Court will enter default by order against her and may enter a judgment in this case.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Veronica Sanchez

Judge Veronica Sanchez
Associate Judge

Copies to:

Obinna Onoura
obinna.onuora88@gmail.com
Via E-mail
Plaintiff