

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

Belmar Sorto	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
	)	<b>Case No.: 2018 DRB 2541</b>
	)	
v.	)	
	)	<b>Judge Laura E. Crane</b>
Yeny Beraliz Sorto Hernandez	)	<b>Next Date: July 24, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.</b>
and	)	
Luis Fernando Flores Gomez	)	
Defendants	)	
_____	)	

**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF’S MOTION TO AUTHORIZE SERVICE BY**

**POSTING**

This matter came before the Court on Plaintiff’s Motion to Authorize Service by Posting on Defendant Luis Fernando Flores Gomez, filed on April 25, 2024. On March 27, 2024, Plaintiff filed a Motion to Join Biological Father and a Motion to Make Factual Findings to Permit Minor’s Application for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status. Plaintiff’s Motion to Join Biological Father was granted on April 2, 2024. A status hearing is set in this matter for June 14, 2024.

On April 25, 2024, Plaintiff filed a Motion to Authorize Service by Posting on Defendant Luis Fernando Flores Gomez. In her Motion, Plaintiff described that she has never met Defendant Flores Gomez or his family members or been contacted by Defendant Flores Gomez. Plaintiff has no information about Defendant Flores Gomez’s whereabouts. Plaintiff provided details of her diligent search for Defendant Flores Gomez, including an Internet search conducted by Leunea Myers of Legal Aid DC in an attempt to find Defendant Flores Gomez’s

contact information. These efforts were not fruitful. Furthermore, Plaintiff has provided information about her financial situation. This information adequately explains why Plaintiff should be allowed to serve Defendant Flores Gomez through posting in the Clerk's Office and on the Court's website rather than by publication in a newspaper.

Accordingly, it is this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2024 hereby,

**ORDERED** that Plaintiff's Motion to Authorize Service by Posting is **GRANTED**; and it is

**ORDERED** that Plaintiff is authorized to serve Defendant Luis Fernando Flores Gomez by posting on Court's website and in the Domestic Relations Clerk's office for a period of twenty-one (21) days, starting from the date of this order; and it is

**ORDERED** that if Defendant does not file a responsive pleading within twenty-one (21) days after service pursuant to the Rules Governing Domestic Relations Proceedings or appear at the hearing, Plaintiff may file a motion for default and the Court may enter default by order and may convert the next hearing into a default/ex parte hearing to take testimony from Plaintiff and file a final judgment without Defendant Flores Gomez's participation; and it is

**ORDERED** that if Plaintiff is seeking a default judgement, Plaintiff shall file an Affidavit in Compliance with the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act; and it is

**SO ORDERED.**

May 2, 2024

---



---

Date

Judge Laura E. Crane

Copies To:

Emily Grau  
Legal Aid DC  
*Counsel for Plaintiff*

Yeny Beraliz Sorto Hernandez  
*Defendant*

Luis Fernando Flores Gomez  
*Defendant*

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

**BELMAR SORTO,**

*Plaintiff,*

**v.**

**YENY BERLIZ SORTO HERNANDEZ,  
&  
LUIS FERNANDO FLORES GOMEZ,**

*Defendant.*

**Case No. 2018 DRB 2541**

**Judge Laura E. Crane**

**Next Date: July 24, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.**

**NOTICE OF CUSTODY PROCEEDING**

LUIS FERNANDO FLORES GOMEZ YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT a complaint for custody has been filed in the above-captioned matter.

IF YOU WANT TO CHALLENGE THIS COMPLAINT, you must file a written objection with the Court by June 24, 2024, and prior to the status hearing scheduled for July 24, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in Courtroom JM-13 (in person or accessible at <https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctbjm13>, or by dialing (844) 992-4726 and entering Meeting ID 1 29 435 2730, followed by "##"). If you do not file a written objection by June 24, 2024, default may be entered against you and the status hearing may be converted to a default/*ex parte* proof hearing. Your objection should be directed to the Domestic Relations Branch Clerk, Family Court, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, 500 Indiana Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001 .

IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO CHALLENGE THIS COMPLAINT, you may consent to the relief sought prior to the status hearing scheduled for July 24, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in Courtroom JM-13. For more information on how to file a Consent Answer, please contact the Self-Help Center, telephone number (202) 879-0096 and located at JM-570, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, 500 Indiana Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001 .

FAILURE TO RESPOND IN THIS MATTER MAY RESULT IN THE ENTRANCE OF A JUDGMENT OF THIRD PARTY CUSTODY WITHOUT YOUR PARTICIPATION.