

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

<b>DARREN G. DRAKES SR.,</b>	:	<b>Case No. 2021 DRB 002918</b>
<i>Plaintiff,</i>	:	
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
<b>TORNORA M. CARROL</b>	:	<b>Judge Julie H. Becker</b>
<b>&amp;</b>	:	
<b>VANCE EUGENE GRIER</b>	:	
<i>Defendants.</i>	:	

**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF’S MOTION TO SERVE BY POSTING**

This matter comes before the Court on plaintiff Darren G. Drakes Sr.’s Motion for Alternative Service, filed on March 10, 2022. In his motion, Mr. Drakes seeks to serve defendant Vance Eugene Grier by posting. On March 11, 2022, counsel for Mr. Drakes appeared for a status hearing before the Honorable Fern Flanagan Saddler, along with defendant Tornora M. Carroll. Defendant Vance Eugene Grier did not appear. Mr. Drakes has not been able to serve Mr. Grier.

Before an order allowing service by publication or posting may be issued, Mr. Drakes must demonstrate that he made a diligent but futile effort to locate Mr. Grier, 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).

In this case, the Court finds that Mr. Drakes has performed a diligent search for Mr. Grier. Mr. Drakes represents that his process server attempted to serve Mr. Grier at 2480 16th St. NW, Apartment 228, Washington, DC 20009. Mr. Drakes's process server was able to serve Mr. Grier that first instance. Plf's Mot. for Alternative Service ¶ 7. Subsequently, the process server attempted to re-serve Mr. Grier on five separate locations. Mr. Drakes represents that this address was Mr. Grier's last known residence, and he does not know his current whereabouts or home address. Mr. Drakes last had contact with Mr. Grier in the summer of 2021 in person at the vicinity of the child's dental office on Georgia Avenue, NW, in Washington, DC. During that meeting, Mr. Drakes obtained a phone number for Mr. Grier; however, he represents that the voicemail for that phone number identifies the owner as Brandon Lewis. Mr. Drakes does not have another telephone number for Mr. Grier.

Prior to filing the Motion to Serve by Publication or Posting, Mr. Drakes, through counsel, conducted a search of the Bureau of Prisons, D.C. Courtview and Maryland Judiciary Case Search which resulted in no record of Mr. Grier.

Based on the foregoing, the Court finds that Mr. Drakes, through counsel, has made diligent efforts to locate Mr. Grier. In addition, the Court finds that the Mr. Drakes 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.

Accordingly, based on the record of this case, it is this 7th day of June, 2022, hereby

**ORDERED** that Plaintiff's Motion for Alternative Service is **GRANTED**. It is further

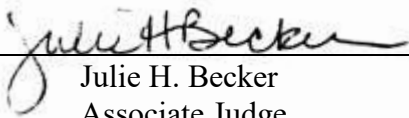
**ORDERED** that the attached notice shall be posted in the Clerk's Office of the Family Division of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and on its website for a period of twenty-

one calendar days in order to serve Defendant Vance Eugene Grier, and notify him of the present action in which he is a party. It is further

**ORDERED** that the status hearing scheduled for June 10, 2022 is **VACATED**. It is further

**ORDERED** that parties shall appear **in person** for a status hearing on August 3, 2022 at 10:30am in Courtroom 101 (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 Mr. Grier 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 him.



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Julie H. Becker  
Associate Judge

Copies to:

Michelle Lockard  
*Counsel for Plaintiff*

Tonora Carroll  
Tornora1384@gmail.com  
*Defendant*

Vance Eugene Grier  
2480 16th St. NW, Apartment 228,  
Washington, DC 20009

1207 Taylor Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20011  
*Defendant*

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<b>&amp;</b>	:	
<b>VANCE EUGENE GRIER</b>	:	
<i>Defendants.</i>	:	

**NOTICE OF THIRD-PARTY CUSTODY PROCEEDING**

**VANCE EUGENE GRIER, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT** a petition for third-party custody of the child Hunter Ellis Grier (DOB: 01/17/2011) has been filed in the above-captioned matter.

IF YOU WANT TO CHALLENGE THIS PETITION, you must file a written objection with the Court within twenty (20) days of receiving notice and prior to the hearing scheduled for August 3, 2022 at 10:30am in Courtroom 101 (500 Indiana Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001). If you do not file a written objection within twenty (20) days of receiving notice, default may be entered against you. 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 PETITION, you may consent to the relief sought prior to the hearing scheduled for for August 3, 2022 at 10:30am. For more information on how to file a consent answer, please contact the Self-Help Center, phone 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 PERMANENT CUSTODY ORDER WITHOUT YOUR PARTICIPATION.