

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

In the matter of: :
 :
 : **Docket No. 2021 BCN 64**
Ada Ijeoma Rich, : **Judge Jennifer A. Di Toro**
 :
Applicant. :

**ORDER TO SERVE BY POSTING AND NOTICE TO POST TO SERVE INTERESTED
PARTY OSCAR LEE WILLIAMS JR.**

On June 14, 2021, Ada Ijeoma Rich filed an Application for Change of Name of a Minor on behalf of the minor child, [REDACTED], born on [REDACTED] in Dayton, OH. The Application requests that the minor child's name be changed from "[REDACTED]" to "[REDACTED]"

A remote hearing was held on the Application on July 15, 2021, via Webex. The applicant, Ada Ijeoma Rich, appeared *pro se* before the Court. After reviewed the record, the Court found that Oscar Lee Williams Jr., the minor child's father, is an interested party and, therefore, must be served with notice of the Application. Ms. Rich testified that she does not know where Mr. Williams resides, and that she has no way of locating him. Ms. Rich further testified that Mr. Williams has not had any contact with her or the minor child for the past three years. Ms. Rich does not have a phone number, email address, or other means of electronic communication by which to contact him. Therefore, the Ms. Rich made an oral motion to serve Oscar Lee Williams Jr. by alternate means in order to properly notify him of the above-captioned matter in which he is an interested party. *See* D.C. Super. Ct. Civ. R. 205 (c).

Pursuant to D.C. Superior Court Civil Rule 205 (b), "Notice of said hearing, together with a copy of the application shall within 10 days thereafter be served personally upon the persons

designated by the Court or shall be sent by the applicant or the applicant's attorney, by registered or certified mail to said persons.” Before an Order allowing Service by Publication or Posting may be issued, the plaintiff must demonstrate that she made a diligent but futile effort to locate the defendant, 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 the case at hand, the Court credits Ms. Rich’s testimony and finds that she has attempted to locate Mr. Williams but currently has no means of locating him. Ms. Rich has had no contact with Mr. Williams for the last three years, she does not know where he resides, and she has no means of contacting him. The Court concludes that Ms. Rich’s efforts to locate Mr. Williams have been diligent, but futile, and that she does not currently have any information that will enable her to effectuate service.

Accordingly, it is this 15th day of July, 2021, hereby

ORDERED that the Applicant’s oral Motion to Serve by Publication or Posting is **GRANTED**; and it is

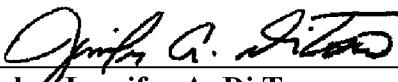
FURTHER ORDERED, that the Application for Change of Name shall be **HELD IN ABEYANCE**; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED that this Order and a copy of the Application for Change of Name shall be posted in the Clerk’s Office of the Family Division of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and on the Superior Court’s website, for a period of twenty-one calendar days in

order to serve Mr. Williams and notify him of the present case in which he is an interested party;
and it is

FURTHER ORDERED that the parties appear for a show cause and default hearing on **August 5, 2021 at 10:15 a.m. in Courtroom JM-12.** Failure of the interested party to appear may result in the entry of a judgment by default.

SO ORDERED.



Judge Jennifer A. Di Toro
(Signed in Chambers)

Copies to:

Ada Ijeoma Rich
601 Edgewood St NE, Apt #324
Washington, DC 20017
Applicant

Oscar Lee Williams Jr.
To be served by Posting
Interested Party