

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

AMELIA WALLACE TATE, :
Plaintiff, :
 :
v. : Case No. 2020 DRB 393
 : Judge Deborah J. Israel
DON RICARDO TATE JR., :
Defendant. :

ORDER FOR ALTERNATIVE SERVICE

This matter came before the Court on September 11, 2020 and on August 20, 2020 for two Initial Hearings on Plaintiff Amelia Wallace Tate's Complaint for Absolute Divorce, filed February 3, 2020. Ms. Wallace Tate appeared *pro se* at both hearings. The Defendant did not appear at either hearing and has not been served. Ms. Wallace Tate testified that she had emailed the service package consisting of the Complaint, Summons, and Scheduling Order to the Defendant's sister as the Court had directed in a previous order. Plaintiff further testified that she received no email notification suggesting that her email had failed to be delivered. Ms. Wallace Tate also testified that she has had no contact with Defendant for many years and that the last time she had any knowledge of Defendant's whereabouts was approximately a year ago when her son mentioned that he had seen Defendant from a distance in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Wallace Tate testified that she made diligent efforts to locate Mr. Tate, including locating the Defendant's sister at her place of work and determining what the sister's email address is. She testified that she did not receive a response from the sister after she emailed the service documents to her. Those emailed documents included an order setting the September 11 hearing date, with instructions on how to log in to the remote courtroom, and Defendant did not appear at that hearing. Ms. Wallace Tate does not know Defendant's current employer, and she

testified that she has not kept in contact with Defendant's family since the separation, which occurred in 2012. She is not aware of any social media accounts that Defendant may have. The Court therefore concludes that, based on the efforts Plaintiff has made to locate and serve Defendant, Plaintiff meets the requirements to complete service by an alternative method. *See* D.C. SCR-Dem. Rel. Rule 4(c)(3)-(4), (f), and (g); D.C. Code 13-336, 13-338, 13-340; *see generally Bearstop v. Bearstop*, 377 A.2d 405, 408 (D.C. 1977) (plaintiff must exhaust all fruitful bases "for further inquiry by one truly bent on learning the present whereabouts of the defendant"). The Court now issues this order authorizing Plaintiff to serve process on Defendant by posting. The Court will direct the Clerk's Office to post the notice below.

In addition, prior to the next hearing, **Plaintiff must file an Affidavit in Compliance with the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.** If Plaintiff has questions about how to meet this requirement, she may contact the Family Court Self-Help Center by calling telephone number 202-879-0096. The Court cannot grant a judgment of divorce until the SCRA Affidavit is docketed with the Court.

Accordingly, it is this 15th day of September 2020, hereby,

ORDERED, that Plaintiff Amelia Wallace Tate's Oral Motion to Serve by Publication or Posting is **GRANTED**. It is further

ORDERED, that the Clerk's Office of the Family Court of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia shall post the following Order on the Court's website for a period of twenty-one calendar days.

[Order continued on next page]

Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Case No. 2020 DRB 000393

Amelia L. Wallace-Tate, Plaintiff

Versus

Don Ricardo Tate, Jr., Defendant

Plaintiff Amelia L. Wallace-Tate filed a Complaint for Absolute Divorce against Defendant Don Ricardo Tate, Jr. on February 3, 2020.

The Court will hold a hearing on this request on October 13, 2020, at 2:50 p.m., in Remote Courtroom JM-5 (<https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctbjm5>). If Defendant does not appear at the hearing or otherwise respond to Plaintiff's Complaint, the Court may grant Plaintiff's request for a divorce without further proceedings.

So ordered on September 14, 2020.

Judge Deborah J. Israel, Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that Plaintiff shall file **by October 9, 2020** an Affidavit in Compliance with the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. It is further

ORDERED, that the parties shall appear for a **remote** videographic or telephonic Status Hearing on **October 13, 2020 at 2:50 p.m.** The instructions for how to participate in the remote hearing are below. **Failure to appear may result in the issuance of a default judgment, a dismissal, or sanctions.**

[Order continued on next page]

**Instructions to Attend Remote Hearing or Trial
Before Judge Deborah J. Israel in Remote Courtroom JM5**

If you are able to do so, please participate by video. If you are unable to participate by video, you may participate by telephone. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact chambers at JudgeIsraelChambers@dcsc.gov. If you don't have access to email, you may leave a voicemail at 202-879-1844, and we will return your call.

Please note:

- If you are placed in the courtroom lobby, please wait until the Court admits you to the remote courtroom.
- When you reach the remote courtroom, there may already be a hearing in progress. Please wait for the judge or courtroom clerk to address you before you speak.
- Before and during your hearing, please mute your video/phone whenever you are not speaking. Doing so makes it easier for the Court to understand those speaking.

To access the remote courtroom by computer with video (two options):

(1) Open Web Browser in Google Chrome and enter:
<https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctbjm5>. Select Join Meeting.

OR

(2) Open Web Browser in Google Chrome and enter: <https://dccourts.webex.com>. Select Join Meeting, enter Meeting ID: 129 641 6611.

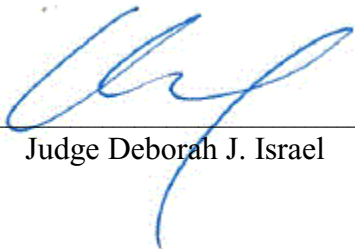
To access the remote courtroom by smartphone or tablet with video:

Go to App Store, Download WebEx App (Cisco WebEx Meetings), select Join Meeting, enter: <https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctbjm5>, enter your name and e-mail.

To access the remote courtroom by phone, no video (or with video on mute):

Call 1 (202) 860-2110 or 844-992-4726 and enter Meeting ID:129 641 6611##.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Judge Deborah J. Israel

Copies to:

Amelia Wallace Tate
Plaintiff
Via Email