



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

IN THE MATTER OF)	
)	2025 VYG 051
THE PETITION FOR GUARDIANSHIP)	
OF)	
)	
HELISKI SARAHI)	PRESIDING JUDGE
MENJIVAR BUESO,)	A.R. MARBLESTEIN-DEARE
)	
VULNERABLE YOUTH.)	
)	

ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR ALTERNATIVE SERVICE

This matter is before the Court on the Petition for Vulnerable Youth Guardianship filed on June 18, 2025, regarding proposed vulnerable youth Heliski Sarahi Mejivar Bueso (DOB: 9/21/04). Petitioner filed a Renewed Motion to Authorize Service by Posting, for the biological father, on August 4, 2025.

The Court is satisfied that Petitioner has made a diligent investigation of the whereabouts of the Youth's father, for purposes of notification. Furthermore, Petitioner has given an adequate explanation of the situation which should permit him to notify the Youth's father by posting rather than paid publication. As such, the Court will grant the motion and permit service by posting.

Accordingly, it is this 29th day of August 2025, hereby,

ORDERED that Petitioner's Motion to Service by Publication or Posting is hereby **GRANTED**; and it is further,

ORDERED that the attached notice shall be posted in the Clerk's Office of the Family Court of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for a period of twenty-one (21) calendar days in order to serve the biological father and notify him of the present action in which he is a

party. The court web posting is <https://www.dccourts.gov/services/serve-notice>, starting from the date of this order; and it is further

ORDERED that the parties shall appear **virtually ON CAMERA** for a hearing on Petition for Vulnerable Youth Guardianship on **September 15, 2025, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Remote Courtroom 103 via WebEx**. Failure to appear may result in issuance of a default, a dismissal, or sanctions. This will be your only notice.

SO ORDERED.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A.R. Marblestein-Deare', written over a horizontal line.

A.R. MARBLESTEIN-DEARE
MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Copies to:

Ariel Xue, Esq.
Via Email
Counsel for Petitioner

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR HEARING ON VULNERABLE YOUTH GUARDIANSHIP

Jose Santos Lainez Chanchez, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT a Petition for Vulnerable Youth Guardianship concerning the proposed vulnerable youth, Sarahi Heliski Menjivar Bueso (DOB: 09/21/04) 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 September 18, 2025. The Hearing is scheduled for September 15, 2025, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Virtual Courtroom 103. Remote Instructions can be found below. 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 next hearing. For more information on how to file a Consent Answer or Objection, please contact the Self-Help Center, (202) 879-0096, located at JM-570, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, 500 Indiana Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20001.

FAILURE TO RESPOND IN THIS MATTER MAY RESULT IN THE ENTRY OF A JUDGMENT OF DEFAULT WITHOUT YOUR PARTICIPATION.

**INSTRUCTIONS to Attend Remote Hearing or Trial Before Magistrate Judge
Marblestein-Deare in Remote Courtroom 103**

Parties need to appear by video and on camera. If you are unable to participate by video on camera, you must appear in person. If you have any questions or concerns, please email MagistrateJudgeMarblesteinDeareChambers@dcsc.gov.

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/ctb103>.
Select Join Meeting. OR

(2) Open Web Browser in Google Chrome and enter: <https://dccourts.webex.com>.

Select Join Meeting, enter Meeting ID: 129 934 5366 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/ctb103>, enter your name and e-mail.

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FAMILY COURT
Domestic Relations Branch**

IN RE:

Heliski Sarahi Menjivar Bueso

2025 VYG 000051

PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF A VULNERABLE YOUTH GUARDIAN

NOW comes the Petitioner, STEPHEN HOPKINS ("Petitioner"), by and through his attorney, and respectfully requests this Court to grant his request under the D.C. Code. §16-2399.02 to be appointed guardian of the vulnerable youth, HELISKI SARAHI MENJIVAR BUESO (hereinafter "the Vulnerable Youth" or "Sarahi"), born on September 21, 2004, age twenty.

1. The Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to D.C. Code §§ 11-921(a)(3)(C) and 16-2399.01 *et seq.*
2. The Petitioner is a resident of Washington, D.C. and is the caregiver for the Vulnerable Youth.
3. Susana Menjivar Bueso is the biological mother of Vulnerable Youth.
4. Jose Santos Lainez Chanchez is the biological father of the Vulnerable Youth. *See* Annex B, Affidavit of Susana Menjivar Bueso. Mr. Chanchez was not listed on the Vulnerable Youth's birth certificate.
5. The Vulnerable Youth was born on September 21, 2004 in Puerto Cortés, Honduras and is currently twenty years old. *See* Annex A, Birth Certificate of Vulnerable Youth, with accompanying English translation.
6. The Vulnerable Youth is unmarried.

7. The Vulnerable Youth currently resides with Petitioner at 1201 Harvard St NW, Washington, DC 20009 ("1201 Harvard Street"). The Vulnerable Youth has resided at 1201 Harvard Street since or about June 2023.
8. From birth until approximately June 2021, the Vulnerable Youth resided in Honduras.
9. The Vulnerable Youth's mother informed her that the Vulnerable Youth's father abandoned the family while she was pregnant with the Vulnerable Youth. The Vulnerable Youth has never met her father and does not know any information regarding his whereabouts.
10. From her birth until she was approximately 14 years old, the Vulnerable Youth resided with her mother and older sister. The Vulnerable Youth's mother had a partner who was abusive toward the Vulnerable Youth.
11. The Vulnerable Youth's mother abandoned the Vulnerable Youth when the Vulnerable Youth was 14. The Vulnerable Youth's mother has not provided financial support to the Vulnerable Youth since abandoning her. The Vulnerable Youth's mother has also had minimal contact with the Vulnerable Youth, despite having the means to contact the Vulnerable Youth, and has failed to maintain a parental relationship with the Vulnerable Youth.
12. After her mother's abandonment until 2021, the Vulnerable Youth resided with her stepfather, Nelson Javier Dimas, and her older sister in Puerto Cortés.
13. Mr. Dimas was ill, and he passed away in or about 2021.
14. After Mr. Dimas passed away, the Vulnerable Youth had no adult to support or care for her in Honduras. The Vulnerable Youth's older sister was not able to support the Vulnerable Youth.

15. In or about June 2021, the Vulnerable Youth left Honduras with her 14-year-old minor nephew and travelled to the United States, arriving at the United-States-Texas border on or about July 10, 2021.
16. After her arrival in the United States, the Vulnerable Youth resided with her half-sister in Washington, DC for almost two years, until June 2023.
17. Beginning in June 2023, the Vulnerable Youth began to reside at 1201 Harvard St NW, under Petitioner's care.
18. It is in the best interest of the Vulnerable Youth that this Honorable Tribunal appoint the Petitioner as her Guardian based on the facts alleged in this Petition. *See* D.C. Code §16-2399.02(b)(1-5).
19. Since June 2023, Petitioner has provided housing, care, and support for the Vulnerable Youth to promote her stability and well-being. The Vulnerable Youth is well-integrated into her home environment at 1201 Harvard Street. *See* D.C. Code §16-2399.02(b)(1).
20. Both Petitioner and the Vulnerable Youth are physically and emotionally well. Petitioner has been, and continues to be, willing and able to connect the Vulnerable Youth to any services or supports needed by the Vulnerable Youth. *See* D.C. Code §16-2399.02(b)(2), (3).
21. The Vulnerable Youth has a child in common with a young man for whom Petitioner was previously the legal custodian. Petitioner ensures a safe and secure home environment for the Vulnerable Youth and the Vulnerable Youth's young child. *See* D.C. Code §16-2399.02(b)(4).
22. Petitioner alleges that the Vulnerable Youth was abandoned and neglected by her parents pursuant to D.C. Code §16-2301 (9(A)(i) and (iv), based on the facts alleged in this

petition. The Petitioner's care and support have helped ease the impact of previous maltreatment, and Petitioner has supported the Vulnerable Youth's well-being by providing a stable home and supportive family environment. *See* D.C. Code § 16-2399.02(b)(1).

23. The Vulnerable Youth agrees that it is in her best interest for the Petitioner to be appointed as her Guardian. The Vulnerable Youth is happy living with the Petitioner. She feels cared for and supported. *See* D.C. Code § 16-2399.02(b)(5).

24. Reunification with the Vulnerable Youth's parents is not viable based on the facts alleged in this Petition, because they abandoned and neglected the Vulnerable Youth pursuant to District of Columbia law, including D.C. Code § 16-2301(9)(A)(i) and (iv), D.C. Code § 16-2301(23)(A), and D.C. Code § 16-4601.01(1). *See* D.C. Code § 16-2399.02(a)(2).

25. First, the Vulnerable Youth's father abandoned her by permanently leaving the Vulnerable Youth prior to her birth and failing to provide for the Vulnerable Youth's needs in any manner thereafter.

26. Second, the Vulnerable Youth's mother abandoned her by permanently leaving the Vulnerable Youth when the Vulnerable Youth was 14 years old and failing to maintain a parental relationship with her or providing financial support to her thereafter.

27. D.C. law defines the term "neglected child" as a child "who has been abandoned or abused by his or her parent, guardian, or custodian, or whose parent, guardian, or custodian has failed to make reasonable efforts to prevent the infliction of abuse upon the child," D.C. Code § 16-2301(9)(A)(i), or "who has received negligent treatment or maltreatment from his or her parent, guardian, or custodian." *Id.* at § 16-2301(9)(A)(iv). In the District, "the test of abandonment ... is an objective one, asking whether the parent has made ...

reasonable effort[s] to maintain a parental relationship,” emphasizing that it is not “necessary to prove that the parent ... intended to abandon the child”). *See In re Je.A.*, 793 A.2d 447, 449 (D.C. 2002).

28. The Vulnerable Youth was abandoned by the Defendants, who failed to make reasonable efforts to maintain a parental relationship with the Vulnerable Youth, and who failed to provide support, financial, emotional, and otherwise, to her as detailed above.
29. Third, the Vulnerable Youth’s mother neglected her by failing to prevent the infliction of abuse upon her by the mother’s partner. *See* D.C. Code § 16-2301(9)(A)(i); D.C. Code § 16-2301(23)(A).
30. Fourth, the Vulnerable Youth’s mother neglected her by failing to provide her with parental supervision and care, causing the Vulnerable Youth to travel to the United States from Honduras, without any accompanying adult. *See* D.C. Code § 16-2301(9)(A)(i) and (vi). *See also B.R.L.F. v. Sarceno Zúñiga*, 200 A.3d 770, 777 (D.C. 2019). The Vulnerable Youth left Honduras as a minor, at age 16, travelling with her 14-year-old minor nephew. The Vulnerable Youth and her minor nephew made a long and dangerous journey to the United States, during which they could have been harmed. *See* D.C. Code § 16-2301(9)(A)(i) and D.C. Code § 16-4601.01(1).
31. The facts alleged in this Petition demonstrate that, under District of Columbia law, the Vulnerable Youth cannot be reunited with either parent due to their abandonment and neglect. *See* D.C. Code § 16-2301(9)(A)(i), (ii), (vi), § 16-4601.01(1), and § 32-201.
32. It is in the best interest of the Vulnerable Youth to continue to live with the Petitioner as her court-appointed Guardian in the District of Columbia and not to return to Honduras.

See D.C. Code § 16-2399.02(a)(3). The Vulnerable Youth now lives with Petitioner because of the abandonment, abuse, and neglect she suffered in her home country.

33. The Vulnerable Youth is safe in the United States, and the Petitioner cares for her and provides for her needs. The Vulnerable Youth wishes to continue living with the Petitioner and to have the support and care of the Petitioner as she continues to acclimate to her community and life in the District. Similarly, Petitioner wishes to provide assistance to the Vulnerable Youth as her guardian. In contrast, in Honduras, there is no adult who has demonstrated a willingness or capacity to care for her or support the Vulnerable Youth and her young child. Therefore, it is not in the best interest of the Vulnerable Youth to be returned to Honduras. *See* D.C. Code § 16-2399.02(b)(4)-(5).

WHEREFORE, the Petitioner requests this Court to issue an Order:

- A. Appointing Petitioner STEPHEN HOPKINS as Guardian of the Vulnerable Youth HELISKI SARAHI MENJIVAR BUESO;
- B. Determine that it is in the best interest of the Vulnerable Youth to appoint the Petitioner as her Guardian;
- C. Finding that the mother of the Vulnerable Youth is Susana Menjivar Bueso and her father is Jose Santos Lainez Chanchez;
- D. Determine that the Vulnerable Youth is dependent on the court and has been placed in the care of a person or entity designated by the Court through the appointment of the Petitioner as Guardian;
- E. Determine that the Vulnerable Youth's reunification with both of her parents is not feasible due to abandonment, neglect, or similar basis under District law due to the facts

alleged in this petition and all other relevant, material, and competent evidence considered in this proceeding;

- F. Determine that it is not in the best interest of the Vulnerable Youth to be returned to Honduras, her country of nationality and last habitual residence; and
- G. Provide any other relief that the Court deems just and appropriate.

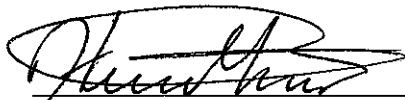
Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ariel Xue

ARIEL XUE, ESQ.
D.C. Bar No. 1049003
Brody Kling PLLC
4301 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 432
Washington, DC 20008
718-938-3680
axue@brodykling.com
Petitioner's Attorney

Verification

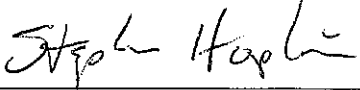
I, Heliski Sarahi Menjivar Bueso, solemnly swear or affirm under criminal penalties for the making of a false statement that I have read the foregoing paper and that the factual statements made in it are true to the best of my personal knowledge, information, and belief.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heliski Sarahi Menjivar Bueso', written over a horizontal line.

Heliski Sarahi Menjivar Bueso

Verification

I, Stephen Hopkins, solemnly swear or affirm under criminal penalties for making a false statement that I have read the foregoing document and that the factual statements made therein are true to the best of my knowledge, information, and personal belief.



Stephen Hopkins

EXHIBIT A



CERTIFICATION OF TRANSLATION

Project number: S-246176

Name of files: Translation Spanish to English / Madeleine Stutt

Job performed on: 07-02-2025

Translation from language: Spanish

Translation into language: English

Translation performed by: U.T.S Inter

Date of certification: February 7, 2025

Universal Translation Services, a professional translation company, declares that the attached document(s) are stamped and signed by us and translated by qualified and professional translators, fluent in the above mentioned languages. In our best judgement, the translated text truly reflects the content, meaning and translation of the attached documents and / or copies that the client provide us with.

A validation procedure was performed by us, which confirms that the provided language translation is complete and accurate. The document hasn't been translated by a family member, friend or business associate.

By signing this Certification of Translation, Universal Translation Services declares that the translation is a true reflection of the source file(s). We do not guarantee that the original document is a genuine document or that the statements contained in the original document are true.

Universal Translation Services assumes no liability for the way the translation is used by the customer or any third party.

*A.H.J Huisman, Managing Director
Universal Translation Services*

Corporate ATA Member number 260038



- Head Office USA: Phone: 1-844-wetranslate | Address: 20801 Biscayne Blvd, Suite 403, Aventura, Florida 33180
- Office Spain: Phone: +34-951-406-81 | Address: Calle Buenos Aires 3, 35002, Las Palmas
- Office U.K.: Phone: +44-20-3807-3275219 | Address: Kensington Street, Kensington W8 6bd, London
- Other US Offices: Commerce – San Francisco – Washington – Chicago – Boston – Las Vegas – Houston – Dallas – Seattle – Philadelphia





REPÚBLICA DE HONDURAS
REGISTRO NACIONAL DE LAS PERSONAS
REGISTRO CIVIL MUNICIPAL

Nº 35189090

CERTIFICACION DE ACTA DE NACIMIENTO

El infrascrito DIRECTOR GENERAL DEL REGISTRO NACIONAL DE LAS PERSONAS, con fundamento en el Decreto No. 150 Capítulo IV, Artículo 15, literal O, y Capítulo VIII, Artículo 90 del Congreso Nacional de fecha 17 de Noviembre de 1982 CERTIFICA que en los archivos de esta institución se encuentra el acta de nacimiento número: 0506-2005-01895 ubicada en el folio 034 del tomo 00543

del Año 2005 y que pertenece a:

a) MENJIVAR
Primer Apellido

b) BUESO
Segundo Apellido

SEXO ☒ P ☐ M

c) HELISKI SARAH
Nombre

y cuya información es la siguiente:

1.) Lugar, fecha y orden de nacimiento

a) PUERTO CORTÉS
Municipio

b) CORTÉS
Departamento

c) HONDURAS
País

d) VEINTIUNO
Día

e) SEPTIEMBRE
Mes

f) 2004
Año

2.) Apellidos, nombre y nacionalidad del padre:

a) MENJIVAR
Primer Apellido

b) BUESO
Segundo Apellido

c) HELISKI SARAH
Nombre

d) HONDURAS
Nacionalidad

3.) Apellidos, nombre y nacionalidad de la madre:

a) MENJIVAR
Primer Apellido

b) BUESO
Segundo Apellido

c) SUSANA
Nombre

d) HONDUREÑA
Nacionalidad

4.) Notas marginales autorizadas:

NINGUNA

Extendida en OMOA
Municipio

CORTÉS
Departamento

a los VEINTITRES días del mes de ENERO

del DOS MIL CATORCE

Firma y Sello del Director General



x3vWJ6t2mTMVxzHIKsgHr8s9tuXouT2robTbj6cnU+Pa6h0ct5srVwDy2gUE2Bykscu

UNIVERSAL TRANSLATION SERVICES
20801 Biscayne Blvd, Suite 403
www.universal-translation-services.com
info@universal-translation-services.com
Phone 844-938-7267

AHJ Huisman

RNP
[LOGO]REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS
NATIONAL REGISTRY OF PERSONS
MUNICIPAL CIVIL REGISTRY
CERTIFICATION OF BIRTH CERTIFICATE

[Bar Code]

The undersigned GENERAL DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL REGISTRY OF PERSONS, based on Decree No. 150 Chapter IV, Article 15, literal O, and Chapter VIII, Article 90 of the National Congress dated November 17, 1982. CERTIFIES that in the archives of this institution is the Birth Certificate number: 0506-2005-01895 located in folio 034 of volume 00543 of the Year 2005 and pertaining to:

Identity Number

a) MENJIVAR *First Surname* b) BUESO *Second Surname*
c) HELISKI SARAHI *Name* SEX F ☒ M ☐

and whose information is as follows:

1) Place, date and order of birth

[Bar Code]

a) PUERTO CORTES *Municipality* b) CORTES *Department* c) HONDURAS *Country*
d) TWENTY-FIRST *Day* e) SEPTEMBER *Month* f) 2004 *Year*

2) Surname, name and nationality of the father:

a) _____ *First Surname* b) _____ *Second Surname*
c) _____ *Name* d) _____ *Nationality*

3.) Surname, name and nationality of the mother:

a) MENJIVAR *First Surname* b) BUESO *Second Surname*
c) SUSANA *Name* d) HONDURAN *Nationality*

4.) Authorized marginal notes:

[Bar Code]

NONE

Issued in OMOA *Municipality* CORTES *Department*

on the TWENTY-THIRD day of the month of JANUARYof TWO THOUSAND FOURTEENRNP
[LOGO]

[Signature]

Signature and Seal of the General Director

x3vWj6t2mTMVxzHIKsGhr8s9tuXouT2robTbj6cnU+Pa6H0Ct5srVxDy2Zue2Bykscu

[ILLEGIBLE]

UNIVERSAL TRANSLATION SERVICES
20801 Biscayne Blvd, Suite 403
Aventura FL 33180
www.universal-translation-services.com
info@universal-translation-services.com
Phone 844-938-7267

AHJ Huisman

EXHIBIT B

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FAMILY COURT
Domestic Relations Branch**

Heliski Sarahi Menjivar Bueso

2025 VYG 000051

I, Susana Menjivar Bueso, offer this affidavit:

1. I am the biological mother of Heliski Sarahi Menjivar Bueso ("Sarahi"), born on September 21, 2004.
2. Jose Santos Lainez Chanchez is Sarahi's biological father.
3. Sarahi's father left while I was pregnant with the Sarahi. I have not had any contact with him since he left.
4. I do not know any information about Sarahi's father's whereabouts or have any contact information for him.
5. I do not know of anyone who would be able to provide me with information about Sarahi's father's whereabouts.
6. I do not know of any social media accounts for Sarahi's father.

* * *

I swear and affirm that the statements made in this affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge under the penalty of perjury.


Susana Menjívar Bueso