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

JOSHUA MCMILLAN, :

:

Plaintiff, :

Case No. 2013 DRB 1306

v. : 2019 DRB 375

2019 DRB 1029

CHANTANYA LEWIS, et al., :

:

Defendants. :

## **ORDER FOR SERVICE BY POSTING**

This matter comes before the Court on Defendant Chantanya Lewis' *Motion for Contempt* and *Motion to Modify Custody*, both filed March 20, 2023. Plaintiff Joshua McMillan filed an *Opposition* to both *Motions* on March 24, 2023. On April 3, 2023, the Court issued an order explaining that, prior to setting a hearing in this matter, Defendant would also need to serve Defendant Victor Harris and Defendant Kelby Gordon. The Court granted her until May 19, 2023 to serve Defendants and file proof of service.

On May 4, 2023, Defendant Lewis filed a *Motion for Extension of Time to Serve*, requesting an additional sixty days to serve an unnamed Defendant. On May 5, 2023, Defendant Lewis filed a *Motion for Alternative Service*, requesting the Court permit her to serve Defendant Harris by posting on the Court's website.

Before an order allowing service by publication or posting may be issued, the moving party must demonstrate that they made a diligent but futile effort to locate the Defendant. D.C. Code § 13-336

In the case at hand, the Court finds that Plaintiff has performed a diligent search for Defendant Harris. Plaintiff states that she has been working with the Service Assistance Project

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to find Mr. Harris, to no avail, that Mr. Harris left D.C. a long time ago and that there is no available address for him, that Plaintiff checked available prison databases, conducted social media searches, and has asked his D.C. friends for contact information.

Based on the foregoing, the Court finds that Plaintiff has made diligent efforts to locate Defendant. The Court next considers Plaintiff's request for service by posting, rather than publication. Pursuant to the Rules Governing Domestic Relations Proceedings, Rule 4(f), the Court may authorize service by posting notice in the Clerk's Office of the Family Court for a period of twenty-one (21) days if the cost of publication would impose a substantial financial hardship. *See* D.C. CODE § 13-340(a). As Plaintiff is proceeding *in forma pauperis* in this matter, the Court finds that publication would pose a financial hardship and authorizes service by posting of the below notice for a period of twenty-one (21) days in the Clerk's Office, and/or, given the Coronavirus pandemic, on the Court's website.

The Court will also grant Defendant's *Motion for Extension of Time to Serve*. As it has already been sixty days since the filing of the *Motion*, the Court will permit Defendant another thirty days to serve Defendant Gordon and file proof of service. A hearing shall be set for October 4, 2023 at 3:00pm. Should Defendant Lewis fail to submit proof of service by September 8, 2023, the hearing may be vacated.

WHEREFORE, it is on this 8th day of August, 2023, hereby

**ORDERED** that Defendant's *Motion for Extension of Time to Serve* is **GRANTED**; and it is further

**ORDERED** that Defendant is permitted until September 8, 2023 to serve Defendant Gordon and file proof of service. Failure to serve Defendant Gordon may result in dismissal of the *Motion to Modify*; and it is further

**ORDERED** that Defendant's *Motion for Alternative Service* is **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 and on the Superior Court's website for a

period of twenty-one (21) calendar days in order to serve Defendant and notify him of the present

action in which he is a party; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Parties shall appear for a status hearing on October 4, 2023 at 3:00pm

in Courtroom 104 of the Moultrie Courthouse. Failure to appear may result in the entry of default,

sanctions, or dismissal.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

KELLY A. HIGASHI

D.C. SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

Copies to:

Joshua McMillan via email to <a href="mailto:Jaseman88@gmail.com">Jaseman88@gmail.com</a>

Chantanya Lewis via email to <a href="mailto:Chanlew2789@gmail.com">Chanlew2789@gmail.com</a>

Kelby Gordon

1901 D Street SE

Washington, DC 20003

Victor Harris

603 Forrester Street SE

Washington, DC 20032

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## **NOTICE OF CUSTODY**

**VICTOR HARRIS** YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT a motion to modify custody has been filed in the above-captioned matter and a hearing has been set for October 4, 2023 at 3:00pm in Courtroom 104 of the Moultrie Courthouse.

IF YOU WANT TO CHALLENGE THIS MOTION, you must file a written objection with the Court within 21 days. If you do not file a written objection within 21 days, default may be entered against you. Your objection should be emailed to <a href="mailto:FamilyCourtCIC@dcsc.gov">FamilyCourtCIC@dcsc.gov</a>, and 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. For more information on how to file a praecipe of consent, please contact the Family Court Self-Help Center by telephone number (202) 879-0096.

FAILURE TO RESPOND IN THIS MATTER MAY RESULT IN THE ENTRANCE OF A MODIFIED CUSTODY ORDER WITHOUT YOUR PARTICIPATION.

KELLY A. HIGASHI

D.C. SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE