

Helpful Information: Alternative Service / Service by Publication



You must ask the judge in writing for permission to serve a party using an Alternative Service method or Service by Publication. The court may permit an Alternative Service method or Service by Publication if it is the best means practicable under the circumstances for providing the person with notice.

1. You must file a motion with the judge assigned to your case, requesting permission to serve by Alternative Service or Service by Publication,
2. In the motion, you must show that you have made reasonably diligent efforts to identify the person's current address, or that the person has intentionally avoided service of process.
3. Examples of reasonably diligent efforts may include, but are not limited to:
 - Verifying the other party is not at any last known address(es).
 - Mailing a copy of the documents to be served to the last known address, even if it's your own address. (He or she may have put in a mail forwarding order with the Post Office. If it comes back marked "undeliverable," you may present that envelope as proof of your efforts.)
 - Talk to the party's friends, family members, current or former employers, coworkers, or anyone else you think may have a current address.
 - Search telephone directories and obituaries online or in print (phone book and newspaper).
 - Checking with the county jail and the state prisons. (Department of Corrections)
 - Searching social media sites such as Facebook and LinkedIn, as well as the internet "people search" sites such as Spokeo.com and ZabaSearch.com.
 - If the party has a working email account, you may also consider Emailing scanned copies of all the documents to his or her email address.
 - You may also consider hiring a private detective or a company that charges a fee to do computer searches to help you track down the other party.

Warning: If the Court is not satisfied that you have made every reasonable effort to locate and actually serve notice on the other party before publishing, the Court will not order service by publication. Your case could be delayed or dismissed, and you may be required to take additional steps to serve the Party at your own expense.