

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT PLAINTIFF'S NAME

PLAINTIFF,

\_\_\_\_\_ DRB \_\_\_\_\_

v.

JUDGE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT DEFENDANT'S NAME

DEFENDANT.

**MOTION TO INTERVENE**

**Does the Plaintiff Consent to this Motion?**  yes  no  
**Does the Defendant Consent to this Motion?**  yes  no

I, \_\_\_\_\_, respectfully request the Court to  
grant me permission to intervene as a party in this case.  
PRINT YOUR NAME

**1. I have standing to intervene in this case because: [CHECK ALL THAT APPLY]**

The parent who is or has been the primary caretaker of the child[ren] within the past 3 years consents to my request for custody.

(a) I have lived in the same household as the child for at least 4 of the last 6 months, if the child[ren] is/are under the age of 6 months, for at least half of the child[ren]'s life; and (b) I have primarily assumed the duties and obligations for which a parent is legally responsible, including providing the child[ren] with food, clothing, shelter, education, financial support, and other care to meet the child[ren]'s needs.

I am living with the child[ren] and I need custody to prevent harm to the child, because  
[PROVIDE SPECIFIC REASONS]:

- I am a *de facto* parent because:
- (a) I have lived with the child[ren] in the same household for at least 10 of the last 12 months;
  - (b) I have formed a strong emotional bond with the child[ren] with the encouragement and intent of the child[ren]'s parent that the child[ren] and I have a parent-child relationship;
  - (c) I have taken on full and permanent responsibilities as the child[ren]'s parent; and
  - (d) I have held myself out as the child[ren]'s parent with the agreement of the child[ren]'s parent, or if there are two parents, both parents.

- I am a *de facto* parent because:
- (a) I lived with the child[ren] in the same household when the child[ren] was/were born or adopted;
  - (b) I have taken on full and permanent responsibilities as the child[ren]'s parent; and
  - (c) have held myself out as the child[ren]'s parent with the agreement of the child[ren]'s parent or, if there are two parents, both parents.

Other:

**2. I wish to intervene in order to file the following pleading, a copy of which is attached:**

- Complaint for Custody/Visitation
- Motion for Custody/Visitation
- Other:

3. I do  / do *not*  know of any proceedings in the District of Columbia or in any state or territory involving the same claim or subject matter as this case. Please list s docket number for cases involving the same claim or subject matter.

Court	Case Number	Case Type

**Request for Relief**

**I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST** that the Court grant me permission to intervene as a party in this matter.

**I ALSO REQUEST** that the Court award any other relief it considers fair and proper.

I  Do  Do NOT request an oral hearing in front of the judge on this motion.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

*If this document is to be signed outside the geographic boundaries of the United States, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, additional requirements must be met prior to signing.*

*See Super. Ct. Dom. Rel. R. 2(c)(1)(B).*

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGN YOUR NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT YOUR NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NUMBER

\_\_\_\_\_  
HOME ADDRESS 1

\_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
HOME ADDRESS 2

**SUBSTITUTE ADDRESS: CHECK BOX IF YOU HAVE WRITTEN SOMEONE ELSE’S ADDRESS BECAUSE YOU FEAR HARASSMENT OR HARM.**

**POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF  
MOTION TO INTERVENE**

In support of this Motion, I respectfully refer the Court to:

- 1. D.C. Code §§ 16-831.01(1), 16-831.02(a)(1), and 16-831.03.**
- 2. Super. Ct. Dom. Rel. R. 7(b) and 24.**
- 3. The record in this case.**
- 4. The attached supporting documents, if any.**  
[LIST ANY DOCUMENTS THAT YOU ARE ATTACHING]

# Serving Domestic Relations Pleadings Filed During COVID-19

## What is “service”?

**Service** means giving a copy of court papers to the other party or parties in your case. You must serve the other party or parties with any motions, answers, or other papers (“pleadings”) you file in your Domestic Relations case.

This document tells you:

- How to figure out what type of service you have to do
- How to tell the Court that you served your papers to the other party
- How to find more information about service

## Are there different rules for service in different cases?

Yes. There are different rules for service depending on whether your case is **open** or **closed**.

<b>If:</b>	<b>Then your case is <i>probably</i>:</b>
The Court has not yet issued a final order	Open
The Court issued its final order <b>less than 60 days ago</b>	Open
The Court issued its final order <b>more than 60 days ago</b>	Closed

**Not sure if your case is open or closed?** Call the Family Court Self-Help Center at **202-879-0096**.

## My case is open. How do I serve somebody?

If your case is **open**, you must follow [Rule 5](#) of the Domestic Relations rules. Rule 5 says that you must serve the papers in one of these ways:



**Hand** the papers to the other party



Leave the papers at the other party’s home **with a person who lives there** and is at least 18 years old



Leave the papers at their **lawyer’s office**



Send it by **first-class mail** to party (or lawyer’s) last known address



Through the Court’s e-filing software, **CaseFileXpress**



Any other way, as long as the other party **agrees** in writing

***If the other party has a lawyer, you must serve their lawyer.***

## I served the papers in my open case. Now what?

Once you serve the papers on the other party, you must tell the court by completing two steps:

1. **Fill out a Rule 5 Proof of Service form.** You can find this form [here](#).
2. **File the form with the Court.** During the COVID-19 public health crisis, you can file the form by emailing it to [FamilyCourtCIC@dcsc.gov](mailto:FamilyCourtCIC@dcsc.gov).

## My case is closed. How do I serve somebody?

If your case is **closed** when you file your motion, the Court will send you a **summons** to serve on the other party or parties. You must follow [Rule 4](#) of the Domestic Relations rules. Rule 4 says that you must serve **both** the **summons** and your **motion** in one of the following ways:



Ask someone else (18 or older) to **hand** the papers to the other party (*you cannot do this yourself*)



Ask someone else (18 or older) to leave the papers at the other party's home **with a person who lives there** and is at least 18 years old (*you cannot do this yourself*)



Send the documents by **certified or registered mail** to the other party's last known address



During the COVID-19 pandemic, you can send these documents by **email** or **text**

You can find a more detailed version of these instructions [here](#).

## I served the papers in my new or closed case. Now what?

Once you serve the papers on the other party, you must tell the court by completing two steps:

1. **Fill out a Rule 4 affidavit.** The affidavit is different depending on **how** you served the papers.
  - a. If you served the other party by **text or email**, use the affidavit [here](#).
  - b. If you served the other party by **certified mail**, use the affidavit [here](#).
  - c. If someone else **handed** the papers to the other party or someone who lives with them, use the affidavit [here](#).
2. **File the affidavit with the Court.** During the COVID-19 public health crisis, you can file the affidavit form by emailing it to [FamilyCourtCIC@dcsc.gov](mailto:FamilyCourtCIC@dcsc.gov).

## How can I get help figuring out how to serve my papers?

If you need help, call the Family Court Self-Help Center at **202-879-0096**. The Family Court Self-Help Center can explain the process to you, help you complete the proper legal papers, and direct you to other free legal resources.



Visit [www.lawhelp.org/dc](http://www.lawhelp.org/dc) for more information, including how to contact free legal assistance organizations, or call the D.C. Bar Legal Information Helpline at 202-626-3499 to listen to recorded messages about this issue.