

Service by Publication

Service by publication is only available if you cannot find the other party. It is a last resort option and can often take a lot of time and money. You must prove to the court by sworn (notarized) affidavit that your spouse cannot be located **only after a thorough search and efforts to personally serve them.**

In this packet you will find:

1. Affidavit of diligent search;
2. Notice of Publication.

Complete the following steps if publication is the **ONLY** way to serve your spouse:

1. Complete, sign, notarize, and file an **Affidavit of Diligent Search**;
2. If your request to publish is granted by the Judge, you will receive a copy of the signed Order for Publication;
3. Upon receipt of a copy of the Order for Publication, you must bring the Notice of Publication to the Clerk's Office. This Notice of Publication **MUST** be filled out and signed by the Clerk of Court.
4. You must ensure that the Order for Publication and the completed and signed Notice of Publication are sent to the newspaper. Contact the Clerk of Court's office to determine whether they will send the documents for you or if you need to handle it yourself.
5. If your request to publish is granted by the Judge, you must ensure the Judge's Order and a notice of publication are sent to the newspaper. Contact the Clerk of Court's office to determine whether they will send these documents for you or if you need to handle it yourself; AND

NOTE: The completed Notice of Publication **MUST** be signed by the Clerk of Court's Office. The Notice of Publication **MUST** be presented to the Newspaper. The Notice of Publication is the advertisement that **MUST** run for 4 weeks.

6. Once you have paid the newspaper and the ad has run for 4 weeks, obtain an **Affidavit of Publication** from the newspaper and file it with the Clerk of Court. The divorce can be granted 60 days after the first ad.

NOTE: In a divorce by publication, the court cannot award alimony, or child support or divide property located outside of Georgia.