

# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Before the SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

ADMIN	ISTRATIVE	<b>PROCEEDING</b>
File No.	3-19313	

In	the	Matter	· of
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Alife Corporation, et al.,

Respondents.

## DIVISION OF ENFORCEMENT'S MOTION TO SUBSTITUTE FILING AND NOTICE OF SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION

The Division of Enforcement ("Division"), by counsel, pursuant to Commission Rules of Practice Rule 154, respectfully moves the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") for an order allowing it to substitute its Motion for Default against Alife Corporation ("Alife"), Budget Group, Inc. a/k/a BRAC Group, Inc. ("Budget") and Feather Valley Financial Ltd. ("Feather Valley") (collectively "Respondents") to correct a clerical error. Contemporaneously herewith, the Division is also filing a supplemental declaration from Vinyard Cooke in response to the Commission's Order to Show Cause, Exchange Act Release No. 87669 fn.3 (Dec. 5, 2019) ("Order").

On September 30, 2019, the Division filed a Motion for Default and Brief in Support ("Default Motion") against the Respondents. Due to a clerical error, the third page of the motion was not included with the filing. As a result, the Respondents did not receive the entire motion. As a remedy, the Division seeks to substitute the complete motion and brief, attached as Exhibit 1, to replace the incomplete prior filing. The Division will serve the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The missing page includes a portion of the conclusion and the signature block.

Respondents with a copy of this motion and the complete motion for default and brief in support (Exhibit 1).

Separately, on December 5, 2019, the Commission issued an Order to Show Cause that directed the Division "to file another declaration in this proceeding" stating "what steps the Division took to ensure valid service of the OIP" on Alife. The Division hereby provides notice that it is also filing the Supplemental Declaration of Vinyard Cooke detailing that proper service of the OIP on Alife has been completed in accordance with Rule 141(a)(2)(ii) and attached hereto as Exhibit 2.2

#### Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, the Division respectfully requests that the Commission:

1) grant the Division's Motion; 2) allow the substitution of the complete motion for default against Alife Corporation, Budget Group, Inc. a/k/a BRAC Group, Inc. and Feather Valley

Financial Ltd. in this proceeding; 3) enter default against Alife, and 4) deregister and revoke each class of the Respondents' securities registered pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> As mentioned in footnote 1 of the Default Motion, Alife received *actual* notice of this action, including a copy of the OIP. The company contacted Division Staff after the OIP filing to discuss a possible settlement, and then forwarded an electronic copy of its signed consent. However, the Division never received a hard copy version of the OIP settlement and therefore included Alife in the Default Motion.

Dated: December 13, 2019

Respectfully submitted

David Misler

(202) 551-2210

mislerd@sec.gov

Vinyard V Cooke

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cookev@sec.gov

Securities and Exchange Commission

100 F Street, N.E., Room 5041

Washington, D.C. 20549-5041

COUNSEL FOR

DIVISION OF ENFORCEMENT

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that true copies of the Division of Enforcement's Motion to Substitute Filing were served on the following on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019, in the manner indicated below:

By Hand:

Office of the Secretary Securities and Exchange Commission 100 F Street, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20549-2557

By Certified Mail: Alife Corporation 41 Hindhede Walk, Unit 03-02 Singapore 587972

Budget Group, Inc. a/k/a BRAC Group, Inc. 125 Basin St., Suite 210 Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Feather Valley Financial Ltd. One World Trade Center, Suite 800 Long Beach, CA 90831

Vinyard Cooke

# EXHIBIT 1

RECEIVED
SEP 3 U 2019
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Before the SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

**ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING** File No. 3-19313

In the Matter of

Alife Corporation, et al.,

Respondents.

## DIVISION OF ENFORCEMENT'S MOTION FOR <u>DEFAULT AND BRIEF IN SUPPORT</u>

The Division of Enforcement ("Division"), by counsel, pursuant to Commission Rules of Practice Rules 154(a) and 155(a)(2) ("Rule"), respectfully moves the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") for an order entering a default against Alife Corporation ("Alife"), Budget Group, Inc. a/k/a BRAC Group, Inc. ("Budget") and Feather Valley Financial Ltd. ("Feather Valley") (collectively "Respondents") in this proceeding and revoking the registration of each class of their securities registered pursuant to Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act").

#### Argument

On August 6, 2019, the Commission issued an Order Instituting Proceedings ("OIP") against the Respondents, which have securities registered with the Commission under Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act. The OIP alleges the Respondents are delinquent in filing their mandated periodic reports. Because each of the Respondents failed to answer or otherwise

respond to the OIP, the Division seeks entry of an order finding Alife, Budget, and Feather Valley to be in default in this proceeding.<sup>1</sup>

The Declaration of Vinyard Cooke to Assist Secretary with Record of Service establishes that each of the Respondents were served with the OIP by actual or attempted Express Mail delivery in accordance with Rule 141(a)(2)(ii). See Exhibit A. In addition to the OIP, the Respondents were also served with a letter offering the Division's investigative file for inspection and copying pursuant to Rule 230. However, none of the Respondents have filed an answer or made any other response to the OIP in this proceeding.

The Respondents at issue are delinquent in their filings with the Commission and have been delinquent for periods ranging from over two to seventeen years. In addition, the Respondents' failure to answer supports revocation of the registration of each class of the Respondents' securities. Accordingly, the Division moves for an order, pursuant to Rule 155(a)(2), finding these Respondents to be in default in this proceeding and ordering that the registration of each class of their securities registered pursuant to Exchange Act Section 12 be revoked.

#### Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, the Division respectfully requests that the Commission:

1) grant the Division's Motion; 2) enter an order of default against Alife Corporation, Budget

Group, Inc. a/k/a BRAC Group, Inc. and Feather Valley Financial Ltd. in this proceeding; and 3)

Alife initially agreed to settle the matter and forwarded an electronic copy of a signed consent by email, but never sent the hard copy version of the executed agreement. When the staff attempted to follow up with the company, all of Alife's email addresses had been suspended and were not delivered and phone calls to the company were not returned.

also order the revocation of each class of their securities registered pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act.

Dated: September 30, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

James Carlson

(202) 551-3711

carlsonj@sec.gov

Vinyard V Cooke

(202) 551-4768

cookev@sec.gov

Securities and Exchange Commission

100 F Street, N.E., Room 5041

Washington, D.C. 20549-5041

COUNSEL FOR

DIVISION OF ENFORCEMENT

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that true copies of the Division of Enforcement's Motion for Default and Brief in Support were served on the following on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019, in the manner indicated below:

By Hand:
Office of the Secretary
Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20549-2557

By Certified Mail: Alife Corporation Inc. Plan (USA) Trolley Square, Suite 20C Wilmington, DE 19806

Budget Group, Inc. a/k/a BRAC Group, Inc. 125 Basin St., Suite 210 Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Feather Valley Financial Ltd.
One World Trade Center, Suite 800
Long Beach, CA 90831

James Carlson

# EXHIBIT A

RECEIVED
SEP 16 2019
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Before the SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING
File No. 3-19313

In the Matter of

Alife Corporation, et al.,

Respondents.

# DECLARATION OF VINYARD COOKE TO ASSIST SECRETARY WITH RECORD OF SERVICE

VINYARD V COOKE, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, declares:

- 1. I am a Senior Counsel with the Division of Enforcement ("Division") of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and co-counsel for the Division in the captioned administrative proceeding. I am submitting this Declaration to assist the Secretary in maintaining a record of service on the respondents in the captioned proceedings pursuant to Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") Rule of Practice 141(a)(3).
- 2. Among other means, Rule 141(a)(2)(ii) permits service on a corporation or entity by delivering a copy of an Order Instituting Administrative Proceedings ("OIP") to an agent authorized by appointment or law to receive such service or, in the case of an issuer with a class of securities registered with the Commission, by sending the OIP via U.S. Postal Service certified, registered, or Express Mail and obtaining a confirmation of attempted delivery on the most recent address shown on the entity's most recent filing with the Commission. Further, the OIP in this matter authorizes service of the OIP "by

any means permitted by the Commission's Rules of Practice." Therefore, the Division asked the Commission's Secretary to first attempt service on the Respondents via U.S. Priority Mail Express.

- 3. The Office of the Secretary provided me with the U.S. Priority Mail Express tracking numbers for the copies of the Order Instituting Proceedings ("OIP")<sup>1</sup> that were mailed by the Secretary to the respondents in these proceedings. I input each of the tracking numbers into the U.S. Postal Service's ("USPS's") package tracking system on its Internet website located at <a href="https://www.usps.com">www.usps.com</a>, and printed out the tracking confirmations in order to obtain confirmation of the delivery or attempted delivery of the OIP on each respondent. A true copy of the tracking confirmations for all of the respondents for whom express mail service was attempted is attached as Exhibit 1, hereto.
- 4. The Secretary mailed the OIP to respondent Alife Corporation, CIK 1681281 ("Alife"), via Priority Mail Express, Tracking No. EZ 195532129 US, to the address shown on its most recent EDGAR filing at 41 Hindhede Walk, Unit 03-02, Singapore 587972. This address is taken from Alife's last filing with the Commission, which was a Form 8-K filed with the Commission on June 22, 2017. The USPS tracking system confirms that the package was delivered on August 13, 2019.
- 5. The Secretary also mailed the OIP to respondent Alife via Priority Mail Express, Tracking No. EF 200269226 US, to the address of its registered agent, Inc. Plan (USA), Trolley Square, Suite 20C, Wilmington, DE 19806. The USPS tracking system confirms that the package was delivered on August 8, 2019. See Exhibit 1 at 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Each service package included the OIP, a letter from the Commission's Secretary, and a letter from the Division offering discovery pursuant to Rule of Practice 230.

- 6. The Secretary mailed the OIP to respondent Budget Group, Inc. a/k/a BRAC Group, Inc., CIK 922471 ("Budget"), via Priority Mail Express, Tracking No. EF 200269230 US, to the address shown on its most recent EDGAR filing at 125 Basin Street, Suite 210, Daytona Beach, FL 32114. This address is taken from Budget's last filing with the Commission, which was a Form 8-K filed with the Commission on November 22, 2002. The USPS tracking system confirms that delivery was attempted on August 8, 2019. The package was returned as addressee unknown. See Exhibit 1 at 4.
- 7. The Secretary mailed the OIP to respondent Feather Valley Financial Ltd., CIK 1101361 ("Feather"), via Priority Mail Express, Tracking No. EF 200269243 US, to the address shown on its most recent EDGAR filing at One World Trade Center, #800, Long Beach, CA 90831. This address is taken from Feather's last filing with the Commission, which was a Form 10-QSB filed with the Commission on September 21, 2004. The USPS tracking system indicated the package was lost and/or not delivered. The staff then resent the same package to the same address via Priority Mail Express, Tracking No. EJ 140718398 US. The USPS tracking system confirms that the package was delivered on September 12, 2019. See Exhibit 1 at 6.

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

Executed on September 16, 2019.

Vinyard V Cooke

# EXHIBIT 1

## **USPS** Tracking FAQs > (https://www.usps.com/faqs/uspstracking-faqs.htm)

# Track Another Package +

Tracking Number: EF200269226US			
Scheduled Delivery by			
FRIDAY  August by			
② Delivered	- (		
August 8, 2019 at 10:25 am Delivered WILMINGTON, DE 19806			
Get Updates V			
Text & Email Updates	~		
Proof of Delivery	× ,		
Tracking History			

August 8, 2019, 10:25 am

Delivered

WILMINGTON, DE 19806

Your item was delivered at 10:25 am on August 8, 2019 in WILMINGTON, DE 19806 to SEC 20549 R26. The item was signed for by D FALDSTIN.

August 8, 2019, 5:56 am
Departed USPS Regional Facility
WILMINGTON DE DISTRIBUTION CENTER

August 8, 2019, 1:46 am
Arrived at USPS Regional Destination Facility
WILMINGTON DE DISTRIBUTION CENTER

August 7, 2019, 10:30 pm
Departed USPS Regional Facility
LINTHICUM HEIGHTS MD DISTRIBUTION CENTER

August 7, 2019, 10:29 pm USPS in possession of item LINTHICUM HEIGHTS, MD 21090

August 7, 2019, 8:26 pm
Arrived at USPS Regional Origin Facility
LINTHICUM HEIGHTS MD DISTRIBUTION CENTER

Feedback

**Product Information** 

See Less ^

# Can't find what you're looking for?

Go to our FAQs section to find answers to your tracking questions.

FAQs (https://www.usps.com/faqs/uspstracking-faqs.htm)

# USPS Tracking FAQs > (https://www.usps.com/faqs/uspstracking-faqs.htm)

# Track Another Package +

# Tracking Number: EF200269230US

Remove X

Your item was delivered at 7:31 am on August 12, 2019 in WASHINGTON, DC 20549 to SEC 20549 R26. The item was signed for by D HANDEN.

# **⊘** Delivered

August 12, 2019 at 7:31 am Delivered WASHINGTON, DC 20549 Get Updates V	Feedback
Text & Email Updates	<b>V</b>
Proof of Delivery	<b>V</b>
Tracking History	^

August 12, 2019, 7:31 am

Delivered

WASHINGTON, DC 20549

Your item was delivered at 7:31 am on August 12, 2019 in WASHINGTON, DC 20549 to SEC 20549 R26. The item was signed for by D HANDEN.

August 11, 2019, 11:40 am Available for Pickup WASHINGTON, DC 20549

August 11, 2019, 10:36 am Arrived at Hub WASHINGTON, DC 20018

August 11, 2019, 8:14 am Available for Pickup WASHINGTON, DC 20549

August 11, 2019, 4:28 am
Arrived at USPS Regional Facility
WASHINGTON DC DISTRIBUTION CENTER

August 10, 2019 In Transit to Next Facility

August 9, 2019, 8:55 pm Departed USPS Regional Facility ORLANDO FL DISTRIBUTION CENTER

August 9, 2019, 7:39 pm Arrived at USPS Regional Facility ORLANDO FL DISTRIBUTION CENTER

August 8, 2019, 3:23 pm Addressee Unknown DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32114

August 8, 2019, 12:09 pm Rescheduled to Next Delivery Day DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32114 August 8, 2019, 10:29 am Arrived at Post Office DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32114

August 8, 2019, 7:55 am
Arrived at USPS Regional Facility
SEMINOLE-ORLANDO FL DISTRIBUTION CENTER

August 7, 2019, 10:21 pm
Departed USPS Regional Facility
LINTHICUM HEIGHTS MD DISTRIBUTION ĈENTER

August 7, 2019, 8:26 pm Arrived at USPS Regional Facility LINTHICUM HEIGHTS MD DISTRIBUTION CENTER

**Product Information** 

**V** 

See Less ^

# Can't find what you're looking for?

Go to our FAQs section to find answers to your tracking questions.

FAQs (https://www.usps.com/faqs/uspstracking-faqs.htm)

# Track Another Package +

# Tracking Number: EJ140718398US

Remove X

Your item was delivered in or at the mailbox at 11:50 am on September 12, 2019 in LONG BEACH, CA 90831.

# September 12, 2019 at 11:50 am Delivered, In/At Mailbox LONG BEACH, CA 90831 Get Updates Text & Email Updates Proof of Delivery

September 12, 2019, 11:50 am

Delivered, In/At Mailbox LONG BEACH, CA 90831

**Tracking History** 

Your item was delivered in or at the mailbox at 11:50 am on September 12, 2019 in LONG BEACH, CA 90831.

September 12, 2019, 9:31 am Arrived at Post Office LONG BEACH, CA 90802

September 12, 2019, 7:34 am
Arrived at USPS Regional Facility
LOS ANGELES CA INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTION CENTER

September 11, 2019, 10:46 pm
Departed USPS Regional Facility
LINTHICUM HEIGHTS MD DISTRIBUTION CENTER

September 11, 2019, 7:29 pm
Arrived at USPS Regional Facility
LINTHICUM HEIGHTS MD DISTRIBUTION CENTER

**Product Information** 

See Less A

# Can't find what you're looking for?

Go to our FAQs section to find answers to your tracking questions.

**FAQs** 

# EXHIBIT 2

# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Before the SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING File No. 3-19313

In the Matter of

Alife Corporation, et al.,

Respondents.

# SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION OF VINYARD COOKE TO ASSIST SECRETARY WITH RECORD OF SERVICE REGARDING ALIFE CORP.

VINYARD V COOKE, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, declares:

- 1. I am a Senior Counsel with the Division of Enforcement ("Division") of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and co-counsel for the Division in the captioned administrative proceeding. I previously filed a Declaration to Assist Secretary with Record of Service in this proceeding on September 16, 2019 ("Initial Declaration"). I am submitting this supplemental declaration to address questions raised by the Commission regarding service on respondent Alife Corporation ("Alife"), as directed in a recent Order to Show Cause. *See Alife Corp.*, et al., Exchange Act Rel. No. 87669 fn.3 (Dec. 5, 2019).
- 2. As referenced in the Initial Declaration, Rule 141(a)(2)(ii) permits service of an Order Instituting Administrative Proceedings ("OIP") on a corporation or entity by delivering a copy to: (1) an agent authorized by appointment or law to receive such service (such as an issuer's registered agent in its state of incorporation); or (2) in the

case of an issuer with a class of securities registered with the Commission, by sending the OIP, *inter alia*, via U.S. Postal Service certified, registered or Express Mail and obtaining a confirmation of attempted delivery on the most recent address shown on the entity's most recent filing with the Commission. Further, the OIP in this matter authorizes service of the OIP "by any means permitted by the Commission's Rules of Practice."

- 3. I personally took, or caused to be taken, the following steps to ensure valid service of the OIP on Alife in this proceeding:
  - a) I reviewed Alife's last EDGAR filing with the Commission, which was a Form 8-K filed with the Commission on June 22, 2017. The filing indicated Alife's corporate offices were located in Singapore.
  - b) Alife's EDGAR filings also indicated it was incorporated in Delaware. I reviewed the website of the Delaware Department of State: Division of Corporations, which indicated that Inc. Plan (USA) was Alife's registered agent in the state. See Exhibit A, attached hereto.
- 4. In compliance with Rule 141's provisions, the Division provided the two Alife addresses and asked the Commission's Secretary to attempt service of the OIP on Alife via U.S. Priority Mail Express as follows:
  - a) one copy was sent (Tracking No. EZ 195532129 US) to the address listed on its last filing, at 41 Hindhede Walk, Unit 03-02, Singapore 587972.
     The USPS tracking system confirms that the package was delivered on August 13, 2019. See Exhibit B, at 1; and
  - b) a second copy was sent (Tracking No. EF 200269226 US) to the address of its registered agent, Inc. Plan (USA), Trolley Square, Suite 20C,

Wilmington, DE 19806. The USPS tracking system confirms that the package was delivered on August 8, 2019. See Initial Declaration, Exhibit 1, at 1.

- 5. Delivery of the OIP to Singapore by mail is valid service. Singapore is not a party to the Hague Convention. However, the website for the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs contains a tab entitled "Judicial Assistance Country Information," which states in pertinent part that, "service of process in Singapore may be effected by mail, by agent...or through letters rogatory." (emphasis added). See Exhibit C, attached hereto.
- 6. At least one prior case at the Commission also supports the view that service of an OIP by mail to a respondent in Singapore is valid. See G-Cats Acquisition Corp., et al., AP Release No. 1062, 2013 SEC Lexis 3672 \*2 (Nov. 21, 2013).
- 7. In summary, the Commission has properly served Alife with a copy of the OIP. This is confirmed separately by Alife's action in contacting me independently after the OIP was filed to discuss possible settlement. As a result, it is appropriate for the Commission to enter a default judgment against Alife and order the revocation of each class of its securities registered pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act.

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

Vinyard V Cooke

# EXHIBIT A

#### **Department of State: Division of Corporations**

Allowable Characters

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Status
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Customer Service Survey

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**Entity Details** 

THIS IS NOT A STATEMENT OF GOOD STANDING

File Number: 6104401

Incorporation Date / 7/22/2016 Formation Date: (mm/dd/yyyy)

Entity Name: ALIFE CORPORATION

Entity King: Corporation

Entity Type: General

Domestic

State: DELAWARE

REGISTERED AGENT INFORMATION

Name:

Residency:

INC. PLAN (USA)

Address: City: TROLLEY SQUARE, SUITE 20C

WILMINGTON

County: New Castle

State:

DE

Postal Code: 19806

Phone: 800-462-4633

Additional Information is available for a fee. You can retrieve Status for a fee of \$10.00 or more detailed information including current franchise tax assessment, current filing history and more for a fee of \$20.00.

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New Entity Search

For help on a particular field click on the Field Tag to take you to the help area.

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# EXHIBIT B

# USPS Tracking® FAQs > (https://www.usps.com/faqs/uspstracking-faqs.htm)

## Track Another Package +

Tracking Number: EZ195532129US

Remove X

**Scheduled Delivery by** 

**TUESDAY** 

13 AUGUST 2019 (i)

# **⊗** Delivered

eedback

August 13, 2019 at 12:03 pm Delivered SINGAPORE

Get Updates ✓

## **Text & Email Updates**

V

#### **Tracking History**

 $\wedge$ 

August 13, 2019, 12:03 pm

Delivered

**SINGAPORE** 

Your item was delivered in SINGAPORE at 12:03 pm on August 13, 2019.

August 13, 2019, 9:51 am

Processed through Facility SINGAPORE EMS, SINGAPORE

August 7, 2019, 5:14 pm Departed Post Office WASHINGTON, DC 20002

August 7, 2019, 3:54 pm USPS in possession of item WASHINGTON, DC 20002

#### **Product Information**

**\** 

See Less ^

## Can't find what you're looking for?

Feedbac

Go to our FAQs section to find answers to your tracking questions.

FAQs (https://www.usps.com/faqs/uspstracking-faqs.htm)

# EXHIBIT C

### **Singapore**

Republic of Singapore

Hague/Inter-American

**Party to Hague Service** 

Convention?

No

Party to Hague Evidence

Convention?

Yes

Party to Hague Apostille

**Convention?** 

No

Party to Inter-American

**Convention?** 

No

Service of Process by

Mail?

NA

## **DISCLAIMER**

DISCLAIMER: THE INFORMATION IS PROVIDED FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY AND MAY NOT BE TOTALLY ACCURATE IN A SPECIFIC CASE. QUESTIONS INVOLVING INTERPRETATION OF SPECIFIC FOREIGN LAWS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE APPROPRIATE FOREIGN AUTHORITIES OR FOREIGN COUNSEL.

ALL +/-

**Embassies and Consulates** 

6

List of Attorneys



## Helpful Links

## Service of Process



Singapore is not a party to the Hague Service Convention. In the absence of any prohibition against it, service of process in Singapore may be effected by mail, by agent, such as a local attorney, or through letters rogatory. Litigants may wish to consult an attorney in Singapore before pursuing a particular method of service of process, particularly if enforcement of a U.S. judgment is contemplated in the future.

Service on a Foreign State: See also our Service Under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (FSIA) feature and FSIA Checklist for questions about service on a foreign state, agency or instrumentality.

## **Criminal Matters**



Obtaining Evidence in Civil and Commercial Matters

0

Taking Voluntary Depositions of Willing Witnesses

**Authentication of Documents** 

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# Travel.State.Gov

U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE — BUREAU of CONSULAR AFFAIRS

Special Issuance Agency

U.S. Passports

International Travel

U.S. Visas

International Parental Child Abduction

#### Records and Authentications

- Legal Resources
- U.S. Visa Law & Policy
- Judicial Assistance Country Information

<u>Travel.State.Gov</u> > <u>Legal Resources</u> > <u>International Judicial Assistance</u> > Service of Process

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- U.S. Citizenship Laws and Policy
- International Judicial Assistance
- Service of Process
  - Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act
  - FSIA Checklist
  - Inter-American Service Convention and Additional Protocol
  - Obtaining Evidence
  - Retaining A Foreign Attorney
  - Enforcement of Judgments
  - International Treaties & Agreements
  - International Child Support Enforcement
  - International Prisoner Transfer Program
  - Information for Lawyers and Judges
  - Advice about Possible Loss of U.S. Nationality and Dual Nationality

## Service of Process

#### Disclaimer:

The information relating to the legal requirements of specific foreign countries is provided for general information only and may not be totally accurate in a particular case. Questions involving interpretation of specific foreign laws should be addressed to foreign attorneys. This circular seeks only to provide information; it is not an opinion on any aspect of U.S., foreign, or international law. The U.S. Department of State does not intend by the contents of this circular to take a position on any aspect of any pending litigation.

#### Prohibition

Foreign Service officers are generally prohibited by Federal regulations (22 CFR 92.85) from serving process on behalf of private litigants or appointing others to do so, state law notwithstanding.

# Service by Foreign Central Authority Pursuant to Multilateral Treaty or Convention

The United States is a party to two multilateral treaties on service of process, the <u>Hague Service Convention</u> and the <u>Inter-American Convention on Letters Rogatory</u> and <u>Additional Protocol</u>. Procedures for service under these conventions are summarized below. See also our <u>country-specific information pages on judicial assistance</u>.

## Hague Service Convention

Complete information on the operation of the Hague Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters can be found in the Service Section of the website of the Hague Conference on Private International Law. This includes the current list of countries that are party to the Convention, each country's reservations, declarations and notifications relating to the operation of the Convention, the date the Convention entered into force for each country, as well as designated foreign central authorities. See the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of International Judicial Assistance website or its contractor, ABC Legal, for forms and information about how to submit requests.

# • The Additional Protocol to the Inter-American Convention on Letters Rogatory

The United States is a signatory to the <u>Additional Protocol to the Inter-American Convention</u> for the purposes of legal service of documents only. Thus, only countries party to the Additional Protocol have a treaty relationship with the United States. For the most up to date information about ratifications and accessions to the Additional Protocol, see the Organization of American States <u>website</u>. See the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of International Judicial Assistance website or its contractor, <u>ABC</u> Legal for forms and information about how to submit requests.

# • U.S. Central Authority for the Hague and Inter-American Service Conventions

The Office of International Judicial Assistance (OIJA) serves as the U.S. Central Authority pursuant to the Hague Service Convention and the Inter-American Convention. Since 2003, the Department of Justice has delegated its function as the Central Authority with respect to the ministerial act of service of judicial and extrajudicial documents directed at private individuals and companies in the United States to a private contractor, ABC Legal. Thus, outgoing requests for service pursuant to the Additional Protocol to the Inter-American Convention should be sent directly to ABC Legal in accordance with the treaty. Please note, OIJA plays no role with regard to requests for service from the United States to foreign countries pursuant to the Hague Service Convention. For guidance on how to effect service abroad, please visit OIJA's website.

ABC Legal 633 Yesler Way Seattle, WA 98104 USA Email: info@hagueservice.net Phone: (001) 206-521-2970

Website: <a href="http://www.hagueservice.net/homepage.asp?lang=english">http://www.hagueservice.net/homepage.asp?lang=english</a>

#### Office of International Judicial Assistance

Civil Division, Department of Justice 1100 L St., N.W., Room 8102

Washington, D.C. 20530

Email: OIJA@usdoj.gov Phone: 202-514-6700

Website: <a href="https://www.justice.gov/civil/office-international-judicial-assistance-0">https://www.justice.gov/civil/office-international-judicial-assistance-0</a>

#### Service by International Registered Mail

Service by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested is an option in many countries in the world. FRCP 4(f)(2)(C) provides that this method of service may be used unless prohibited by the law of the foreign country. U.S. courts have held that formal objections to service by mail made by countries party to a multilateral treaty or convention on service of process at the time of accession or subsequently in accordance with the treaty are honored as a treaty obligation, and litigants should refrain from using such a method of service. Service by registered mail should therefore not be used in the countries party to the Hague Service Convention that objected to the method described in Article 10(a) (postal channels). The Hague Conference on Private International Law maintains information on the applicability of Article 10(a) on its website.

#### Personal Service by Agent

If personal service is permitted in a particular country, the most expeditious method may be to retain the services of a foreign attorney or process server. FRCP 4(f)(2)(C) provides for personal service unless prohibited by the laws of the foreign country. The attorney (or agent) may execute an affidavit of service at the nearest <u>U.S. embassy or consulate</u>, or before a local foreign notary. Lists of foreign attorneys are available from U.S. embassies and consulates overseas. See also our web page, "<u>Retaining a Foreign Attorney</u>." It should be noted, however, that this method of service may not be considered valid under the laws of the foreign country. If eventual enforcement of a U.S. judgment in the foreign country is foreseen, this method may be subject to challenge. It may be prudent to consult foreign counsel early in the process to determine what methods of service are available and considered effective under the domestic law of the country where the service is executed. U.S. process servers and other agents may not be authorized by the laws of the foreign country to effect service abroad, and such action could result in their arrest and/or deportation.

#### Service by Letters Rogatory

Letters rogatory are requests from a court in the United States to a court in a foreign country seeking international judicial assistance. They are often employed to obtain evidence abroad, but may also be utilized in effecting service of process, particularly in those countries that prohibit other methods of service. In some countries service by letters rogatory is the only recognized