

What does it mean to domesticate a foreign judgment?

Foreign means from another jurisdiction, usually another state. In order to register or enforce a foreign decree in Georgia, the decree must be domesticated. Different procedures are necessary depending on the reasons you need your Order domesticated.

An Order must be domesticated when the obligee (person paying support) relocates to another state and you want to enforce your right to regular support payments as provided in your original Order. For example, you were divorced in Alabama, and the Alabama decree orders your spouse to pay \$400 per month child support. You and your ex-spouse have moved separately to Georgia, and your ex-spouse stopped making payments. The Alabama divorce decree must be domesticated before the Georgia Courts will recognize and enforce your Alabama Order.

Where should I go for help?

It is wise to obtain the assistance of an attorney who is familiar with family law issues when you need to domesticate a foreign judgment. If the paperwork you file is not appropriate and/or not complete, it may have a negative effect on your rights.

Where can I find more information?

Georgia has adopted the Uniform Enforcement of Foreign Judgment Act (O.C.G.A. § 9-12-130 *et. seq.*), the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (O.C.G.A. § 19-11-100 *et. seq.*), and the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (O.C.G.A. § 19-9-40 *et. seq.*). These laws may affect your foreign judgment.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF _____ COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

_____,)
Plaintiff,)
v.)
_____,) Civil Action File No. _____
Defendant)
)
)
)

RULE NISI

The within and foregoing Complaint having been read and considered, the same is allowed and ordered filed.

Let the Defendant be served with a copy of this Complaint and Order thereon and let the Defendant show cause before the Honorable Judge _____, at ____ o'clock _____ on the _____ day of _____ 20____, then and there to be heard, why the prayers of the Plaintiff's Complaint should not be granted.

This _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Judge, Superior Courts
Southern Judicial Circuit

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF _____ COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

(1) _____,)
Plaintiff,)
v.) Civil Action No. _____
(2) _____,)
Defendant.)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing **Complaint to Domesticate a Foreign Judgment** upon the following counsel for party OR party (if no counsel of record) by delivering [or causing to be delivered] by hand a copy of same as follows:

[Name and address of counsel of record, or of parties if no counsel of record.]

This _____ day of _____, 20____.

Plaintiff *pro se*

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF _____ COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

_____,)
Plaintiff,)
v.)
_____,) Civil Action File No. _____
Defendant)
)
)
)

ORDER TO DOMESTICATE FOREIGN JUDGMENT

It appearing to the Court that the Plaintiff herein, acting *pro se*, has properly complied with the provisions of the Uniform Enforcement of Judgments Law and has specifically complied with the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 9-12-133, it is therefore

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the properly authenticated judgment of the State of _____ filed herein now be made the judgment of this Court and that the Plaintiff now have judgment of the Defendant in the amount of \$_____ principal, \$_____ attorney's fees, and all costs of this proceeding.

This the _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Judge, Superior Courts
Southern Judicial Circuit

Agreed to and consented to by:

Plaintiff *pro se*