

### **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 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.



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b) The Defendant has wilfully refused to pay alimony and child support as required by the terms of the foreign judgment, although he is financially able to do so.

4.

Because of the Defendant's wilful failure to obey the judgment complained of,  he/  
 she should be attached for contempt by this Court with appropriate sanctions and required to pay Plaintiff's attorney's fees and/or expenses of litigation.

5.

The relief sought by Plaintiff is available under the laws of the State of \_\_\_\_\_, where the judgment was rendered, and the State of \_\_\_\_\_ would enforce a similar judgment of this State by action for contempt.

THEREFORE, Plaintiff demands:

(a) That the foreign judgment annexed hereto as Exhibit A be domesticated and made the judgment of this Court;

(b) That the Defendant be attached for contempt and ordered to comply with the judgment complained of;

(c) That the Defendant be required to pay the Plaintiff's reasonable attorney's fees and expenses of litigation; and

(d) That a Rule Nisi issue requiring the Defendant to appear and show cause why the Plaintiff should not be granted the relief requested.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Plaintiff *pro se*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

\_\_\_\_\_,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
\_\_\_\_\_,  
Defendant  
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)  
)  
)  
) Civil Action File No. \_\_\_\_\_  
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**AFFIDAVIT TO DOMESTICATE FOREIGN JUDGMENT**

COMES NOW the Plaintiff, acting *pro se*, and shows this Court pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 9-12-133 that the name and last known address of the parties is as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Plaintiff attaches hereto a properly authenticated copy of the judgment which it previously obtained against the Defendant in the State of \_\_\_\_\_ and requests that the Clerk will mail notice of this to the Defendant at the address shown.

Plaintiff accordingly requests that upon proper mailing that this judgment be domesticated herein and be made the judgment of this Court.

This the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Plaintiff *pro se*  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Sworn to and Subscribed before me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

\_\_\_\_\_,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
\_\_\_\_\_,  
Defendant  
)  
)  
)  
)  
)  
) Civil Action File No. \_\_\_\_\_  
)  
)  
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)  
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**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\_\_\_\_.

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Judge, Superior Courts  
Southern Judicial Circuit



