

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, PROBATE DIVISION, GEAUGA COUNTY, OHIO
Judge Timothy J. Grendell**

In Re: _____

Case No. _____

CIV. R. 4(D) AND 4.7 NOTICE OF LAWSUIT AND REQUEST TO WAIVE SERVICE OF SUMMONS

WHY ARE YOU GETTING THIS?

A lawsuit has been filed against you, or the entity you represent, in this court under the number shown above. A copy of the complaint is attached. This is not a summons, or an official notice from the court. It is a request that, to avoid expenses, you waive formal service of a summons by signing and returning the enclosed waiver. To avoid these possible expenses, you must return the signed waiver within 28 days or at least 60 days if the defendant is outside the United States from the date shown below, which is the date this notice was sent. Two copies of the waiver form are enclosed, along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope or other prepaid means for returning one copy. You may keep the other copy.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

If you return the signed waiver, I will file it with the court. The action will then proceed as if you had been served on the date the waiver is filed, but no summons will be served on you and you will have 60 days from the date this notice is sent (see the date below) to answer the complaint (or 90 days if this notice is sent to you outside the United States). If you do not return the signed waiver within the time indicated, I will arrange to have the summons and complaint served on you. And I will ask the court to require you, or the entity you represent, to pay the expenses of making service.

Please read the enclosed statement about the duty to avoid unnecessary expenses. I certify that this request is being sent to you on the date below.

Date sent: _____

Signature of Attorney or Unrepresented Party _____

Print Name

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

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In Re: _____

Case No. _____

WAIVER OF SERVICE OF SUMMONS

To: _____
Name of plaintiff's attorney or unrepresented plaintiff

I have received your request to waive service of a summons in this action along with a copy of the complaint, two copies of this waiver form, and a prepaid means of returning one signed copy of the form to you.

I, or the entity I represent, agree to save the expense of serving a summons and complaint in this case.

I understand that I, or the entity I represent, will keep all defenses or objections to the lawsuit, the court's jurisdiction, and the venue of the action, but that I waive any objections to the absence of a summons or of service.

I also understand that I, or the entity I represent, must file and serve an answer or a motion under Rule 12 within 60 days from _____, 20____, the date when this request was sent (or 90 days if it was sent outside the United States). If I fail to do so, a default judgment could be entered against me or the entity I represent.

Date sent: _____

Print Name

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

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DUTY TO AVOID UNNECESSARY EXPENSES OF SERVING A SUMMONS

Rule 4.7 of the Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure requires certain defendants to cooperate in saving unnecessary expenses of serving a summons and complaint. A defendant who is subject to the court's personal jurisdiction and who fails to return a signed waiver of service requested by a plaintiff may be required to pay the expenses of service, unless the defendant shows good cause for the failure.

"Good cause" does not include a belief that the lawsuit is groundless, or that it has been brought in an improper venue, or that the court has no jurisdiction over this matter or over the defendant or the defendant's property.

If the waiver is signed and returned, you can still make these and all other defenses and objections, but you cannot object to the absence of a summons or of service.

If you waive service, then you must, within the time specified on the waiver form, serve an answer or a motion under Rule 12 on the plaintiff and file a copy with the court. By signing and returning the waiver form, you are allowed more time to respond than if a summons had been served.