

Senate Bill 348

By: Senators Jones of the 10th, Carter of the 42nd, Chance of the 16th, Hooks of the 14th,
Stoner of the 6th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 9-11-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 process, so as to change provisions relating to personal service of a summons on a
3 corporation; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

5 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

6 Code Section 9-11-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to process, is
7 amended by revising subsection (e) as follows:

8 "(e) **Summons — Personal service.** Except for cases in which the defendant has waived
9 service, the summons and complaint shall be served together. The plaintiff shall furnish
10 the clerk of the court with such copies as are necessary. Service shall be made by
11 delivering a copy of the summons attached to a copy of the complaint as follows:

12 (1) If the action is against a corporation incorporated or domesticated under the laws of
13 this state or a foreign corporation authorized to transact business in this state, to ~~the~~
14 ~~president or other~~ an officer of the corporation, ~~secretary, cashier, managing agent,~~ or
15 ~~other~~ registered agent thereof, provided that when for any reason service cannot be had
16 in such manner, the Secretary of State shall be an agent of such corporation upon whom
17 any process, notice, or demand may be served. Service on the Secretary of State of any
18 such process, notice, or demand shall be made by delivering to and leaving with him or
19 her or with any other person or persons designated by the Secretary of State to receive
20 such service a copy of such process, notice, or demand, along with a copy of the affidavit
21 to be submitted to the court pursuant to this Code section. The plaintiff or the plaintiff's
22 attorney shall certify in writing to the Secretary of State that he or she has forwarded by
23 registered mail or statutory overnight delivery such process, service, or demand to the last
24 registered office or agent listed on the records of the Secretary of State, that service
25 cannot be effected at such office, and that it therefore appears that the corporation has
26 failed either to maintain a registered office or to appoint a registered agent in this state.

27 Further, if it shall appear from such certification that there is a last known address of a
 28 known officer of the corporation outside the state, the plaintiff shall, in addition to and
 29 after such service upon the Secretary of State, mail or cause to be mailed to the known
 30 officer at the address by registered or certified mail or statutory overnight delivery a copy
 31 of the summons and a copy of the complaint. Any such service by certification to the
 32 Secretary of State shall be answerable not more than 30 days from the date the Secretary
 33 of State receives such certification;

34 (2) If the action is against a foreign corporation or a nonresident individual, partnership,
 35 joint-stock company, or association, doing business and having a managing or other
 36 agent, cashier, or secretary within this state, to such agent, cashier, or secretary or to an
 37 agent designated for service of process;

38 (3) If against a minor, to the minor, personally, and also to such minor's father, mother,
 39 guardian, or duly appointed guardian ad litem unless the minor is married, in which case
 40 service shall not be made on the minor's father, mother, or guardian;

41 (4) If against a person residing within this state who has been judicially declared to be
 42 of unsound mind or incapable of conducting his or her own affairs and for whom a
 43 guardian has been appointed, to the person and also to such person's guardian and, if there
 44 is no guardian appointed, then to his or her duly appointed guardian ad litem;

45 (5) If against a county, municipality, city, or town, to the chairman of the board of
 46 commissioners, president of the council of trustees, mayor or city manager of the city or
 47 to an agent authorized by appointment to receive service of process. If against any other
 48 public body or organization subject to an action, to the chief executive officer or clerk
 49 thereof;

50 (6) If the principal sum involved is less than \$200.00 and if reasonable efforts have been
 51 made to obtain personal service by attempting to find some person residing at the most
 52 notorious place of abode of the defendant, then by securely attaching the service copy of
 53 the complaint in a conspicuously marked and waterproof packet to the upper part of the
 54 door of the abode and on the same day mailing by certified or registered mail or statutory
 55 overnight delivery an additional copy to the defendant at his or her last known address,
 56 if any, and making an entry of this action on the return of service; or

57 (7) In all other cases to the defendant personally, or by leaving copies thereof at the
 58 defendant's dwelling house or usual place of abode with some person of suitable age and
 59 discretion then residing therein, or by delivering a copy of the summons and complaint
 60 to an agent authorized by appointment or by law to receive service of process."

61 **SECTION 2.**

62 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.