

CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

CONSENT ORDER

Complainant,

-against-

YOLER JEAN-BAPTISTE

Licensee/Respondent.
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Violation No. 05349374

License No. 1139306

(Process Server Individual)

1. Yoler Jean-Baptiste ("Respondent") acknowledges that the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs ("DCA" or "the Department") duly served Respondent with a Notice of Hearing charging Respondent with violations of the following rules: 6 RCNY §§ 2-233(a)(6), 2-234, 2-236(a), 2-236(c)(2).
2. Respondent enters into this Consent Order ("CO") with the Department to resolve these charges without the necessity of a hearing, and waives any right to a hearing, appeal of or any challenge of the facts alleged by the above-referenced violation under Section 20-104 of the New York City Administrative Code or under Article 78 of the New York State Civil Practice Law and Rules, Sections 7801-7806, in any forum.
3. The acceptance of this Consent Order by the Department shall not be deemed approval by the Department of any of Respondent's business practices, and Respondent shall make no representations to the contrary, and nothing in this Consent Order shall be construed to limit in any way the authority of the Department to exercise its regulatory or enforcement powers under Sections 20-104 or 20-409 of the Code.
4. This Consent Order shall in no respect reduce any of Respondent's obligations under any other Consent Order Respondent has entered into with the Department.

DEFINITIONS

5. A "contest to service of process" means a challenge to the service of process effectuated by a process server alleged in an answer, motion, or other pleading submitted in a judicial, administrative or other legal proceeding on the ground that the service did not comply with the requirements of New York State or other applicable law, including a hearing commonly known as a "traverse hearing," regardless of whether such challenge is waived, settled by stipulation or decided by court order after a hearing.
6. "CPLR" means the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules.
7. "Logbook" means the bound and paginated volume in which a process server maintains records of all attempted and effected services of process, as prescribed by 6 RCNY § 2-233.
8. "Process" means any one of the following: (a) a summons; (b) a notice of petition; (c) an order to show cause; (d) a subpoena; (e) a notice; (f) a citation; or (g) any legal paper issued under the laws of the State of New York directing an appearance or response to a legal action, legal proceeding or

administrative proceeding. However, if under the laws of the State of New York the mailing of such a paper listed above is sufficient to effect service, it shall not be considered process by the Department.

9. Other terms are defined in 6 RCNY § 2-231.

INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

Duty to Comply With Law

10. Respondent shall strictly and promptly comply with all laws, rules, regulations and requirements of the federal, state and municipal authorities pertaining to process servers and the service of process.
11. Respondent shall not serve process in New York City for an unlicensed process serving agency.

Duties When Effectuating Service on a Natural Person

12. Respondent shall make reasonable efforts to confirm whether the address at which service is attempted is the actual place of business, dwelling place or usual place of abode of the person to be served. Respondent shall make and maintain a written or electronic record of those efforts and the results of those efforts, which shall include, but not be limited to, at least one of the following: inquiring of neighbors and other persons present at those locations, checking public and commercial databases, and requesting information from the owner of the premises, if different from the person to be served.
13. Prior to performing service under CPLR § 308 by affixing process to the door of an actual dwelling place or usual place of abode within the state of the person to be served, sometimes known as “conspicuous” or “nail and mail” service, Respondent shall make reasonable efforts to ascertain if the intended recipient of process is employed and the location of the intended recipient’s place of employment. If the intended recipient is employed, Respondent shall attempt to effectuate service by delivering the process personally to the intended recipient at the intended recipient’s place of employment.

Duty to Maintain Proper Records

14. Respondent shall maintain complete and accurate records of all services and attempted services made by Respondent in and outside of New York City. Such records must be maintained in accordance with the requirements of Section 89-cc of the New York General Business Law and 6 RCNY §§ 2-233, 2-233a, 2-233b, 2-235.

Logbooks

15. Respondent shall maintain complete and accurate records of all services and attempted services made by Respondent in and outside of New York City in a bound and paginated paper logbook. Such records shall be legible, meaning easily read and discernible in all of its details, and in no way obscured.
16. Respondent shall (a) record separate entries in his or her logbook for each attempted and effected service of process; (b) record all entries contemporaneously; (c) record entries in a single logbook until it is complete; and (d) record all entries in chronological order, which means that each entry

- must be entered sequentially according to the time and date of the activity recorded, without leaving any blank spaces between each entry that would allow for the insertion of any additional notation.
17. Respondent shall ensure that each page in Respondent's logbook, at the time of purchase, is sequentially numbered starting with the number "1" or contains an indelible label stating the number of pages the volume originally contained.
 18. Corrections shall be made only by drawing a straight line through the inaccurate entry and clearly printing the accurate information directly above the inaccurate entry. All other methods of correction, including but not limited to, erasing, opaquing, obliterating, or redacting, are prohibited.
 19. Respondent shall maintain the following information in his or her logbook:
 - a. the name and license number of the process serving agency from whom the process was received, or, if not received from a process serving agency, of such other law firm, government agency, person or organization from whom the process was received;
 - b. the title of the action or a reasonable abbreviation thereof;
 - c. the name of the individual, company or organization served;
 - d. the date and approximate time of service or attempted service;
 - e. the address of service or attempted service;
 - f. the nature of the papers;
 - g. the court in which the action has been commenced;
 - h. the index number of the action;
 - i. a description of the individual served (including gender, height, weight, age, skin color, hair color, and any other identifying features);
 - j. the type of service effected (personal, substituted, conspicuous, or corporate);
 - k. for service of process effected by conspicuous service: (i) the color and composition of hallway walls adjacent to the door to which process was affixed, (ii) the color and composition of the hallway floor or doorstep, and (iii) the location of the premises in relation to stairs, elevators or entranceways;
 - l. for service of process made pursuant to RPAPL § 735(1) using registered or certified mail, the postal receipt number of the registered or certified mail; and
 - m. if an affidavit of service is filed with the court by the process server, the date of such filing.

Electronic Records and GPS

20. Respondent shall maintain complete and accurate records of all services and attempted services made by Respondent in and outside of New York City in an electronic format that is resistant to tampering, as prescribed by 6 RCNY § 2-233a(a) ("233a records").
21. Respondent shall maintain 233a records by using at least one of the following methods:

Method 1: Scanning logbooks into image files (e.g., .PDF or .TIFF) and backing up the files to a portable media device in accordance with 6 RCNY § 2-233a(a)(1).

Method 2: Inputting information into the DCA-created Excel spreadsheet (available on the DCA website) and backing up the file to portable media devices in accordance with 6 RCNY § 2-233a(b)(1).

Method 3: Uploading the required data to a third party service provider in accordance with 6 RCNY § 2-233a(b)(1).

22. If Respondent chooses to maintain 233a records by using either Method 2 or Method 3, Respondent shall ensure that the following information is contained in each entry:
 - a. the name of the individual process server to whom service was assigned, entered in two fields (last name, first name);
 - b. the license number of the individual process server to whom service was assigned, entered as a seven digit number, where the first number is zero if the process server's license number is less than seven digits;
 - c. the title of the action or proceeding, if any;
 - d. the name of the individual, company or organization served, if known;
 - e. the date that service was effected, entered as MM/DD/YYYY;
 - f. the time that service was effected, entered as military time;
 - g. the address where service was effected, entered as three different fields such that one field will be for the street address and any apartment number, the second field will be for the city or borough, and the third field will be for zip code;
 - h. the nature of the papers served;
 - i. the court in which the action was commenced, entered as either Civil Court NYC, Civil Supreme, Criminal, Housing(L/T), or District Court, followed by the county of the court, the judicial department if appellate, or the federal district;
 - j. the full index number, entered with all information necessary to identify the case, such as XXXXX/XX, unless the case is a Civil Local matter, in which case, it will include the prefix of CV, CC, LT, MI, NC, RE, SC, or TS;
 - k. if service was effected pursuant to subdivisions (1) through (3) of CPLR § 308, a description of the person served, consisting of six fields, including sex, hair color, approximate age, height, weight, and any other identifying features provided by the process server;
 - l. whether service was delivered, as indicated by a Y or N;
 - m. the type of service effected, entered as a P for personal service, an S for substitute service, a C for conspicuous service, or a CO for corporate service; and
 - n. if service was effected pursuant to subdivision (4) of CPLR § 308 or subdivision one of RPAPL § 735, a description of the door and the area adjacent.
23. In every instance in which Respondent attempts or effects service of process in and outside of New York City, Respondent shall, immediately after attempting or effecting service, create an electronic record of the location, time and date of the attempted or effected service, as determined by Global Positioning System ("GPS") technology or, in the event that no GPS signal is available at the time of attempted or effected service of process, as determined by triangulated cell tower signals. Respondent shall ensure that the information contained in such records is accurate and complete.
24. Except when Respondent cannot obtain a GPS or cellular signal, or attempts or effects service of process at multiple apartments or offices within the same building, in every instance in which Respondent attempts or effects service of process in or outside of New York City, Respondent shall ensure that Respondent's GPS record include a photograph of the outside of the building where Respondent attempted or effected service of process. The photograph must include the front entrance door to the building and, if possible, the number of the building. If Respondent attempts or effects service of process at multiple apartments or offices within the same building, only the GPS record

corresponding to the last attempted or effected service of process within the building must include a photograph of the outside of the building. Where Respondent is unable to obtain a GPS or cellular signal in the direct vicinity of the building where Respondent served or attempted to serve process, Respondent shall, as soon as a GPS or cellular signal becomes available: (a) take a photograph of the outside of the nearest building in accordance with the instructions above; and (b) input in the GPS record the address of the photographed building or the nearest cross-section.

25. Prior to signing this Consent Order, Respondent shall enter into a contract with an independent third party ("the Contractor") pursuant to which the Contractor will provide services and perform functions described below that enable Respondent to meet the data storage and retrieval requirements set forth below, provided, however, that if Respondent performs process serving activities distributed to him or her by a licensed process serving agency, the process server may utilize the device and facilities for the electronic record of service that the process serving agency obtains under a contract with a Contractor. Respondent shall ensure that the Contractor store each electronic record of service according to the following terms:
- a. the original digital file must be maintained by the Contractor unaltered for a period of not less than seven years;
 - b. neither Respondent nor the process serving agency will be permitted to alter the original data, but may obtain copies of the original data file;
 - c. the Contractor must maintain the records in a manner that will permit retrieval by the DCA license number of the process server, the DCA license number of the process serving agency that has distributed the process for service, the name of the plaintiff or petitioner, the name of the defendant or respondent, the docket number (if any), the name of the person to whom process is delivered and a unique file identifier of the process being served;
 - d. the Contractor must maintain the records in a manner that will ensure that their integrity is adequate for admissibility in a judicial proceeding under the rules of evidence applicable in the state of New York;
 - e. the Contractor must produce upon request by the Department, and to any other party according to an appropriate order or subpoena, a copy of the electronic records, or any reasonably described part involved, certified to be true and accurate;
 - f. the Contractor must provide to the Department upon request a street map in hard copy format and access to an interactive electronic street map that display the locations where the digital records were recorded with a date and time provided by GPS or cellular date and time; and
 - g. the Contractor must provide to the Department upon request, and to any other party according to an appropriate order or subpoena, such software as may be necessary to display the electronic records in an MS Excel spreadsheet, 2003 version or later, with the following fields and in the following data formats:
 - a unique file identifier of the process being served;
 - the process server's license number;
 - the process serving agency's license number;
 - plaintiff or petitioner, which must be specified by the last name of the first plaintiff, or, if not a natural person, the name of the entity, except that the field may contain the name of every plaintiff or petitioner in the case, provided that the entire record is searchable by a wildcard search of the name of any plaintiff or petitioner;
 - defendant or respondent, which must be specified by the last name of the first defendant, or, if not a natural person, the name of the entity, except that the field may contain the name of every defendant or respondent in the case, provided that the entire record is searchable by a wildcard search of the name of any defendant or respondent;

- the full docket/index number, which must be entered with all information necessary to identify the case, such as XXXXXX/XX, unless the case is a Civil Local matter, in which case, it will include the prefix of CV, CC, LT, MI, NC, RE, SC, or TS;
- the date that service was effected or attempted according to the device, which must be entered as MM/DD/YYYY;
- the time that service was effected or attempted according to the device, which must be entered in military time;
- the date that service was effected or attempted according to GPS or cellular signals, which must be entered as MM/DD/YYYY;
- the time that service was effected or attempted according to GPS or cellular signals, which must be entered as military time;
- the address where service was effected or attempted, which must consist of four fields in the following order: building number, street name, city, and zip code, which must be five digits. All address information must be CASS (Coding Accuracy Support System) processed to insure its accuracy with software graded to be CASS Certified by the National Customer Support Center of the United States Postal Service;
- the name of the intended recipient of the process, which must be entered in two data fields such that the first data field is the last name of the intended recipient, or, if not a natural person, the name of the entity, and the second data field is the first name of the intended recipient if a natural person; and
- the name of the person to whom process was delivered, which must be entered in two data fields such that the first data field is the last name of the person, and the second data field is the first name of the person.

Affidavits and Other Proofs of Service

26. Respondent shall maintain electronic copies of all affidavits of service signed by Respondent, independent of the records maintained by any process serving agencies, and shall produce such records, upon request by the Department, in chronological order.
27. Respondent's affidavits of service shall be truthful, contain all information required by law, and contain the following facts, where applicable:
- a. Respondent's license number;
 - b. Except where the process effectuated was not received from a process serving agency, the name and address of the process serving agency from whom the process served was received;
 - c. A detailed description of Respondent's efforts to effectuate personal delivery within the State;
 - d. Respondent's source of the information about the whereabouts of the person to be served;
 - e. A description of Respondent's efforts to confirm the information about the whereabouts of the person to be served;
 - f. The location and detailed description of the place where delivery was effectuated;
 - g. The date and time that process was effectuated;
 - h. A description of the gender, age, height, weight, skin color, hair color, and other identifying features of the person to whom papers were delivered;
 - i. A separate statement indicating whether Respondent knows or does not know the name of the person to whom process was delivered;
 - j. Where service of process is accomplished by personal service, all information confirming that Respondent knew the person to whom process was delivered was the actual intended recipient of the process; and

- k. Where service of process is accomplished by substitute service, all information confirming that Respondent knew the person to whom process was delivered was a relative or co-occupant of the intended recipient.
28. Any affidavit signed by Respondent that has the capacity, tendency or effect of misleading a reader of the affidavit shall be considered intentional if there are repeated similar acts because of Respondent's or Respondent's agent's use of canned or form language. It shall be the Respondent's burden to show that he or she did not intend the affidavit to be misleading.
29. Respondent shall not use fictitious names in his or her affidavits of service to refer to defendants or persons, except when Respondent is unable to obtain the name of the person. Where Respondent is unable to obtain the first name of the person, Respondent shall use either "John" (for a male) or "Jane" (for a female) to represent the first name of the person. When Respondent is unable to obtain the last name of the person, Respondent shall use "Doe" to represent the last name of the person.

Duty to Report Contests to Service of Process

30. Whenever Respondent receives any type of notice, including an oral communication, that a court has scheduled a hearing concerning a contest to service of process by Respondent (known as a "traverse hearing"), Respondent shall, within ten (10) days of receiving such notice, fill out and submit to the Department the "Traverse Report Form For Process Servers/Agencies Who Signed A Consent Order," available on the DCA Process Server Website (nyc.gov/processserver). Respondent shall submit the completed traverse report form by e-mail to **TraverseReports@dca.nyc.gov**.
31. Each traverse report form notifying the Department of a scheduled traverse hearing shall include at least the following information:
- a. The date of the hearing;
 - b. The name of the court, county, and judge before whom the hearing is scheduled;
 - c. The index number of the action or proceeding;
 - d. The name of the petitioner or plaintiff;
 - e. The name of the respondent or defendant;
 - f. The process server's name;
 - g. The process server's license number; and
 - h. The name of the process serving agency on behalf of whom service was effectuated.
32. Respondent shall learn the final result of each scheduled traverse hearing that concerns service of process by Respondent, including any judicial order, cancellation of the hearing or settlement resolving the challenge to service of process. Respondent shall also obtain a copy of the court's order or decision on any traverse hearings that actually occur, including any stipulation or court file jacket setting forth the final result of the matter. "Decision reserved" is not a final result.
33. Within ten days of learning the final result of a traverse hearing, Respondent shall notify the Department of the result by submitting a traverse report to the Department using the traverse report form titled "Traverse Report Form For Process Servers/Agencies Who Signed A Consent Order," available on the DCA Process Server Website. Respondent shall also append a copy of the court's order or decision on any traverse hearings that actually occur to Respondent's traverse report, including any court file jacket setting forth the final result of the matter. Respondent shall submit the completed traverse report form and court decision by e-mail to **TraverseReports@dca.nyc.gov**.
34. If Respondent fails to learn the final result of the traverse hearing and obtain a copy of the court's decision within thirty (30) days of the scheduled hearing date, Respondent shall send a written

communication to the plaintiff/petitioner or the plaintiff/petitioner's attorney to obtain the final result and a copy of the court's decision. If Respondent fails to learn the final result and obtain a copy of the court's decision within sixty (60) days of the scheduled hearing date, Respondent shall search the court file for such information. If Respondent fails to learn the final result and obtain a copy of the court's decision within ninety (90) days of the scheduled hearing date, Respondent shall search the court file again for such information.

Respondent shall continue to search the court file every thirty (30) days until it learns the final result of the traverse hearing and is able to obtain a copy of the court's decision.

35. Within 100 days of the scheduled hearing date, Respondent must submit to the Department, by e-mail to TraverseReports@dca.nyc.gov, either (a) the final result of the hearing and a copy of the court's decision; or (b) a written explanation of why Respondent has been unable, so far, to learn the final result of the hearing or obtain a copy of the court's decision.
36. Respondent and the process serving agency for whom he or she serves process must each submit a completed Traverse Report Form upon learning of the scheduling of a traverse hearing and learning the result of a traverse hearing. Process serving agencies may not submit traverse reports on Respondent's behalf.
37. Respondent shall maintain, in one Microsoft Excel file, an electronic record of every traverse hearing scheduled concerning service of process by Respondent. This shall be done by using the Excel spreadsheet titled "Record of Scheduled Traverse Hearings," available on the DCA Process Server Website.

Training and Exams

38. Respondent shall attend any future training about the laws and regulations that relate to and govern the service of process in the City of New York upon notice from the Department that it has determined that there is available within the City of New York one or more programs that provide such training in a satisfactory manner. Respondent's failure to provide proof of having attended such training, after notice has been issued that such training is available, shall be sufficient grounds for the revocation of his or her license or denial of his or her license renewal application until such time as this requirement is met

Additional Duties

39. Respondent shall provide to the Department a reply to all consumer complaints to the Department relating to Respondent's process serving activity within ten (10) business days of receiving the complaint and shall respond to any subsequent communications from the Department concerning the complaint within five (5) business days. Respondent shall also notify the Department within ten (10) days of receipt of any (i) complaints, actions or proceedings filed against Respondent by consumers in any forum, including state and federal courts, the Better Business Bureau, the Office of the Attorney General of the State of New York, or any other agency or association, (ii) actions, proceedings or investigations by any government agency against Respondent; and (iii) results of any actions, proceedings or investigations against Respondent that resulted in the revocation or suspension of a license, the imposition of fines or restitution, a voluntary settlement, a court order, a criminal guilty plea, or a conviction.

- 40. Respondent shall notify the Department when his or her address, telephone number or e-mail address changes, in writing, within ten (10) days of such change. Respondent shall provide such notification in writing to the Department's Licensing Division at 42 Broadway, 5th Floor, NY, NY 10004.
- 41. Respondent will respond within the time required to any correspondence from the Department requesting further information on the status or disposition of any criminal complaints or arrests of Respondent. Respondent's failure to respond within the time required to any correspondence from the Department regarding the status or disposition of any criminal complaint or arrest of Respondent will be considered a breach of this Agreement and shall be sufficient grounds for the suspension of Respondent's license, upon proof of such failure and an opportunity to be heard.
- 42. Upon request from the Department, Respondent shall produce, within fourteen (14) days, any records that it is required to maintain pursuant to this Consent Order, the Rules of the City of New York or the New York City Administrative Code.

FINES

- 43. Respondent shall pay a fine of \$2500 in settlement of all the violations to date in the above-referenced matter by bank cashier's check or money order payable to "NYC Department of Consumer Affairs." Payment is due upon execution of this CO. Respondent shall make a payment of \$835.00 by bank cashier's check or money order payable to "NYC Department of Consumer Affairs upon execution of this Consent Order and shall pay the balance plus 1.5% monthly interest over five (5) months in accordance with a payment plan to be signed by Respondent (the "Payment Plan"). The terms of the Payment Plan shall be incorporated into this Consent Order.

BREACH OF THIS AGREEMENT

- 44. A finding, after notice and a hearing, that Respondent has committed a material breach of the terms of this Agreement shall be sufficient grounds for the revocation of Respondent's license. This provision shall not apply to the Department's consideration of any license or renewal applications.
- 45. Specific violations of this Agreement shall constitute independent and separate violations of any applicable law, regulation or rule.

Agreed to by Respondent

Accepted for the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs

By: Yoler Jean-Baptiste

By: [Redacted], Legal Division


4/30/15
[Redacted Signature]
4/30/15
 Signature Date Signature Date

**CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

-----X
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

NOTICE OF HEARING

Complainant,

-against-

YOLER JEAN-BAPTISTE

Respondent.

Violation No. 05349374

License No. 1139306

(Process Server Individual)

-----X
In accordance with the powers of the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs ("the Department") set forth in Section 2203(f) of Chapter 64 of the Charter of the City of New York and Sections 20-104 and 20-409 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York ("the Code"), **YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED TO APPEAR AT THE DCA TRIBUNAL, 11TH FLOOR, 66 JOHN STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10038 FOR A HEARING ON:**

MONDAY, MAY 4, 2015 AT 9:30 A.M.

AND SHOW CAUSE why your license to operate as an individual process server should not be suspended or revoked and why monetary penalties should not be imposed on you on the grounds specified herein.

RELEVANT LAW

Service of Process Rules

1. *Civil Practice Law and Rules*. Pursuant to Section 308 of the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules ("CPLR"), service upon a natural person must be made in the following manner:
 1. by delivering the summons within the state to the person to be served; or
 2. by delivering the summons within the state to a person of suitable age and discretion at the actual place of business, dwelling place or usual place of abode of the person to be served and by either mailing the summons to the person to be served at his or her last known residence or by mailing the summons by first class mail to the person to be served at his or her actual place of business in an envelope bearing the legend "personal and

- confidential" and not indicating on the outside thereof, by return address or otherwise, that the communication is from an attorney or concerns an action against the person to be served, such delivery and mailing to be effected within twenty days of each other; proof of such service shall be filed with the clerk of the court designated in the summons within twenty days of either such delivery or mailing, whichever is effected later; service shall be complete ten days after such filing; proof of service shall identify such person of suitable age and discretion and state the date, time and place of service, except in matrimonial actions where service hereunder may be made pursuant to an order made in accordance with the provisions of subdivision a of section two hundred thirty-two of the domestic relations law; or
3. by delivering the summons within the state to the agent for service of the person to be served as designated under rule 318, except in matrimonial actions where service hereunder may be made pursuant to an order made in accordance with the provisions of subdivision a of section two hundred thirty-two of the domestic relations law; or
 4. where service under paragraphs one and two cannot be made with due diligence, by affixing the summons to the door of either the actual place of business, dwelling place or usual place of abode within the state of the person to be served and by either mailing the summons to such person at his or her last known residence or by mailing the summons by first class mail to the person to be served at his or her actual place of business in an envelope bearing the legend "personal and confidential" and not indicating on the outside thereof, by return address or otherwise, that the communication is from an attorney or concerns an action against the person to be served, such affixing and mailing to be effected within twenty days of each other; proof of such service shall be filed with the clerk of the court designated in the summons within twenty days of either such affixing or mailing, whichever is effected later; service shall be complete ten days after such filing, except in matrimonial actions where service hereunder may be made pursuant to an order made in accordance with the provisions of subdivision a of section two hundred thirty-two of the domestic relations law; or
 5. in such manner as the court, upon motion without notice, directs, if service is impracticable under paragraphs one, two and four of this section.

Affidavit of Service Filing Requirements

2. *Civil Court Proceedings.* Pursuant to Section 208.4 of the Uniform Rules for N.Y.S. Trial Courts, "every paper filed in court shall have annexed thereto appropriate proof of service on all parties where required."

Department of Consumer Affairs Laws and Rules

3. Pursuant to Code § 20-104(f)(1):

The commissioner shall be authorized, upon due notice and hearing, to suspend, revoke or cancel any license issued by him or her in accordance with the provisions of chapter two and to impose or institute fines or civil penalties for the

violation of (i) any of the provisions of chapter two of this title and regulations and rules promulgated under chapter two of this title and (ii) any of the provisions of any other law, rule or regulation, the enforcement of which is within the jurisdiction of the department including but not limited to subchapter one of chapter five of this title (the consumer protection law) subchapter two of chapter five (the truth in-pricing-law); provided that such violation is committed in the course of and is related to the conduct of the business, trade or occupation which is required to be licensed pursuant to chapter two of this title. Except to the extent that dollar limits are otherwise specifically provided such fines or civil penalties shall not exceed five hundred dollars for each violation.

4. Pursuant to Code § 20-409(a), an individual process server license “may be suspended or revoked or its renewal denied by the commissioner at any time for the failure of the licensee to comply with any rule, regulation or order promulgated by the commissioner.
5. 6 RCNY § 2-233(a)(6) requires process servers to “retain each record required to be kept under § 2-233(a) for a period of three years from the date of service.”
6. Pursuant to 6 RCNY § 2-234:

[Licensed process servers and process serving agencies] shall at all times strictly and promptly conform to all laws, rules, regulations and requirements of the federal, state and municipal authorities relating to the conduct of licensees and the service of process in the State of New York and the preparation, notarization and filing of affidavits of service and other documents now in force or hereafter adopted during any license period.

7. Pursuant to Title 6 of the Rules of the City of New York (“6 RCNY”) § 2-236(a), whenever an individual process server receives notice that a court has scheduled a hearing to determine whether service of process made by the process server was effective (known as a “traverse hearing”), the process server must submit, by certified mail or e-mail, a written report to the Department within ten (10) days of receiving such notice. The written report must include the title and index number of the action, the court and the judge before whom the hearing is scheduled, the date(s) of the hearing, and the name and license number of every licensee who effected service or assigned or distributed the process for service.

8. Pursuant to 6 RCNY § 2-236(c)(1), an individual process server must attempt to learn the results of his or her traverse hearings by following specific procedures, including searching court files sixty (60) and ninety (90) days after the hearing.
9. Pursuant to 6 RCNY § 2-236(c)(2), an individual process server must submit a written report to the Department, by certified mail or e-mail, stating:
 - (a) the result of the traverse hearing (including any judicial order or voluntary settlement resolving the challenge to service of process), within ten (10) days of learning the result; or
 - (b) that he or she made attempts to learn the result of the traverse hearing but was unable to do so, within one hundred (100) days of the hearing.

FACTS

10. Respondent, Yoler Jean-Baptiste, is currently licensed by the Department as an individual process server under license number 1139306.
11. Respondent's current process server license will expire on February 28, 2016.

Sewer Service/False Affidavits of Service

12. Respondent swore in an affidavit of service that was filed in New York County Civil Court in the matter of *Discover Bank v. Bradley Young* (Index No. 048609/11), that he served a Summons and Complaint on Bradley Young by personal service at 200 W. 16th Street, Apt. 2E, New York, NY 10011 on November 3, 2011 at 2:03 p.m.
13. On June 18, 2014, the Civil Court held a traverse hearing in the above matter. Following the hearing, the court issued a decision sustaining traverse and dismissing the action. The court did not credit Respondent's testimony that he served the defendant at his home, and credited the defendant's testimony that he was not personally served. The court noted that the defendant's physical attributes did not match the description of the defendant provided by Respondent in his affidavit.

Failure to Retain Records

14. Respondent did not produce his logbook at the traverse hearing held on June 18, 2014, for the time of the alleged service on November 3, 2011. Respondent testified at the hearing that he is only required to keep his logbook records for two years and consequently, his logbook record for the alleged service on November 3, 2011 was no longer available.

Failure to Report Traverse Hearing

15. Respondent received notice of the scheduling of a traverse hearing in the following matters:
- a. *City of New York v. The Samantha Edelstein 2005 Trust* (Violation No. 035004169L, N.Y.C. Env'tl. Control Bd.);
 - b. *Rensop Holdings, LLC v. Penn Payment Solutions, LLC, et al.* (Index No. 652275/13, N.Y. Sup. Ct.); and
 - c. *Discover Bank v. Bradley Young* (Index No. 048609/11, N.Y. Civ. Ct.).
16. The traverse hearings in the cases listed above all concerned service of process that Respondent allegedly performed.
17. Respondent failed to submit a written report to the Department that the traverse hearings in the cases listed above had been scheduled within ten (10) days of receiving notice of the scheduled hearings.
18. Respondent failed to, within one hundred (100) days of the scheduled hearing dates, submit written reports to the Department stating the results of the traverse hearings in the cases listed above or that Respondent made attempts to learn the results of the hearings but was unable to do so.

CHARGES

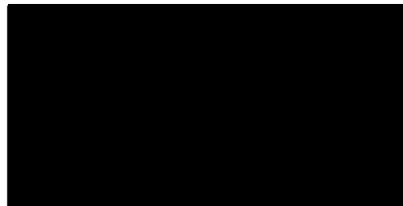
1. As described in paragraphs 12 and 13 of the Facts section, Respondent violated 6 RCNY § 2-234 by swearing falsely in an affidavit of service. [1 count]
2. As described in paragraphs 12 and 13 of the Facts section, Respondent violated 6 RCNY § 2-234 by failing to serve papers in compliance with Section 308 of the CPLR. [1 count]
3. As described in paragraph 14 of the Facts section, Respondent violated 6 RCNY § 2-233(a)(6) by failing to retain his logbook records for a period of three years from the date of service. [1 count]
4. As described in paragraphs 15 through 18 of the Facts section, Respondent violated 6 RCNY § 2-236(a) by failing to report to the Department the scheduling of three traverse hearings within ten (10) days of receiving notice of the scheduled hearings. [3 counts]
5. As described in paragraphs 15 through 18 of the Facts section, Respondent violated 6 RCNY § 2-236(c)(2) by failing to, within one hundred (100) days after the scheduled date of three traverse hearings, report to the Department either (a) the final results of the traverse hearings; or (b) that he made attempts to learn the final results of the traverse hearings but was unable to do so. [3 counts]

WHEREFORE, the Department demands that an order issue: 1) suspending or revoking Respondent's license; 2) imposing maximum fines on Respondent for each and every charge set forth herein; and 3) granting such other relief as is deemed just and proper.

Dated: April 3, 2015
New York, New York

For: Julie Menin
Commissioner

By:



Senior Staff Attorney
Legal Division

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR RESPONDENTS

You have been charged with violating Laws and Rules of the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs.

FAILURE TO APPEAR AT THE HEARING: If you do not appear at the DCA Adjudication Tribunal on the scheduled hearing date, you will be found guilty of the charges, you will be ordered to pay a fine, and your DCA license(s) may be revoked.

ADJOURNMENTS: Requests for adjournments must be received at least three (3) business days prior to the hearing date. **You may submit your request by e-mail to adjournmentrequests@dca.nyc.gov (preferred method)** or by mail to DCA Adjudication Tribunal, 66 John Street, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10038. Make sure to include the violation number in your request. In addition, you must send a copy of your request to process_server@dca.nyc.gov or by mail to Alvin A. Liu, DCA Legal Division, 42 Broadway, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10004.

REPRESENTATION: Although it is not required, you may choose to bring a lawyer or authorized representative to the hearing.

TRANSLATION SERVICES: DCA will provide translation services at the hearing for you and your witnesses. You may not use your own interpreter at the hearing.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: If you have a disability and require a reasonable accommodation on the day of the hearing, you must send a request, with proof, before the hearing date to the Adjudication Tribunal at mycase@dca.nyc.gov or call 311 (212-NEW-YORK outside NYC) and ask for “Consumer Affairs Hearing - Reasonable Accommodation.”

SETTLEMENTS: If you wish to discuss a possible settlement of the charges in this Notice of Hearing, you may contact Alvin A. Liu at process_server@dca.nyc.gov at least five (5) business days prior to the hearing date.

For additional information, visit DCA’s website at www.nyc.gov/consumers or call 311.