

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA**

Amy Doucette, et al. v. Kia America Inc., et al.

No. CV 24-731-DMG (DFMx), United States District Court for the Central District of California (April 14,
2025)

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Central District of California ordered plaintiffs to show cause why Kia Corporation and Hyundai Motor Company should not be dismissed without prejudice for lack of service. The court held that service on the South Korean corporations is governed by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(f) and the Hague Convention, and required plaintiffs to demonstrate good cause by April 29, 2025.

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL MINUTES—GENERAL Case No. CV 24-731-DMG (DFMx) Date April 14, 2025 Title Amy Doucette, et al. v. Kia America Inc., et al. Page 1 of 1 Present: The Honorable DOLLY M. GEE, CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE DEREK DAVIS NOT REPORTED Deputy Clerk Court Reporter Attorneys Present for Plaintiff(s) Attorneys Present for Defendant(s) None Present None Present Proceedings: IN CHAMBERS—ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE WHY DEFENDANTS KIA CORPORATION AND HYUNDAI MOTOR COMPANY SHOULD NOT BE DISMISSED FOR LACK OF SERVICE Plaintiffs have not filed proofs of service for Defendants KIA Corporation, formerly known as KIA Motors Corporation (“KC”) and Hyundai Motor Company (“HMC”).

See Doc. # 47 at n.1. Defendants KC and HMC were first named in the original Complaint, filed April 3, 2024, more than a year ago. [Doc. # 1.] Defendant KC is a South Korean corporation with its headquarters located in Seoul, South Korea, and is the parent corporation of Defendant KIA Motors America, Inc. Compl. at ¶ 61. HMC is a South Korean Corporation with its headquarters located in Seoul, South Korea, and is the parent company of Defendant Hyundai Motor America.

Id. at ¶ 67. South Korea, officially the Republic of Korea, is a signatory to the Hague Convention.¹ Since KC and HMC are foreign corporations in South Korea, Rule 4(f) and the Hague Convention govern service. See *Volkswagenwerk Aktiengesellschaft v. Schlunk*, 486 U.S. 694 (1988); *Brockmeyer v. May*, 383 F.3d 798 (9th Cir. 2004); Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(f). Plaintiffs are ORDERED TO SHOW CAUSE why Defendants KC and HMC should not be dismissed due to Plaintiffs’ failure to serve under Rule 4(f) and the Hague Convention.

If Plaintiffs do not file a written response by April 29, 2025 demonstrating good cause for the failure to effectuate timely service of process, Defendants KC and HMC shall be dismissed without prejudice. IT IS SO ORDERED. 1 For a listing of signatories to the Hague Convention on Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil Matters, see <https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/status-table/?cid=17>.

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