

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF
FLORIDA, ORLANDO DIVISION

United States v. Scherer

No. 6:25-cv-1510-JSS-LHP (M.D. Fla. Jan. 15, 2026) · No. 6:25-cv-1510-JSS-LHP · Decided January 15, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida partially grants the United States’ request for entry of default in a civil action involving Ronald Earl Scherer and several property-related entities. The Court directs the Clerk to enter default against Scherer but denies without prejudice the request as to two associations because the motion did not establish that service on their registered agent was proper under federal or Florida law.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Orlando Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Leslie A. Price
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Orlando Division
DECIDED	January 15, 2026
DOCKET	6:25-cv-1510-JSS-LHP
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The United States moved for entry of default against Ronald Earl Scherer, Sr., The Lionspaw Community Owners Association, Inc., and The International Residential Owners Association, Inc. The court granted the motion as to Scherer, denied it without prejudice as to the two associations, and directed the plaintiff to file a renewed motion addressing service.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Before entering a clerk’s default, the court must determine that the defendant was properly served.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished, nonprecedential district court order

TOPICS

- default
- service of process
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

federal tax lien enforcement

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court could direct entry of default against Ronald Earl Scherer, Sr.
2. Whether the United States established that service on The Lionspaw Community Owners Association, Inc., and The International Residential Owners Association, Inc., was proper so that clerk's default could be entered against them.

HOLDINGS

1. The court granted the United States' request in part and directed the Clerk of Court to enter default against Ronald Earl Scherer, Sr.
2. The court denied without prejudice the request for entry of default against the two associations because the motion did not establish that service was proper under federal or Florida law.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“before a Clerk’s default can be entered against a defendant, the Court must determine that the defendant was properly served” (Order)

“Without this information, the Court cannot determine whether Plaintiff properly effected service on Lionspaw and International Residential.” (Order)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The United States sought entry of default against Ronald Earl Scherer, Sr., The Lionspaw Community Owners Association, Inc., and The International Residential Owners Association, Inc. Returns of service for the two associations stated that summonses were served on Susie Stanford at the registered agent's address and described her as a person designated by law to accept service. The motion did not establish Stanford's relationship to or legal authority from Solaris Management, Inc., the associations' registered agent.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The United States filed an action to enforce a federal tax lien and sought entry of clerk's default against three defendants. The court concluded that the motion established a basis for default against Scherer but did not adequately establish that service on Lionspaw or International Residential complied with federal or Florida law.

DISPOSITION

other

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

Within twenty-one days of the date of the order, the United States must file a renewed motion for entry of default against The Lionspaw Community Owners Association, Inc., and The International Residential Owners Association, Inc., fully supported by legal authority and relevant evidence addressing the adequacy of service.

CASES CITED

- United States v. Donald, No. 3:09-cv-147-J-32HTS, 2009 WL 1810357, at *1 (M.D. Fla. June 24, 2009)
- Fitzgerald v. Trans Union, LLC, No. 5:25-cv-496-JA-PRL, 2025 WL 3240095, at *2-3 (M.D. Fla. Nov. 20, 2025)
- Nutramax Lab'ys, Inc. v. Ohmi Invs. LLC, No. 6:24-cv-1242-CEM-EJK, 2024 WL 5298610, at *1 (M.D. Fla. Dec. 10, 2024)

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