

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Lynk Media LLC v. Taylor

Lynk Media · No. 2:24-cv-02706-DJC-AC · Decided May 1, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California grants Lynk Media LLC's request to serve Deon Taylor by substitute service through someone in charge at Hidden Empire Films, LLC or its registered agent. The court denies without prejudice the request for alternative service through Taylor's Instagram account and grants Plaintiff 30 days to effect service or renew its motion.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Daniel J. Calabretta
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	May 1, 2025
DOCKET	2:24-cv-02706-DJC-AC
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff moved for leave to use substitute service, alternative service through the defendant's Instagram account or an associated business, and an enlargement of time to effect service.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The Court evaluated whether Plaintiff demonstrated reasonable diligence for substitute service under California law and whether the proposed Instagram-based alternative service was reasonably calculated to provide notice.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished district-court order; precedential status unknown.
PARTIES	Lynk Media LLC v. Deon Taylor

TOPICS

- service of process
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- commercial litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Plaintiff demonstrated reasonable diligence sufficient to permit substitute service under California Code of Civil Procedure section 415.20(b).
2. Whether service through Taylor's Instagram account or through an associated company's personnel or registered agent was appropriate as alternative service at that stage.
3. Whether Plaintiff should receive additional time to complete service.

HOLDINGS

1. Plaintiff demonstrated reasonable diligence through repeated unsuccessful attempts to personally serve Taylor, and substitute service at Hidden Empire Films, LLC or its registered agent was permitted.
2. Alternative service through Taylor's Instagram account was not appropriate at that juncture.
3. Plaintiff was granted 30 days from the date of the order to effect service, with permission to file a renewed motion for alternative service if necessary.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The Court finds that Plaintiff has shown reasonable diligence given the outlined efforts to personally serve Taylor described above.” (at 3)

“The Court does not find that alternative service is appropriate at this juncture.” (at 4)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff attempted to serve Taylor at a Granite Bay address on five occasions and at a Sacramento address on five occasions, without contacting an adult at either location. Plaintiff also attempted service on the registered agent of Hidden Empire Films, LLC, allegedly associated with Taylor, and mailed the summons, complaint, and waiver to Taylor's Granite Bay addresses. Plaintiff asserted that Taylor was the general partner of Hidden Empire Film L.P. and that an address associated with the company overlapped with one of Taylor's listed addresses.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Lynk Media LLC filed this federal action and made repeated attempts to personally serve Deon Taylor at two addresses, attempted service on an associated company's registered agent, and mailed the summons, complaint, and waiver. After the Court issued an order to show cause concerning failure to effect service or request additional time, Plaintiff moved for substitute and alternative service. The Court granted substitute service, denied alternative service without prejudice, and granted Plaintiff 30 additional days to effect service.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Produce v. Cal. Harvest Healthy Foods Ranch Mkt., No. 4:11-cv-04814-YGR, 2012 WL 259575, at *4 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 27, 2012)
- Williams-Sonoma Inc. v. Friendfinder, Inc., No. 3:06-cv-06572-JSW, 2007 WL 1140639, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 17, 2007)

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