

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
ILLINOIS

Pradeep Reddy and Bindu Reddy v. C. Channa Reddy and C.
Usharani Reddy

Reddy · No. 25-cv-1310-JPG · Decided March 18, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois declines to authorize alternative service on defendants believed to be located in India under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(f)(3), because the plaintiffs did not establish that service under the Hague Convention was unavailable or that the proposed methods complied with due process and international agreements. The court finds good cause to extend the service deadline to 180 days after entry of the order and discharges the order to show cause.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois
WRITING FOR THE COURT	J. Phil Gilbert
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois
DECIDED	March 18, 2026
DOCKET	25-cv-1310-JPG
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The court considered plaintiffs' response to an order to show cause why the action should not be dismissed for failure to serve defendants within 90 days and their request for authorization of alternative service under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(f)(3).
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court exercised discretion under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(f)(3) regarding alternative service and determined whether good cause existed to extend the service period under Rule 4(m).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished district court memorandum and order; persuasive rather than precedential outside the case.

TOPICS

- service of process
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

Civil procedure

International service of process

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should authorize service on defendants in India by mailing the summons and complaint to their United States counsel or by email under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(f)(3).
2. Whether good cause existed to extend the Rule 4(m) service period beyond 90 days.

HOLDINGS

1. The court declined to authorize plaintiffs' proposed alternative methods of service because plaintiffs did not show that service under the Hague Convention was unavailable or ineffective, did not establish that the proposed methods satisfied federal due process, and did not establish that they were not prohibited by international agreement.
2. The court found good cause for plaintiffs' failure to serve within 90 days and extended the time for service to 180 days after entry of the order.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“"[C]ompliance with the Convention is mandatory in all cases to which it applies,"”

“The Court will therefore decline the plaintiffs’ invitation to allow alternative methods of service under Rule 4(f)(3).”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiffs attempted unsuccessfully to obtain waivers of service from defendants and attempted to notify them of the summons and complaint by other means. Plaintiffs believed defendants were located in India, a signatory to the Hague Convention on Service Abroad. They proposed mailing the summons and complaint to defendants' United States counsel or emailing the documents, but did not explain why Hague Convention service was unavailable or ineffective, how the proposed methods satisfied due process, or why they were not prohibited by an international agreement.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiffs filed a complaint and unsuccessfully attempted to obtain waivers of service or otherwise notify defendants, whom they believed were in India. The court issued an order to show cause regarding the failure to serve within 90 days. After plaintiffs responded and requested alternative service by mailing or email, the court denied that request, found good cause for the delay, extended the service period to 180 days, and discharged the show-cause order.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Volkswagenwerk Aktiengesellschaft v. Schlunk, 486 U.S. 694 (1988)

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