

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA  
CHARLOTTE DIVISION  
3:21-cv-00090-MR

ROBERT WILLIAMS, )  
                          )  
Plaintiff,            )  
                          )  
vs.                    )                            ORDER  
                          )  
AARON LNU, et al., )  
                          )  
Defendants.            )  
                          )  
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**THIS MATTER** is before the Court on its own motion.

On May 28, 2021, the North Carolina Department of Public Safety (NCDPS) filed a document under seal indicating it was unable to procure a waiver of service for Defendant “Aaron LNU” for the reasons stated in that document.<sup>1</sup> [Doc. 17]. The sealed document provides the last known address for Defendant Aaron. [See id.].

Generally, a plaintiff is responsible for effectuating service on each named Defendant within the time frame set forth in Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(m), and failure to do so renders the action subject to dismissal. However, if an incarcerated plaintiff proceeding in forma pauperis provides the Marshals

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<sup>1</sup> This Defendant’s true full name is David Aaron. The Court will instruct the Clerk to update the docket accordingly.

Service sufficient information to identify and serve the defendant, the Marshals Service's failure to complete service will constitute good cause under Rule 4(m) if the defendant could have been located with reasonable effort. See Graham v. Satkoski, 51 F.3d 710, 713 (7th Cir. 1995); Greene v. Holloway, No. 99-7380, 2000 WL 296314, at \*1 (4th Cir. Mar. 22, 2000) (where the district court dismissed a defendant in a Section 1983 action based on the prisoner's failure to provide an address for service on a defendant who no longer worked at the sheriff's office, remanding so the district court could "evaluate whether the marshals could have served [Defendant] with reasonable effort").

Here, despite that requests for waivers of service were submitted to the NCDPS, no waiver from Defendant Aaron was obtained. As such, it does not appear that this Defendant actually ever received service of process. With the additional information supplied for service on Defendant Aaron, the U.S. Marshal is hereby ordered to use reasonable efforts to locate and obtain service on this Defendant in accordance with Rule 4.

To that end, the Court will direct the Clerk of Court to provide a copy of Docket No. 17 to the U.S. Marshal for its eyes only for the sole purpose of serving Defendant Aaron.

**ORDER**

**IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED** that the Clerk of Court will send a copy of this Order and Docket Nos. 1 and 17 to the U.S. Marshals Service. The U.S. Marshal shall use reasonable efforts to locate and obtain service on Defendant Aaron in accordance with Rule 4.

The Clerk is also respectfully instructed to update the docket in this matter to reflect the full name of Defendant Aaron LNU as David Aaron.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Signed: June 3, 2021



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Martin Reidinger  
Chief United States District Judge

