

1 **3-202. Summons.**

2 A. **Summons; issuance.** [~~Upon~~] On receipt of a complaint and payment of the
3 docket fee, the clerk shall docket the action, issue a summons, and deliver it to the plaintiff
4 or the plaintiff's attorney, who shall be responsible for prompt service of the summons and
5 a copy of the complaint. [~~Upon the~~] On request of the plaintiff, separate, additional, or
6 amended summons shall issue against any defendant. A defendant waives the service of
7 summons by filing an answer in the proceedings.

8 B. **Summons; execution; form.** The summons shall be signed by the clerk,
9 be directed to the defendant, be substantially in the form approved by the Supreme Court,
10 and must contain:

11 (1) the name of the court in which the action is brought, the name of the
12 county in which the complaint is filed, the docket number of the case, the name of the first
13 party on each side, with an appropriate indication of the other parties, and the name of each
14 party to whom the summons is directed;

15 (2) a direction that the defendant serve a responsive pleading or motion
16 within twenty (20) days after service of the summons, and file the same, all as provided by
17 law, and a notice that unless the defendant so serves and files a responsive pleading or
18 motion, the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in the complaint;

19 (3) the name and address of the plaintiff's attorney [~~, which, if any,~~] shall
20 be shown on [~~every~~] the summons, otherwise the plaintiff's address; and

1 (4) a notice that the defendant may request [~~prior to~~] before any
2 proceeding that the proceeding be recorded. The notice shall advise the defendant if a tape
3 recording is not made of the proceedings, it may effectively preclude the defendant from
4 appealing to the district court.

5 C. **Summons; service of copy.** A copy of the summons (with a copy of the
6 complaint attached) and a copy of the form for answer shall be served together. The
7 plaintiff shall furnish the person making service with [~~such~~] the necessary copies [~~as are~~
8 ~~necessary~~].

9 D. **Summons; by whom served.** In civil actions, any process may be served
10 by the sheriff of the county where the defendant may be found or by any other person who
11 is over the age of eighteen (18) years [~~and not a party to the action~~], except for writs of
12 attachment and writs of replevin, which shall be served by the sheriff or by any person [~~not~~
13 ~~a party to the action~~] over the age of eighteen (18) years who may be designated by the
14 court to perform [~~such~~] the service, or by the sheriff of the county where the property or
15 person may be found. With the exception of service under Paragraph E, process must be
16 served by a person who is not a party to the action.

17 E. **Summons; service by mail.** A summons and complaint may be served
18 [~~upon~~] on a defendant of any class referred to in [~~Subparagraph (1) or (2) of Paragraph F~~]
19 Subparagraph (F)(1) or (F)(2) of this rule by mailing a copy of the summons and [~~of~~] the
20 complaint (by first-class mail, postage prepaid) to the person to be served, together with
21 two (2) copies of a notice and acknowledgment conforming with the form approved by the

1 Supreme Court, and a return envelope, postage prepaid, addressed to the sender. If no
2 acknowledgment of service under this ~~[subdivision of this rule]~~ paragraph is received by
3 the sender within twenty (20) days after the date of mailing, plus three (3) days as provided
4 by Rule 3-104 NMRA, service of ~~[such]~~ the summons and the complaint shall be made by
5 a person authorized by Paragraph D of this rule, in the manner prescribed by Paragraph F
6 of this rule. Service of a summons by mail is only effective if an acknowledgment of service
7 signed by the person being served is filed with the court. The court shall order the payment
8 of the costs of personal service by the person served if ~~[such]~~ the person does not complete
9 and return to the sender within twenty-three (23) days after mailing the notice and
10 acknowledgment of receipt of summons, unless good cause is shown for not signing, filing,
11 and serving a signed acknowledgment of service in the time required by this paragraph.

12 The form of the notice and acknowledgment of receipt of the summons and the
13 complaint shall be substantially in the form approved by the Supreme Court.

14 F. **Summons; ~~how served~~ personal service.** Personal service may be made
15 as provided by law as follows:

16 (1) ~~[upon]~~ on an individual other than a minor or an ~~[incapacitated]~~
17 incompetent person by delivering a copy of the summons and ~~[of]~~ the complaint to ~~[him]~~
18 the individual personally; or if the defendant refuses to receive ~~[such,]~~ a copy of the
19 summons and the complaint by leaving the same at the location where ~~[he]~~ the individual
20 has been found; and if the defendant refuses to receive ~~[such]~~ the copies or permit them to
21 be left, ~~[such]~~ this action shall constitute valid service. If the defendant is absent, service

1 may be made by delivering a copy of the process or other papers to be served to some
2 person residing at the defendant's usual place of abode [~~of the defendant~~] who is over the
3 age of fifteen (15) years; and if [~~there is no such~~] no person is available or willing to accept
4 delivery, then service may be made by posting [~~such~~] the copies in the most public part of
5 the defendant's premises, and by mailing to the defendant at [~~his~~] the defendant's last
6 known mailing address copies of the process. Service may also be made by mail or
7 commercial courier service [~~provided that~~] if the envelope is addressed to the named
8 defendant and [~~further provided that~~] the defendant or a person authorized by appointment,
9 by law, or by this rule to accept service of process [~~upon~~] on the defendant signs a receipt
10 for the envelope or package containing the summons and the complaint, writ, or other
11 process. Service by mail or commercial courier service shall be complete on the date the
12 receipt is signed as provided by this subparagraph. For purposes of this rule, "signs"
13 includes the electronic representation of a signature;

14 (2) [~~upon~~] on a domestic or foreign corporation by delivering a copy of
15 the summons and [~~of~~] the complaint to an officer, a managing or a general agent, or to any
16 other agent authorized by appointment or by law to receive service of process and, if the
17 agent is one authorized by statute to receive service and the statute so requires, by also
18 mailing a copy to the defendant; [~~upon~~] on a partnership by delivering a copy of the
19 summons and [~~of~~] the complaint to any general partner; and [~~upon~~] on other unincorporated
20 association, which is subject to suit under a common name, by delivering a copy of the
21 summons and [~~of~~] the complaint to an officer, a managing or general agent, or to any other

1 agent authorized by appointment or by law to receive service of process and, if the agent
2 is one authorized by law to receive service and the statute so requires, by also mailing a
3 copy to the unincorporated association. If the person refuses to receive [~~such~~] the copies,
4 [~~such~~] this action shall constitute valid service. If none of the persons mentioned is
5 available, service may be made by delivering a copy of the process or other papers to be
6 served at the principal office or place of business during regular business hours to the
7 person in charge [~~thereof~~] of the business;

8 (3) [~~upon~~] on the State of New Mexico:

9 (a) in garnishment actions, service of writs of garnishment shall
10 be made on the department of finance and administration, on the attorney general, and on
11 the head of the branch, agency, bureau, department, commission, or institution; and

12 (b) service of process on the governor, attorney general, agency,
13 bureau, department, commission, or institution or head [~~thereof~~] of the institution may be
14 made either by delivering a copy of the summons and [~~of~~] the complaint to the head or to
15 [~~his~~] that individual's receptionist. [~~Where~~] If an executive secretary is employed, [~~he~~] this
16 person shall be considered [~~as~~] the head;

17 (4) [~~upon~~] on any county by delivering a copy of the summons and [~~of~~]
18 the complaint to the county clerk, who shall [~~forthwith~~] notify the district attorney of the
19 judicial district in which the county sued is situated;

1 (5) ~~[upon]~~ on a municipal corporation by delivering a copy of the
2 summons and ~~[of]~~ the complaint to the city clerk, town clerk, or village clerk, who in turn
3 shall ~~[forthwith]~~ notify the head of the commission or other form of governing body;

4 (6) ~~[upon]~~ on the board of trustees of any land grant referred to in
5 Sections 49-1-1 through ~~[49-10-6]~~ 49-9-12 NMSA 1978, process shall be served ~~[upon]~~ on
6 the president, or in ~~[his]~~ the president's absence, ~~[upon]~~ on the secretary of ~~[such]~~ the
7 board;

8 (7) ~~[upon a minor, whenever there shall be]~~ on a conservator of ~~[the]~~ an
9 estate or the guardian of ~~[the person of such]~~ a minor, by delivering a copy of the summons
10 and ~~[of]~~ the complaint to the conservator or the guardian. Service of process so made shall
11 be considered as service ~~[upon]~~ on the minor. In all other cases, process shall be served by
12 delivering a copy of the summons and ~~[of]~~ the complaint to the minor, and if the minor is
13 living with an adult, a copy of the summons and ~~[of]~~ the complaint shall also be delivered
14 to the adult residing in the same household. ~~[In all cases where]~~ If a guardian ad litem has
15 been appointed, a copy of the summons and ~~[of]~~ the complaint shall be delivered to ~~[such]~~
16 the representative, in addition to serving the minor ~~[as herein provided];~~

17 (8) ~~[upon an incapacitated person, whenever there shall be]~~ on a
18 conservator of ~~[the]~~ an estate or the guardian of ~~[the person of such incapacitated]~~ an
19 incompetent person, by delivering a copy of the summons and ~~[of]~~ the complaint to the
20 conservator or the guardian. Service of process so made shall be considered as service

1 ~~[upon]~~ on the ward. In all other cases, process shall be served ~~[upon]~~ on the ward in the
2 same manner as ~~[upon]~~ on competent persons; or

3 (9) ~~[upon]~~ on a personal representative, guardian, conservator, trustee,
4 or other fiduciary in the same manner as provided in ~~[Subparagraph (1) or (2) of Paragraph~~
5 ~~F of this rule]~~ Subparagraph (F)(1) or (F)(2) as may be appropriate.

6 Service shall be made with reasonable diligence, and the original summons with
7 proof of service shall be returned to the clerk of the court from which it was issued.

8 G. **Return.** If service is made by mail ~~[pursuant to]~~ under Paragraph E of this
9 rule, return shall be made by the sender's filing with the court the acknowledgment
10 received ~~[pursuant to such paragraph. Where]~~ under Paragraph E. If service within the state
11 includes mailing, the return shall state the date and place of mailing. If service is made by
12 mail ~~[pursuant to]~~ under Paragraph F of this rule, proof of service by mail or commercial
13 courier service shall be established by filing with the court a certificate of service, which
14 shall include the date of delivery by the post office or commercial courier service and a
15 copy of the defendant's signature receipt. If service is by personal service ~~[pursuant to]~~
16 under Paragraph F of this rule, the person serving the process shall make proof of service
17 ~~[thereof]~~ to the court promptly and, in any event, within the time during which the person
18 served must respond to the process. ~~[When]~~ If service is made by the sheriff (or deputy),
19 proof ~~[thereof]~~ of service shall be by certificate; and ~~[when]~~ if made by a person other than
20 a sheriff (or deputy), proof ~~[thereof]~~ of service shall be made by affidavit. ~~[Where]~~ If

1 service within the state includes mailing, the return shall state the date and place of mailing.

2 Failure to make proof of service shall not affect the validity of service.

3 H. **Service by publication.** Service by publication may not be made, [~~except~~
4 ~~as~~] unless provided by law in cases of attachment and replevin.

5 I. **Alias process.** [~~When any~~] If the process has not been returned, or has been
6 returned without service, or has been improperly served, [~~it shall be the duty of~~] the clerk,
7 [~~upon the~~] on application of any party to the suit, [~~to~~] shall issue other process as the party
8 applying may direct.

9 J. **Service; applicable statute.** [~~Where no provision is made in these~~] If the
10 rules make no provision for service of process, process shall be served as provided for by
11 any applicable statute.

12 K. **Construction of terms.** [~~Wherever~~] If the terms “summons,” “process,”
13 “service of process,” or similar terms are used, [~~such~~] the terms shall include the summons,
14 complaint, and any other papers required to be served.

15 [As amended, effective January 1, 1990; July 1, 1990; January 1, 1993; May 1, 1994;
16 October 15, 2002; by Supreme Court Order No. 09-8300-035, effective November 16,
17 2009; as amended by Supreme Court Order No. 21-8300-012, effective for all cases
18 pending or filed on or after December 31, 2021.]