

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHEROKEE COUNTY

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CHEROKEE COUNTY

In the matter of:

Judicial Assistance from Juvenile Court

Administration and Procedure

REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE: CASE ASSIGNMENTS

To promote efficiency, minimize duplication of effort, reduce consequent trauma to victims, and address the Court's growing caseload, the judges of the above courts have determined to request judicial assistance. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 15-1-9.1(b)(2), the Judges of the Superior Court hereby determine that the business of the Superior Court requires the assistance of additional judges on a temporary and permanent basis and request the assistance of the Judges of the Juvenile Court. The Judges of the Juvenile Court agree as follows:

In All Cases

The Judges of the Superior Court and Juvenile Court reaffirm the Mutual Request and Standing Order recorded on November 9, 2011, in Minute Book 192, Page 348. That Request and Order are hereby clarified to provide that any assistance sought and provided to the Superior Court pursuant to that Mutual Request and Standing Order shall first be sought and provided by the Juvenile Court Judges. All other portions of the Request and Order remain in full force and effect.

In Cases to be Assigned to Juvenile Judges

The following cases shall be assigned to the Juvenile Court Judges on an alternating basis:

1. Effective September 1, 2026, all 12-month, 3-year, and permanent hearings involving family violence, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking protective orders, irrespective of whether minor children are involved, shall be assigned to a Juvenile Court Judge sitting by designation as a Superior Court Judge. Review of initial petitions for a protective order shall

continue to be divided among the Superior Court and Juvenile Court Judges by agreement. **This constitutes a substantial change from prior requests for assistance. Effective September 1, 2026, all such final hearings shall be assigned to a Juvenile Court Judge sitting by designation as a Superior Court Judge;**

2. All petitions to legitimate and petitions to establish paternity or support, except for those paternity or support actions initiated by the Georgia Department of Human Resources;
3. All divorce, custody, modification, temporary protective order, or other actions involving grandparent visitation pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 19-7-3;
4. Actions involving equitable caregiver status or rights pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 19-7-3.1; and
5. Any other domestic cases related thereto in which the parties share mutual minor children and there are allegations of family violence.

Any cases that meet the above criteria and involve substantially the same parties or issues that are currently or were previously assigned to a judge currently in office shall be assigned to that judge in accordance with the Standing Order on Civil Cases, including that Order entered January 2, 2019, recorded in Minute Book 201, Page 1879, and U.S.C.R. 3.2.

Domestic cases in which no violence is alleged or in which there are no mutual children of the parties shall remain assigned to the Superior Court Judges. Those not specifically assigned herein shall remain assigned to the Superior Court Judges.

Assignments under this Order shall be presumptive but may be reassigned between the Superior and Juvenile Court Judges, with or without motion of the parties, as the judges find appropriate to implement the goals of this Order as stated herein and the ends of justice, and in accordance with U.S.C.R. 3.3. This Order should be interpreted to be in furtherance of, and not to circumvent, U.S.C.R. 3.2 concerning "companion and related cases." If a companion or related

case has been previously heard with the taking of evidence by a judge, the case should be assigned to that judge by the Clerk of Court to the extent practicable.

However, it is the duty of the parties and/or counsel to review the judicial assignment and to make any motion to reassign prior to the date of any scheduled hearing. Upon failure to do so, the assigned judge may exercise discretion in continuing the matter, transferring the matter, or declining to do either, taking into consideration whether granting such motion may cause undue delay or frustrate timely adjudication of the matter.

Juvenile Court Judges responding under this request shall preside as Superior Court Judges and be clothed with the full authority of that office. Cases assigned under this Order shall not be considered "transferred" to the Juvenile Court, and shall retain the Superior Court civil case number. All courts and respective personnel shall create forms, informal dockets, and other systems and procedures necessary to implement and further the goals of this Order.

The implementation of this Order shall be financed as directed by O.C.G.A. § 15-1-9.1(h) and (j). This Order expressly supersedes the "Request for Judicial Assistance Case Assignments" Standing Order of these Courts recorded on January 17, 2025, Minute Book 202, Page 1632, and any prior similar orders. This request for assistance shall be in addition to and shall not supersede any other existing "mutual requests for assistance" created for different purposes.

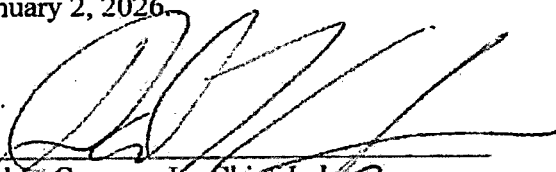
This Request and Order shall remain in effect pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 15-1-9.1 from the date of filing, or until further order modifying or rescinding this Order is entered.

The caseload and the goals of this Order shall be reviewed annually by the judges of the affected courts and modified as necessary. Cases assigned pursuant to this Order shall not be reassignable back to a Superior Court Judge by a new or subsequent Judicial Assistance Case Assignment Order or by its rescission unless specifically authorized by court order. The judges of

either affected court may withdraw from this Request and Order upon sixty (60) days' written notice to the judges of the other affected courts.

The undersigned judges make and respond to this request pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 15-1-9.1(c).

SO ORDERED on the 3 day of August, 2026, nunc pro tunc to January 2, 2026.



David L. Cannon, Jr., Chief Judge
Superior Court of Cherokee County
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit



Richard A. Jones, Presiding Judge
Juvenile Court of Cherokee County
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit