

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY
EASTERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA

STANDING SCHEDULING ORDER IN "J3" CRIMINAL CASES

The Criminal Case Management process for cases indicted or accused in the Superior Court of Chatham County, Georgia and assigned to Judge Lisa Goldwire Colbert (position J3) is hereby ORDERED as follows:

STEP 1. All cases in which there is no attorney of record will be scheduled for a Calendar Call. The Defendant's presence is required at Calendar Call. At the Calendar Call, the Court will inquire if the Defendant requires counsel to be appointed. If the Defendant requests and qualifies for appointed counsel, the Court will appoint counsel, and the matter shall be scheduled for an arraignment date. If the Defendant requests to represent him/herself (and the Court approves), the matter shall be set for arraignment. If the Defendant announces that he/she intends to retain private counsel, the case will be placed on the next Calendar Call until such time as the Defendant has counsel and the case is then assigned an arraignment date. All cases in which there is an attorney of record at the time of filing in Superior Court will be immediately scheduled for an arraignment date.

STEP 2. Cases will be set for arraignment within approximately 60 days after indictment, accusation, or the appearance of counsel, as applicable. Defendant shall elect whether to participate in reciprocal discovery as set forth in O.C.G.A. § 17-6-1 *et seq.* by the date of the arraignment. The Defendant and counsel shall attend the arraignment. At the arraignment, the Defendant shall announce Plea Track, Motion Hearing required, or Trial Track. In lieu of formal arraignment, the Defendant may file a written waiver of arraignment signed by counsel (except as noted below). Such written waiver must (1) be filed of record at least 30 days in advance of any scheduled arraignment hearing; (2) served upon the Court's Criminal Case Manager; and (3) elect Plea Track, Motion Hearing required, or Trial Track. In the event the waiver is not timely filed, or if it is not served upon the Criminal Case Manager, the Defendant and counsel shall appear for the arraignment calendar. For cases with charges that are considered serious violent felonies under O.C.G.A. § 17-10-6.1(a), the waiver of arraignment must be signed personally by the Defendant.

STEP 3. All cases will be placed on a Trial Docket Call following arraignment. In order for a case to be set on a plea docket, counsel must request an in-person or video plea hearing and present **completed plea paperwork signed by the prosecutor and defense attorney** to the Criminal Case Manager at least ten (10) business days in advance. Such signed paperwork shall be deemed a representation to the Court that the plea has been fully negotiated and accepted by both sides, with the defendant having accepted the plea following a conversation with his/her attorney. No case will be placed on a plea docket until such paperwork has been submitted. Video plea hearings must be approved by the Court in advance.

STEP 4. If a motion is filed by the deadline set forth in Paragraph D, below, the case will be set down for a motion hearing. Following the motion hearing, the case will be placed on a Trial Docket Call.

STEP 5. At the Trial Docket Call, the parties should be prepared to announce readiness for trial and discuss scheduling. At the Trial Docket Call, cases will be assigned trial dates. Defendants are not required to attend the Trial Docket Call unless instructed by the Court otherwise. Defendants in pretrial detention will not be transported for the Trial Docket Call unless counsel requests their presence, with requests being made to the Court's Criminal Case manager by 12:00 P.M. EST the preceding business day.

STEP 6. There will be a Pretrial Hearing held prior to the week of trial. At the Pretrial Hearing, the parties should be prepared to proceed with a fully negotiated plea or to argue any motions in limine or other outstanding matters for trial. At any time for a negotiated plea, including a requested Plea Hearing or the Pretrial Hearing, all plea paperwork must be typed, printed, and signed *prior* to the call of the docket. Any pleas not signed up and ready when called will not be heard and will be continued to the Jury Trial docket. To be clear, the Court will not recess during the Pretrial Hearing to allow parties to negotiate or sign paperwork.

STEP 7. Any case on the Jury Trial docket may be called for trial at any point during the week-long trial period. Parties should subpoena their witness to be available for the entire trial period and the following week in the event the trial runs longer than one week. The Court may not accept negotiated pleas once a case reaches the Jury Trial docket.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED as follows:

In all such cases where the Defendant has filed of record an election to participate in discovery under O.C.G.A. § 17-16-1 *et seq.*, the following will govern the discovery obligations of the parties:

A. INITIAL DISCOVERY:

Initial Discovery disclosures by the State shall be due to the defendant no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the date of the filing of defendant's election under O.C.G.A. § 17-16-1 *et seq.* "Initial Discovery" means all police reports, documents and photographs in the State's file and any expert or lab reports within the possession of the State at the time of indictment. Initial Discovery does not include bodycam, surveillance, or similar video files, but the State should produce those files to the Defendant promptly.

B. FULL DISCOVERY:

Full Discovery disclosures by the State shall be due to the Defendant on or before the date of arraignment, or, if the Defendant has waived arraignment, no later than ten (10) calendar days after the date of the filing of defendant's waiver of arraignment. Discovery disclosures by the Defendant shall be due to the State within twenty (20) calendar days of the date the State's Full

Discovery disclosures to Defendant are due. "Full Discovery" means all discovery due under the laws of this State, including any supplements to the Initial Discovery and any materials (e.g., bodycam and surveillance video) not included in the Initial Discovery.

C. SUPPLEMENTAL DISCOVERY:

If the Defendant procures new counsel, it shall be the duty of the original attorney for the Defendant to provide all discovery received to the new attorney. Both the State and the Defendant shall have the right to supplement discovery and shall do so at least ten (10) days prior to the trial.

D. MOTIONS:

All special pleas, pleas-in-bar, demurrers, and similar motions shall be filed no later than ten (10) days after the date of arraignment (or, if arraignment is waived, ten (10) days after the filing of the Waiver of Arraignment). All other motions (including, but not limited to, motions to suppress, "*Daubert*" motions under O.C.G.A. § 24-7-702), except for motions in limine, shall be filed no later than thirty (30) days after arraignment (or, if arraignment is waived, thirty (30) days after the filing of the Waiver of Arraignment), with responses to any such motions due within fifteen (15) days after the filing of the original motion. Motions for Additional Peremptory Challenges shall be filed prior to the date of the Pretrial Hearing. Motions in limine shall be filed no later than five (5) business days prior to trial. Extensions may be granted for good cause shown.

The foregoing shall not apply in the event that an order previously entered in any case provides for the exchange of discovery any earlier than would be required under the foregoing.

The foregoing schedule shall control over any the terms of any scheduling order filed contemporaneously with, or after this Standing Order, unless a deviation from this Standing Order is specifically contemplated. Non-discovery provisions of any scheduling order in any case shall remain in full force and effect.

SO ORDERED, this 26th day of October, 2026.



LISA GOLDWIRE COLBERT, JUDGE
CHATHAM COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
EASTERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF GEORGIA