

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURTS  
SOUTHERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

**Re: Domestic Relations Cases**

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**STANDING ORDER:  
DOMESTIC RELATIONS ACTIONS**

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 19-1-1(b), this is a standing order of the Southern Judicial Circuit that applies in every divorce case and every case affecting the parent-child relationship. The Court is adopting this Order to provide direction to Parties (defined as all Plaintiffs and Defendants) as to expectations of the Court as it relates to the issues of children, finances, and debts after the filing of a domestic relations case and prior to ruling on a temporary hearing. **Therefore, it is ORDERED,**

1. **CHILDREN**: The Parties are ORDERED to refrain from doing the following acts concerning any child(ren) involved in this case:
  - a. Disrupting or withdrawing the child(ren) from school or day-care facility where the child(ren) is presently enrolled without the written agreement of the Parties or an order of this Court.
  - b. Hiding or secreting the child(ren) from a Party, or changing the child(ren)'s current place of abode without the written agreement of the Parties or an order of this Court.
  - c. Making disparaging remarks to or in front of the child(ren) about a Party or a Party's family members.
  - d. Discussing with the child(ren), or with any other person in the presence of the child(ren), any issue involving the current or past litigation between the Parties.
  - e. Interfering with the ability of a Party to communicate with a child(ren) by cancelling cellular service of a child(ren), by blocking the other Party's number from appearing on a phone of the child(ren), or such similar acts.
  
2. **IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILDREN**: Pursuant to Uniform Superior Court Rule 24.8 and Standing Order entered on December 30, 1997, a copy of which is attached hereto as reference, for any action involving child(ren) less than eighteen (18) years of age, the Parties are to successfully complete the "In the Best Interest of the Children" seminar, or such similar program as approved by the Court, within

forty-five (45) days of service of the original complaint upon the defendant or filing of the Acknowledgment of Service and Summons.

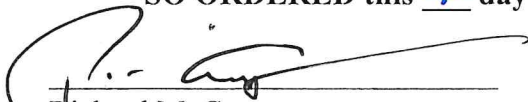
3. **FINANCIAL ISSUES:** If this is a divorce action, the Parties are ORDERED to refrain from doing the following acts, except by written agreement of the Parties or Order of the Court:
  - a. Cancelling any health insurance, life insurance, disability insurance, automobile insurance or other similar form of insurance insuring a Party or child(ren) involved in the pending matter.
  - b. Cancelling any utility (water, electricity, sewage, cable, internet, phone, alarm, etc. . .) that services the marital residence or any other location where the children might reside.
  - c. Cancelling the cellular service of the other Party or child(ren) involved in the pending matter.
  - d. Making a change to any beneficiary or payable on death designation to any financial account, life insurance policy, or Last Will and Testament.
  - e. Taking any action with a marital financial account, regardless of title or ownership, that wastes, secretes, hides, or otherwise changes the status quo of the financial situation of the Parties. Reasonable transfers and expenditures within the normal course of business of the marital relationship or to obtain the services of an attorney are permitted.
  
4. **FINANCIAL EXPECTATIONS:** If this is divorce case, the Court expects that
  - a. The Parties are to continue paying for the marital bills in the same manner they have historically been doing prior to the filing of this action regardless of any ruling of this Court given in a separate Ex Parte Order concerning custody or temporary housing arrangements.
  - b. The financial status quo of the marriage is to be maintained, including providing financial support to one Party if that has been the historical practice of the Parties (ie., if only one Party has been earning an income in the marriage, the Court expects that reasonable financial support in accordance with the historical practice of the marriage is to be provided to the non-income producing Party).
  - c. In accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 19-5-7 and 19-6-1(e), except as to bona fide transfers of value or payment of preexisting debts, the Parties are restrained

and enjoined from disposing of any real property belonging to the Parties, including but not limited to the transfer of real property, the closing or transfer of bank accounts or bank account funds, 401(k) account, money market accounts, stocks or bonds, or other retirement or investment portfolio or account.

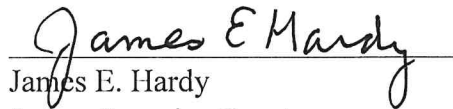
5. **FINANCIAL AFFIDAVIT and CHILD SUPPORT WORKSHEETS:** All Parties are to strictly comply with O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15(m)(1) and Rule 24.2 of the Uniform Superior Court Rules by completing and filing a Financial Affidavit and/or Child Support Worksheets. These filings are to be within the times required by Rule 24.2 and are to be amended for accuracy prior to any hearing.
6. **APPLICATION OF THIS ORDER:** This order is effective immediately upon the filing of the original petition and shall remain in full force and effect as a temporary restraining order until the filing of a Temporary Order, the filing of an order extending this Standing Order, or sixty (60) days, whichever first occurs.
7. **EFFECT OF OTHER COURT ORDERS:** If any part of this Order is different from any part of an Ex Parte Order entered in a new action, the Ex Parte Order provisions prevail.
8. **VIOLATIONS:** Violations of this Standing Order may subject a Party to contempt sanctions.

The Clerks of Superior Court for the Southern Judicial Circuit are directed to spread this Order upon the minutes of the Court.

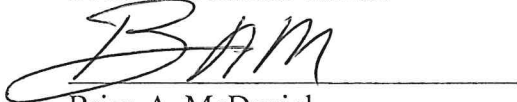
SO ORDERED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2022.



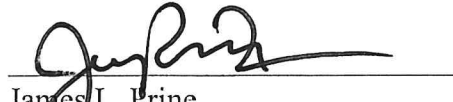
Richard M. Cowart  
Chief Judge, Superior Courts  
Southern Judicial Circuit



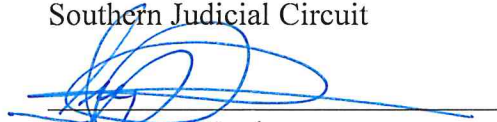
James E. Hardy  
Judge, Superior Courts  
Southern Judicial Circuit



Brian A. McDaniel  
Judge, Superior Courts  
Southern Judicial Circuit



James L. Frine  
Judge, Superior Courts  
Southern Judicial Circuit



Gregory A. Voyles  
Judge, Superior Courts  
Southern Judicial Circuit