



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

FILED
Administrative Minutes
June 18, 2021
Thérèse S. Barnes
Clerk/Court Executive
SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA
Thérèse S. Barnes

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.
The following order was passed:

It is ordered that Uniform Juvenile Court Rule 12.2 (a) (Video Conferencing) be amended, and that new Uniform Juvenile Court Rule 21 (relating to Electronic Submission of Objection to Change of Placement) and new Rule 22 (Collection of Data in Foster Care Cases Involving Delinquency or CHINS Cases) be approved, effective June 18, 2021, as follows:

RULE 12. TELEPHONE AND VIDEO CONFERENCING

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Rule 12.2 Video Conferencing

(a) At the discretion of the court, any juvenile court matter may be conducted by video conference, provided that the consent of all parties to having the matter heard by video conference is required for:

1. Formal adjudicatory hearings on petitions alleging the delinquency of a child or that a child is in need of services; and
2. Hearings alleging the violation of a juvenile court protective order that may result in the loss of liberty of the person alleging to have violated the protective order.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this rule, a judge may order a party's personal appearance in court for any hearing. Furthermore, in civil matters transferred from the superior court to the juvenile court, the court may require compliance with Superior Court Rule 9.2.

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RULE 21. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF OBJECTION TO CHANGE OF PLACEMENT

Rule 21.1 Rule-Making Authority

O.C.G.A. § 15-11-215 (d) provides that the Council of Juvenile Court Judges shall by rule provide for methods by which persons entitled to notice, including those not represented by counsel, may electronically file an objection to the placement change. Such rule shall provide for the use of a standard form that the objector may file electronically with the clerk of court and which upon filing shall be distributed electronically to all parties and others entitled to notice.

Rule 21.2 Email Address for Objections

Each juvenile court shall establish and maintain an email address by which persons entitled to notice, including those not represented by counsel, may electronically file an objection to a placement change.

Rule 21.3 Standard Form for Objections

The following standard form may be used by any person objecting to a placement change:

<p><u>Objection to Placement Change Filed Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 15-11-215</u></p> <p>Name of child or children:</p> <p>Name of person filing objection:</p> <p>Brief summary of reason for objection:</p>
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Rule 21.4 Use of Email in Lieu of Standard Form

In lieu of using the standard form, any person objecting to a placement change may send an email to the clerk of court stating (i) the name of the child or children subject to the placement change; (ii) the

name of the person filing the objection; and (iii) a brief summary of the reason for the objection.

Rule 21.5 Distribution of Objection

The clerk shall ensure that an objection to a placement change received pursuant to this rule is distributed immediately to all parties and others entitled to notice.

RULE 22. COLLECTION OF DATA IN FOSTER CARE CASES INVOLVING DELINQUENCY OR CHINS CASES

Rule 22.1 Rule-Making Authority

O.C.G.A. § 15-11-64 (d) provides that each clerk of the juvenile court shall collect data on all cases in which a child alleged or adjudicated to be a child in need of services or a delinquent child is placed in foster care and has also been alleged or adjudicated to be a dependent child and shall transmit such data as required by such rules. Such data shall include, at a minimum, the adherence on each case by the court to the time frames contained in O.C.G.A. § 15-11-102.

Rule 22.2 Duty of Clerk Upon Child's Placement in Foster Care

Within 72 hours of any child's placement in foster care, the clerk shall search the court's records to determine whether such child is the subject of a pending delinquency or CHINS case.

Rule 22.3 Duty of Clerk Upon Filing of Petition Alleging Delinquency or CHINS

When a delinquency or CHINS petition is filed with the court, the clerk shall search the court's records to determine whether the child is in foster care.

Rule 22.4 Collection of Data

Once a child in foster care is identified as the subject of a pending delinquency or CHINS case, the clerk shall collect data regarding compliance with the time frames contained in O.C.G.A. § 15-11-102.

Rule 22.5 Quarterly Review of Data

The clerk shall review the files of children identified in Rule 22.2 or Rule 22.3 at least quarterly to update data regarding compliance with the time frames contained in O.C.G.A. § 15-11-102.

Rule 22.6 Suggested Form for Collection of Data Required by Rule 22.4

Child's Name: _____ DOB: _____
Date Child entered foster care: _____

Hearing/Filing	Date Due	Date Held/Filed	Compliant? Y/N
Preliminary Protective Hearing (PPH)	Within 72 hours of child's placement in foster care		
Dependency Petition Filed	Within 5 days of PPH		
Service of Summons	At least 72 hours before Adjudication Hearing		
Adjudication Hearing	No later than 10 days after filing of petition		
Disposition Hearing	Within 30 days of conclusion of Adjudication Hearing		
Initial Review Hearing	Within 75 days of child's removal from home		

Additional Review Hearing	Within 4 months of Initial Review Hearing		
1st Permanency Plan Hearing (child under 7 years)	Within 9 months of child's placement in foster care		
First Permanency Plan Hearing (child 7 years or above)	Within 12 months of child's placement in foster care		
Subsequent Permanency Plan Hearing	Within 6 months of previous Permanency Plan Hearing		
DFCS Report	Within 30 days of child's removal from home and at each subsequent review		
Nonreunification Hearing	Within 30 days of DFCS report not containing plan for reunification		
Supplemental Order Following Finding of Nonreunification	Within 30 days of court's determination that reunification efforts need not be made		

Rule 22.7 Effect of Continuance or Recess

(a) If a hearing is scheduled by the court within time frames, but is then continued by order of the court, it shall be deemed to be in compliance with the time frames. In such case, the “Date Held” shall be the date the hearing is, in fact, held.

(b) If a hearing scheduled by the court within time frames is commenced but then recessed to another date, it shall be deemed to be in

compliance with the time frames. In such case, both the date the hearing began and the date the hearing was completed shall be shown as the “Date Held.”

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA
Clerk’s Office, Atlanta

I certify that the above is a true extract from the minutes of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

Witness my signature and the seal of said court hereto affixed the day and year last above written.

 . Clerk