

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURTS OF THE APPALACHIAN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
IN THE JUVENILE COURTS OF THE APPALACHIAN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
STATE OF GEORGIA  
STANDING ORDER OF THE COURT**

***In Re: Third Amended Method of Case Assignment, Effective April 1, 2022***

Effective April 1, 2022, the Clerk of Court shall assign all pending and future criminal and civil cases to the Judges of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit, as follows:

1. The cases shall be assigned based upon a rotating numbering system with Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver being one, Judge Mary Elizabeth Priest being two, and Judge John E. Worcester being three. In the event the next case in line for Judge Brenda S. Weaver is a case in which one of the parties is represented by George W. Weaver or anyone employed in his office; Wesley Benjamin Weaver or anyone employed in his office; John Luke Weaver or anyone employed in his office; George W. Weaver, Jr., or anyone employed in his office; or Kevin William Roper or anyone employed in his office, then Judge Weaver is recused, and that case shall be assigned to either Judge Mary Elizabeth Priest or Judge John E. Worcester on an alternating basis. The next case in line in which one of the parties is not represented by one of the attorneys above or anyone employed in his office shall then be assigned to Judge Brenda S. Weaver.

In the event the next case in line for Judge John E. Worcester or Judge Mary Elizabeth Priest is a case in which one of the parties is represented by Herman Clark, David Clark, Barry Lee, or anyone employed in the Clark & Clark office, the case shall be assigned to Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver. The next case in line in which one of the parties is not represented by one of the attorneys above or anyone employed in that office shall be assigned to Judge John E. Worcester or Judge Mary Elizabeth Priest.

In the event that one of the parties in a case is represented by R. Scott Kiker or anyone employed in his office, Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver, Judge John E. Worcester, and Judge Mary Elizabeth Priest, are recused from said matter, and the Clerk of the Superior Court shall submit the style of the case and case number to the Ninth Judicial Administrative District for the purpose of appointing a judge outside this circuit.

In the event that one of the parties in a case is represented by Sherri Lynn Dillard-Doss or anyone employed in her office, Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver is recused from said matter, and the Clerk of the Superior Court shall assign the matter to Judge John E. Worcester or Judge Mary Elizabeth Priest on an alternating basis. The next case in line in which one of the parties is not represented by the attorney above or anyone employed in her office shall then be assigned to Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver.

In the event that one of the parties in a case is represented by James T. Johnson or anyone employed in his office, Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver and Judge John E. Worcester are recused from said matter, and the Clerk of the Superior Court shall assign the matter to Judge Mary Elizabeth Priest. The next case in line in which one of the parties is not represented by the attorney above or anyone employed in his office shall then be assigned to Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver or Judge John E. Worcester.

The goal of said case management system is that all Judges are allocated an equal number of cases.

2. All cases filed in Juvenile Court shall be assigned to the Chief Juvenile Judge, unless otherwise ordered.

3. The Clerk of Court shall comply with Uniform Superior Court Rule 3.2, which provides as follows:

### **USCR 3.2 Companion and related actions**

When practical, all actions involving substantially the same parties, or substantially the same subject matter, or substantially the same factual issues, whether pending simultaneously or not, shall be assigned to the same judge. Whenever such action is refiled, or a derivative or companion action is filed or refiled, or a defendant is reindicted on a previous charge, or is indicted on a subsequent charge while still under charges or serving a confinement or probated sentence on a previous action, or co-defendants are indicted separately, such actions shall be assigned to the judge to whom the original action was or is assigned. Generally, such actions will be assigned to the judge to whom the action with the lower action number is assigned.

4. The Superior Court Judges of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit have determined that because Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver and John E. Worcester preside over accountability courts, the case load must be redistributed. Therefore, pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 15-1-9.1(b)(2), Judge Mary Elizabeth Priest will additionally preside over all pending and future matters which are designated on the General Civil Case Filing Information Form (Non-Domestic) as one of the following: Wills/Estate (if real property is at issue); Real Property (all); Equity (if real property is at issue); Civil Appeal (all); Landlord/Tenant (all); Appeals/Reviews (all); and Other General Civil (if real property is at issue). This includes both nonjury and jury cases.

In the event that Judge Priest recuses herself from one of the above actions, the Clerk of the Superior Court will reassign the matter, pursuant to the case assignment system for the circuit, to either Judge Weaver or Judge Worcester on a rotating basis.

5. Judge John E. Worcester will preside over all Child Support Enforcement cases. The cases will be assigned according to Judge 1, Judge 2, or Judge 3, but Judge Worcester will preside over all cases.

6. Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver, Judge Mary Elizabeth Priest, Judge John E. Worcester, Superior Court Judges, Chief Juvenile Judge Keith M. Galligan, Juvenile Judge Patricia A. King,

and Pickens County Chief Probate Judge David W. Lindsey mutually request the judicial assistance of the other, in accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 15-1-9.1(b)(2), until further order of the court, for the following reasons:

The Appalachian Judicial Circuit is a circuit consisting of three Superior Court Judges and two fulltime Juvenile Judges. Pickens County has one fulltime Probate Judge. There will be occasions when these judges, of necessity, will be absent from the office due to mandatory continuing educational seminars, meetings, illnesses, vacation, and for other unforeseen reasons and circumstances. There will also be matters from which the judges will be forced to disqualify themselves which may necessitate immediate action.

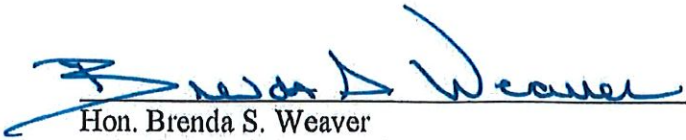
By designation of this order, Judge David W. Lindsey may hear any civil or criminal Superior Court cases he is requested to hear by a Superior Court Judge. When presiding, he shall preside as a Superior Court Judge and said cases shall not be considered as transferred, and no separate official docket need be kept.

Additionally, by designation of this order, pursuant to OCGA Section 15-1-9.1(b)(2), the judges of Appalachian Judicial Circuit's superior and juvenile courts have determined that, in order to promote judicial efficiency, minimize duplication of effort, and reduce trauma to victims, Chief Juvenile Judge Keith M. Galligan and Juvenile Judge Patricia A. King will preside over Petitions for Temporary Protective Orders in Family Violence cases, all family law cases in which both parties are representing themselves, and any other Superior Court case or calendar that he or she may hear at the request of a Superior Court Judge. Said cases shall have no jurisdictional separation from superior court, and no separate official docket need be kept. Juvenile Court Judges responding under this request shall preside as Superior Court Judges, and cases shall not be considered "transferred." Said Juvenile Court Judges shall continue to preside

as Juvenile Court Judges in cases filed in the Juvenile Courts of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit.

The *Second Amended Case Assignment Order* dated January 10, 2017, and the *Addendum to Second Amended Case Assignment Order* dated August 14, 2020, are vacated and replaced by the instant order.

SO ORDERED, 1 day of April, 2022.



Hon. Brenda S. Weaver  
Chief Judge of Superior Courts  
Appalachian Judicial Circuit



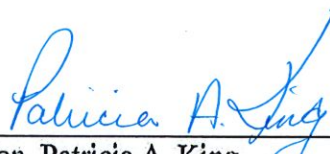
Hon. John E. Worcester  
Judge of Superior Courts  
Appalachian Judicial Circuit



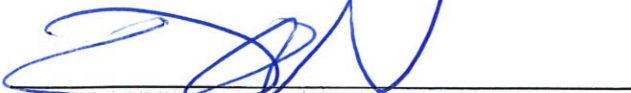
Hon. Mary Elizabeth Priest  
Judge of Superior Courts  
Appalachian Judicial Circuit



Hon. Keith M. Galligan  
Chief Judge of Juvenile Courts  
Appalachian Judicial Circuit



Hon. Patricia A. King  
Judge of Juvenile Courts  
Appalachian Judicial Circuit



Hon. David W. Lindsey  
Chief Judge of Pickens County Probate Court  
Appalachian Judicial Circuit