

IN THE STATE COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

2550-1

FILED  
GA. CARROLL COUNTY  
ERK State COURT  
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JUDGE SUPERIOR COURT  
JULIA M. COLEMAN, CLERK

**IN RE: CASE ASSIGNMENT ORDER FOR ALL STATE COURT CASES**

This order is pursuant to HB 160, which created a second State Court in Carroll County, passed both bodies of the State Legislature and was signed into law by our Honorable Governor. The Clerk of the State Court of Carroll County shall assign cases to the judges of the State Court of Carroll County according to the following parameters, rules and procedures effective July 1, 2025:

**I. CIVIL CASES**

All pending civil cases shall be divided equally so that the Chief Judge shall have 50% of the existing cases and the Associate Judge shall have 50% of the existing cases. This will be accomplished by assigning all pending civil cases ending in an odd number to the Chief Judge, and all pending civil cases ending in an even number to the Associate Judge. Going forward, the Clerk of Court shall utilize this same odd number/even number system when assigning newly filed civil cases.

Pursuant to Uniform State Court Rule 3.2, actions involving substantially the same parties, subject matter, or factual issues shall be assigned to the same judge when practical. If a case is refiled after a dismissal, it will be assigned to the same judge who presided over the dismissed case. If more than one case is pending involving the same parties, subject matter or factual issues, the cases will be assigned to the judge assigned to the case that was filed first.

Upon the filing of a Class Action Civil case, the judges of the State Court shall confer and consider the distribution of Class Action Civil Cases among the judges, the respective pending case loads, and allocation of resources for the handling of such a case. After such conference, the Chief Judge shall assign the case regardless of any prior assignment made by the Clerk of Court.

**II. CRIMINAL AND TRAFFIC CASES**

All pending criminal and Traffic cases shall be divided equally so that the Chief Judge shall have 50% of the existing cases and the Associate Judge shall have 50% of the existing cases. All pending cases that have been appointed to attorneys John Howe and Tracy Reeves shall be assigned to the Chief Judge. All pending cases that have been appointed to attorneys Dane Garland and Justin Flinn shall be assigned to the Associate Judge. The remaining criminal and traffic cases still pending shall be divided so that any Defendant with the last name starting with initials A-K shall be assigned to the Chief Judge and any Defendant with the last name starting with initials L-Z shall be assigned to the Associate Judge.

Going forward, the Clerk of Court shall assign new criminal and traffic cases on a rotating schedule that will alternate every six months. For the period of July 1 – December 31 of each year, all new criminal and traffic cases with an issuance date or arrest date

during that time period originating from the following agencies shall be assigned to the Chief Judge: Carroll County Sheriff's Office, Villa Rica Police Department, Bowdon Police Department, Mt. Zion Police Department, and the Magistrate Court of Carroll County. All new criminal and traffic cases originating from the following agencies shall be assigned to the Associate Judge: Georgia State Patrol, Carrollton Police Department, Temple Police Department, Bremen Police Department, Whitesburg Police Department, and the Superior Court of Carroll County. For the period of January 1 – June 30 of each year, all new criminal and traffic cases with an issuance date or arrest date during that time period originating from the following agencies shall be assigned to the Chief Judge: Georgia State Patrol, Carrollton Police Department, Temple Police Department, Bremen Police Department, Whitesburg Police Department, and the Superior Court of Carroll County. All new criminal and traffic cases originating from the following agencies shall be assigned to the Associate Judge: Carroll County Sheriff's Office, Villa Rica Police Department, Bowdon Police Department, Mt. Zion Police Department, and the Magistrate Court of Carroll County.

In cases involving co-defendants, each co-defendant will be assigned to the same judge, with the Clerk of Court reviewing the pending cases to determine if any of the co-defendants have previously been assigned to a judge. If there has been a previous assignment, the co-defendants' cases shall be assigned to the judge who was most recently assigned to any case involving the co-defendants.

### **III. OTHER**

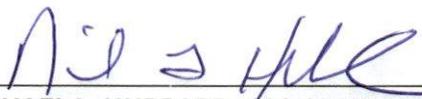
Pursuant to Uniform State Court Rule 3.3 an assigned judge may transfer any case to the other judge, provided that judge consents. When a judge transfers a case, an order shall be filed with the Clerk of State Court notifying the Clerk to reassign the case. If both judges recuse from any case or are otherwise unable to preside over a case, the case shall be presided over by a duly appointed judge under the Uniform Rules of State Court.

Each judge has the authority to preside over the other judge's cases at joint calendar calls such as arraignments or trial calendars without a written order. Each judge may preside over the other judge's cases when requested by the other judge for any reason without the need for entry of an order.

The Clerk of State Court shall run case assignment reports every six months to determine whether the case assignments have fairly distributed the cases in accordance with this case assignment order, and to make recommendations to the judges of the State Court for revising the weighted distribution of cases. Such reports shall be sent to each State Court Judge in the county by January 15<sup>th</sup> and July 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.

This order supersedes all previous orders addressing case assignment, which, upon the effective date of this Order, are rescinded.

**SO ORDERED** this 27th day of May, 2025.

  
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**MICHAEL L. HUBBARD**, Chief Judge  
State Court of Carroll County