

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURTS  
MOUNTAIN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**STANDING ORDER IN DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES**

This order shall apply to all domestic relations actions. The filing party shall attach this Standing Order to the original pleading and service copies. The Clerk of Superior Court shall provide litigants with copies of this Order for this purpose.

When an action for divorce or separate maintenance is pending, neither party shall sell, mortgage, create a lien upon, increase the amount of debt secured by, trade, damage, destroy, contract to sell, or otherwise dispose of or remove from the jurisdiction of this court any property or assets in which either party has an interest. Parties are not prohibited from transactions in the ordinary course of business for fair value (for example, payment of routine household expenses or reasonable attorney's fees). Neither party shall disconnect any utility providing service to the home of the other party. Neither party shall make any change to any insurance presently in effect which protects the parties, or children or property of the parties.

Except in an emergency affecting the health or welfare of the child(ren) neither party shall permit the minor child(ren) of the parties to be removed from this State for more than eight days. Neither party shall remove the child(ren) from the school in which the child(ren) is enrolled at the time of filing. The foregoing shall not apply where an order providing for custody/visitation is in effect prior to the filing of the action.

The Parties are prohibited from doing, or attempting to do, or threatening to do, any act which injures, vilifies, molests, or harasses the adverse party.

Prior to a final hearing or trial, the parties in all contested cases (except for Child Support Enforcement and Contempt) shall participate in mediation or a Judicially Hosted Settlement Conference. Mediation is NOT required in cases in which domestic violence is alleged unless the case is specifically assigned by the court to a qualified mediator.

In all cases involving minor children, all parties shall successfully complete the program entitled "Seminar for Divorcing Parents" prior to the final hearing. A party residing outside the circuit may substitute any seminar approved by the Ninth Judicial Administrative District Office of Dispute Resolution. A certificate of attendance is valid for three years. A schedule of seminar dates and the amount of fees may be obtained from the Ninth Judicial Administrative District's website (9thjudicialdistrict-ga.org). The following types of cases are exempt from the foregoing requirement: domestic violence, U.R.E.S.A., uncontested visitation modifications, uncontested child support modifications.

Pursuant to Pace v. Pace, 287 Ga. 889 (2010), parties are hereby on notice that any evidence presented at an interlocutory or temporary hearing in a domestic relations case may be considered by the court at subsequent hearings in the same case, including at the final hearing.

The Judges of the Mountain Judicial Circuit recommend that all parties seek the advice of a lawyer who is familiar with domestic relations law. All parties shall review and comply with the applicable Uniform Superior Court Rules and the Mountain Judicial Circuit Local Rules.

The Clerk of Court shall spread a copy of this order upon the minutes.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Russell W. Smith, Chief Judge  
Superior Courts  
Mountain Judicial Circuit

\_\_\_\_\_  
B. Chan Caudell, Judge  
Superior Courts  
Mountain Judicial Circuit