

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY
EASTERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

STATE OF GEORGIA

FILED IN OFFICE
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Susan Purse
CLERK, SUPERIOR CT.
CHATHAM COUNTY, GA

IN RE JUDGE ASSIGNMENTS

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STANDING ORDER

The judges of the Superior Court of Chatham County have heretofore approved a system of random assignment of all civil and criminal actions in accordance with Uniform Superior Court Rule [USCR] 3.1. Under USCR 3.1, “[t]he assignment system is designed to prevent any person's choosing the judge to whom an action is to be assigned; all persons are directed to refrain from attempting to affect such assignment in any way.”

The practice known as judge-shopping is expressly prohibited by the Uniform Superior Court Rules, the approved case assignment plan and this Order.

IT IS THEREFORE HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

The judge to whom the case is assigned shall preside over all matters in the case. Requests for assistance by a senior judge or judge pro hac vice shall be made only at the instance of the Court and only when a judge is required to be absent or has a conflict which, in the judge's sole discretion, justifies a request for judicial assistance.

Absent compelling necessity, no lawyer or pro se party shall request reassignment of a case or any portion of a case to a senior judge or judge pro hac vice. Accommodation of a lawyer or party's scheduling interests shall not be considered compelling necessity. Unwarranted requests shall be considered an effort to judge-shop and are prohibited under this Order.

No lawyer or pro se party shall contact a judge about handling a matter assigned to another judge, absent compelling necessity. Such conduct constitutes the forbidden practice of judge-shopping and is a violation of Uniform Superior Court Rule 4.7 which provides that

Attorneys shall not present to any judge any matter or issue in any action which has been assigned to another judge, except under the most compelling circumstances. In that event, any attorney doing so shall first advise the judge to whom the matter is presented that the action is assigned to another judge. Counsel shall also inform the assigned judge as soon as possible that the matter was presented to another judge.

Permission may be sought to present to another judge emergency matters such as ex parte motions, temporary protective orders or release orders in the event of a judge's prolonged absence from chambers. In the event that the judge declines to grant the relief sought, the matter shall not be presented to any other judge.

Violations of this Order shall constitute grounds for a citation for contempt.

SO ORDERED, this 8 day of Aug., 2001.


PERRY BRANNEN, CHIEF JUDGE


MICHAEL KARPf, JUDGE


JOHN MORSE, JUDGE


PENNY FREESEMANN, JUDGE


JAMES BASS, JUDGE


LOUISA ABBOT, JUDGE