## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY FILED IN OFFICE

EASTERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STATE OF GEORGIA

> CLERK, SUPERIOR CT CHATHAM COUNTY, GA

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## STANDING ORDER DESIGNATING MARY'S PLACE AS TPO ADVOCATE

Pursuant to O.C.G.A § 19-13-3 (d), a family violence shelter or social service agency staff member designated by the court may explain to all victims not represented by counsel the procedures for filling out and filing all forms and pleadings necessary for the presentation of their petition to the court for relief from family violence. Further, the clerk of the court may provide forms for petitions and pleadings to any person designated by the superior court as authorized to advise victims on filling out and filing such petitions and pleadings.

This Court finds that Mary's Place Sexual Assault Center of the Coastal Empire ("Mary's Place") is a local social service agency which provides sexual assault support services and advocacy to the Chatham County community. It is this Court's understanding that Mary's Place requires its staff to complete a Legal Advocate Online Designation Training prior to assisting family violence victims on the procedures for filling out forms and pleadings necessary for the presentation of Family Violence Act petitions to the Court.

Therefore, it is hereby **ORDERED** that Mary's Place is designated by this Court to explain to family violence victims (not represented by counsel) the procedures for filling out and filing all forms and pleadings necessary to petition for relief from family violence as provided by O.C.G.A. § 19-13-1 *et seq*. In accordance with O.C.G.A § 19-13-3 (d), any assistance provided by Mary's Place pursuant to this Code section shall be performed without cost to the petitioners. Furthermore, performance of such assistance shall not constitute the practice of law as defined in O.C.G.A § 15-19-51.

SO ORDERED this 25th day of October, 2023.

PENNY HAAS FREESEMANN,

CHIEF JUDGE

TIMOTHY R. WALMSLEY, JUDGE

JOHN E. MORSE, Jr., JUDGE

BENJAMIN W. KARPF, JUDGE

TAMMY STOKES, JUDGE

LISA GOLDWIRE COLBERT I