

JAN 23 2026


CLERK SUPERIOR COURT

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF FORSYTH COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 26 - 2

IN RE: REQUEST AND ORDER FOR JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE

The Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit is a circuit consisting of three Superior Court judges. There will be occasions when these judges, of necessity, are absent from the office due to mandatory continuing judicial education, meetings, illnesses, vacations, and other unforeseen reasons and circumstances. Additionally, judges may be required to disqualify themselves from matters that necessitate immediate judicial action.

Jeffrey S. Bagley, Superior Court Chief Judge, David L. Dickinson, Superior Court Judge, and Philip C. Smith, Superior Court Judge, mutually request the judicial assistance of Chief Magistrate Keisha Martin Chambless, Magistrate Erin Fowler, and all full-time or part-time Magistrates of the Forsyth County Magistrate Court, including Magistrate Samuel Bagwell, Magistrate Phill Bettis, Magistrate James Musgrove, Magistrate Jennifer Patterson, and Magistrate Jennifer Ray of the Forsyth County Magistrate Court, in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 15-1-9.1(b)(2)(D), for the following purposes:

1. General Judicial Assistance: Judicial assistance is requested to provide general support when the Superior Court judges are unavailable due to disqualification, illness, or other unavoidable absences.
2. Petitions for Ex Parte Protective Orders: Assistance is hereby requested for the consideration, adjudication, and issuance of ex parte protective orders in proceedings involving allegations of family violence or stalking, on a regular and ongoing basis, as the interests of justice may require, due to the Magistrate Court's twenty-four-hour availability.
3. Thirty-Day Hearings in Protective Order Proceedings: With respect to proceedings arising from the issuance of ex parte protective orders, assistance is further requested by Judge David L. Dickinson and Judge Philip C. Smith for the above-referenced Magistrates to conduct thirty-day hearings and the issuance of Temporary Protective Orders (i.e., Twelve Month; Three Year or Permanent), as circumstances require.


The foregoing purposes are in addition to any other reasons set forth in O.C.G.A. § 15-1-9.1.

In the event that the assigned Superior Court Judge, Chief Magistrate or any designated Magistrate determines that recusal is required in any matter arising under this Order, the recused judicial officer shall take no further action in the case, and the matter shall be referred to the Ninth Judicial Administrative District for the designation of a Judge to preside over all subsequent proceedings, including the thirty-day hearing.

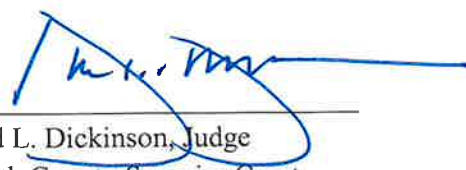
This Order shall be in effect from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, unless modified or terminated by further order of this Court.

Chief Magistrate Keisha Martin Chambless, Magistrate Erin Fowler, Magistrate Samuel Bagwell, Magistrate Phill Bettis, Magistrate James Musgrove, Magistrate Jennifer Patterson, and Magistrate Jennifer Ray of the Forsyth County Magistrate Court have accepted this request for judicial assistance, as indicated by their signatures below.

SO ORDERED this ____ day of January 2026, nunc pro tunc to January 1, 2026.



Jeffrey S. Bagley, Chief Judge
Forsyth County Superior Court
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit



David L. Dickinson, Judge
Forsyth County Superior Court
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit




Philip C. Smith, Judge,
Forsyth County Superior Court
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit


ACCEPTED:



Keisha Martin Chambless, Chief Magistrate
Forsyth County Magistrate Court



Samuel Bagwell
Samuel Bagwell (Jan 22, 2026 14:08:00 EST)
Samuel Bagwell, Magistrate
Forsyth County Magistrate Court



James Musgrove, Magistrate
Forsyth County Magistrate Court



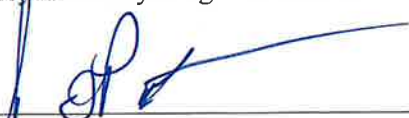
Jennifer S. Ray
Jennifer S. Ray (Jan 22, 2026 15:53:20 EST)
Jennifer Ray, Magistrate
Forsyth County Magistrate Court



Erin Fowler, Magistrate
Forsyth County Magistrate Court



Phill Bettis, Magistrate
Forsyth County Magistrate Court



Jennifer Patterson, Magistrate
Forsyth County Magistrate Court