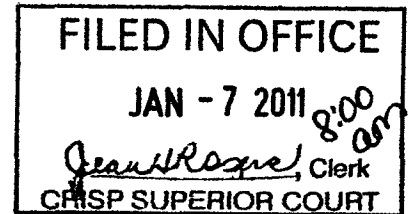


IN THE SUPERIOR COURTS OF THE  
CORDELE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

STATE OF GEORGIA

STANDING ORDER 2011-01



**GUIDELINES FOR EXCUSAL AND DEFERRAL OF JURORS**

The Clerks of Superior Court of the Cordele Judicial Circuit (Ben Hill, Crisp, Dooly and Wilcox Counties) shall continue to have the authority to excuse and defer jurors in compliance with O.C.G.A. §15-12-1.

Effective immediately the following guidelines shall supersede any guidelines previously set forth by Court Order.

**PERMANENT EXCUSALS FROM JURY DUTY:**

1. Upon certification by a physician that the juror is permanently physically or mentally disabled, such juror shall be excused and shall not be rescheduled for service. The Court hereby deems "permanent" physical or mental disability to be one for which there is no medically foreseeable or predictable improvement allowing jury service within the next year.
2. A juror who, prior to being summoned for jury service, has signed an Age Affidavit in the Clerk's Office signifying that he or she is past the age of seventy (70) and does not wish to serve as a juror.
3. Grand Jurors who are elected state or local officials.
4. Grand Jurors who are convicted felons, who have not been pardoned, and who have not had their civil rights restored.
5. Non-residents of said County.

The Clerk of Superior Court shall keep a list entitled "Permanent Excusals From Jury Duty," which list shall be handed to the Jury Commissioners at the time of jury box revision so that the names of those persons permanently excused will not be placed in the jury boxes.

**DEFERRALS FROM JURY SERVICE:**

1. Any person who shows that he or she will be engaged during his/her term of service in work necessary to the public health, safety or good order shall be entitled to **one deferral only**. Examples: Medical professionals, EMT's, and law enforcement officers.
2. Any person who receives his jury summons less than one week before service shall be entitled to **one deferral only**.
3. Any person who is a full-time student (high school, college, technical college) or a part-time student during exams shall be entitled to **be excused or deferred**.
4. Any person who is the primary care giver having active care and custody of a child or children six (6) years or age or younger and who has no reasonably available alternative child care shall be entitled to **be excused or deferred**.
5. Any person who is the primary unpaid caregiver for a person over the age of six with physical or cognitive limitations shall be entitled to **be excused or deferred**.
6. Any person who is a primary teacher in a home study program as defined in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690(c) who, during the period of time the person is teaching has no reasonably available alternative for the child or children in the home study program, shall **be excused or deferred**.
7. Any person who has a contagious or other temporary debilitating illness shall be entitled to **one deferral only**; and, at the discretion of the Clerk, the Clerk may ask for a doctor's excuse.
8. Any person who has a death or acute illness in his immediate family may be entitled to **one deferral only** at the discretion of the Clerk.
9. Any person who has an extreme temporary business hardship, emergency, planned operation, pre-paid vacation, etc., may be entitled to **one deferral only** at the discretion of the Clerk.
10. Any active reservist on military orders shall be excused.
11. Any legislators while the General Assembly is in session shall be excused.
12. The Clerk will not excuse or defer any juror after the term of court begins on Monday of Grand Jury **except by approval of the presiding Judge**.

**DISCRETION:**

The Clerk of Superior Court should exercise discretion reluctantly, considering only the following criteria:

1. Extent of hardship;
2. Number of jurors expected versus number needed; and
3. Promptness of juror's request.

The Clerk of Superior Court shall check with each Superior Court Judge concerning his term of court to determine if extra jurors are needed and shall also confer with each Judge if juror excusals and deferrals are numerous to see if more jurors should be summoned for the term.

One day before jury trials begin, the Clerk of Court shall furnish to the presiding Judge the list of potential jurors.

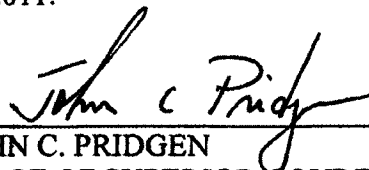
**DEATH PENALTY CASES:**

If a death penalty case is to be tried at a particular term, **only the Superior Court Judge presiding at said trial shall excuse or defer jurors.**



**DOCUMENTATION**

The Clerk of Superior Court shall complete a list of all excusals and deferrals at completion of each session of Court. Such list should include the reason for excusal or deferral. The number of times deferred should be listed for those deferred more than once. Such record shall be submitted to the presiding Judge for approval, and it shall be maintained by the Clerk for three (3) years.

SO ORDERED, this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2011.



JOHN C. PRIDGEN  
JUDGE OF SUPERIOR COURTS  
CORDELE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

  
ROBERT W. CHASTEEN, JR.  
JUDGE OF SUPERIOR COURTS  
CORDELE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
T. CHRISTOPHER HUGHES  
JUDGE OF SUPERIOR COURTS  
CORDELE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT