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FILED IN OFFICE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURTS OF THE
CORDELE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

MAR 07 2013

STATE OF GEORGIA

7th March 13
Betty Lynn Johnson

Betty Lynn Johnson
CLERK, SUPERIOR COURT, BEN HILL CO., GA.

STANDING ORDER 2013-01

COURTROOM ACCESS FOR CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

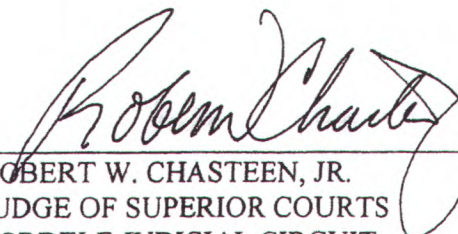
Whereas this Circuit has been and will continue to be dedicated to the Constitutional Rights of the Public to have access to its Courts; and

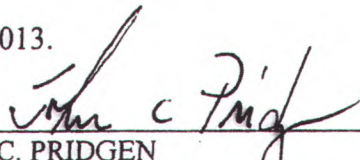
Whereas it is and always has been the policy of the Superior Court Judges of the Cordele Judicial Circuit that all Court proceedings in all courtrooms of the Circuit be open to the general public, except when closure is specifically found by the Court to be necessary in certain specific cases as provided by law;


It is hereby ordered that the bailiffs and/or deputy sheriffs responsible for providing security for said courtrooms shall allow access for persons who wish to observe court proceedings to the extent possible to remain in compliance with occupancy and safety requirements, unless otherwise ordered in specific cases by the Court. It is further ordered that ALL PROCEEDINGS IN CRIMINAL MATTERS in the Superior Courts of Ben Hill and Crisp Counties henceforth will be held only in the courtrooms of the Ben Hill Courthouse and Crisp County Courthouse.

In the event there is a situation involving a particular criminal defendant that poses significant concerns related to health or safety, the Court will make specific findings related to those security or health concerns and if it is determined that those concerns will be remedied by holding the hearing at the Ben Hill or Crisp Law Enforcement Center then the matter may be held at the Center for the purpose supported by the factual findings. If such a hearing is conducted at the Center, it is hereby ordered that the bailiffs and/or deputy sheriffs shall comply with this standing order and ensure access by the public as appropriate.

SO ORDERED, this 6th day of March, 2013.


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


JOHN C. PRIDGEN
JUDGE OF SUPERIOR COURTS
CORDELE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT


T. CHRISTOPHER HUGHES
JUDGE OF SUPERIOR COURTS
CORDELE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT