

**IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF THE TIFTON JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**RE:               STANDING ORDER  
AUTOMATIC DETENTION OVERRIDE FOR CERTAIN JUVENILES CHARGED  
WITH CHILD MOLESTATION**

**ORDER**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Section 2, Rule 2.1, of the Georgia Uniform Court Rules authorizing the appointment of personnel necessary for the execution of the Juvenile Court Code, this court has previously appointed juvenile court intake officers to assist with the intake of juveniles into detention; and,

WHEREAS, said intake officers operate under the guidelines of a Detention Assessment Instrument (DAI) developed by this state; and,

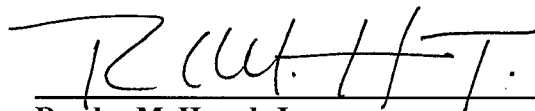
WHEREAS, this court has determined that the current DAI fails in certain circumstances to adequately protect victims of certain delinquent acts perpetrated by juveniles in this State. One such instance is when a certain juveniles are alleged to have committed the offense of child molestation against members of their own household. Under the current DAI, the offense of child molestation results in eight (8) points being added to a child's DAI score. Were a child charged with child molestation to have no other applicable DAI points, the result could be that said child could be returned to the child's home where the alleged victim resides, and such a situation would place a victim at significant risk of future harm; and,

WHEREAS, as a result of the foregoing, this court has concluded that the interests of justice require that this court issue an order effectuating an automatic override of the current automatic DAI assessment in order to protect alleged victims in these circumstances.

AS A RESULT OF THE FOREGOING, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

1. **Unless otherwise ordered by this court,** all juveniles who are charged with child molestation in this circuit and whose alleged victim resides in the home with the alleged perpetrator or to whom the alleged perpetrator has regular contact and/or access shall be automatically detained regardless of their current DAI score.
2. This order shall act to override any existing policies or procedures regarding the assessment of juveniles for detention.
3. All current and future juvenile court intake officer appointments in this circuit shall be subject to the terms of this order, and no juvenile court intake officer acting under the authority of this court shall take any action in derogation of this order.

**SO ORDERED, this 17th day of January, 2020.**



**Render M. Heard, Jr.,  
Juvenile Court Judge of Tifton Judicial Circuit**

Distribution:

Copy to all juvenile court clerks, appointed intake officers, and law enforcement agencies of the Tifton Judicial Circuit.