

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

**RE: STANDING ORDER REGARDING DRESS, ATTIRE, AND CONDUCT WHILE ATTENDING
COURT PROCEEDINGS IN THE JUVENILE COURTS OF THE TIFTON JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
AND GUIDELINES THEREFORE**

ORDER

WHEREAS, the courthouses, courtrooms and grounds of the Juvenile Courts of the Tifton Judicial Circuit exist for the purpose of conducting the judicial business of the public in a dignified, orderly, and professional manner; and

WHEREAS, court facilities provide a locus in which judicial officers, court officers and officials and other participants in the legal process can resolve cases within the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court in an atmosphere of reverence and respect for the rule of the law; and

WHEREAS the policy set forth in this standing order is designed to maintain the dignity of all courthouse facilities and the integrity of the legal proceedings taking place therein. Behavior, conditions, or attire not conducive to the dignified and orderly operation of official court business are hereby prohibited; and

WHEREAS, the public is entitled to access to some, but not all, juvenile court proceedings, as some proceedings involving juveniles are expressly exempted from public access. The Juvenile Courts of the Tifton Judicial Circuit will adhere to both state and federal law when determining whether or not any particular proceeding will be open to the public.

GENERAL ORDER

AS A RESULT OF THE FOREGOING, IT IS THEREFORE HEREBY ORDERED that unless otherwise ordered by the court, all persons entering the Juvenile Court Courtrooms for the Tifton Judicial Circuit shall be dressed and attired as follows:

1. Attorneys at Law, other officers of the court, and employees of the Tifton Judicial Circuit shall be appropriately dressed under the following general guidelines:

All attorneys shall wear professional business attire; i.e., dress pants, coat and tie, dresses, skirts or pantsuits with appropriate tops and footwear. Absent sufficient cause, the wearing of athletic type shoes or shoes without socks is prohibited.

2. Parties, Witnesses, Spectators, Law Enforcement and other persons entering the courtroom of the Juvenile Courts of the Tifton Judicial Circuit (not including persons in custody) shall be appropriately dressed under the following general guidelines:
 - a. Permitted attire shall include trousers, collared shirts, slacks, dresses or skirts no more than two inches above the knee in length, sweaters and jackets. Although wearing jeans and other denim clothing is discouraged, they are permitted attire provided they are not excessively frayed, torn, or dirty. Sweaters, jackets and shirts are permitted provided they have at least quarter-length sleeves and have a business-like appearance. No clothing shall be worn that reveals undergarments or a bare mid-section.
 - b. Prohibited attire shall include T-shirts of any kind, shorts, sleeveless shirts, tank tops, undershirts, or any arrangement of clothing which reveals undergarments or a bare mid-section.
 - c. All clothing, accessories, or tattoos which display writing, script or images of a profane, sexual, blasphemous, offensive, or infamous nature must be concealed.
 - d. All persons shall wear appropriate footwear. Sandals, flip flops, bedroom shoes, or bare feet are not permitted.

- e. Hats, headgear, or sunglasses worn as apparel or accessory shall be removed and shall remain removed while an individual remains in the courthouse.
- f. Any member of the Armed Services of the United States whose presence within any courthouse is necessary or desirable may wear a uniform approved by his/her command and consonant with the needs of service. The same shall apply to law enforcement personnel whose presence is necessary. Sunglasses shall be removed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that unless otherwise ordered by this court, all persons entering the courtroom and/or attending proceedings of the Juvenile Courts of the Tifton Judicial Circuit shall conduct themselves in such a manner so as to maintain the dignity of all courthouse facilities and the integrity of the legal proceedings taking place therein. Behavior or actions not conducive to the dignified and orderly operation of official court business are hereby prohibited and shall be governed by the following general guidelines.

- a. No person(s) shall display pickets, signs, articles of clothing or any other writing which attempts to display any message relating to any pending case or class of cases.
- b. The use of chewing gum, toothpicks, and tobacco products is expressly prohibited inside any courthouse in this circuit.
- c. Packs, bags, boxes, suitcases, or other containers containing clothing, bedding or other such belongings are not permitted; provided, however, that attorneys at law, jurors, witnesses, or others whose presence for court proceedings requires overnight travel may enter such items and after inspection, leave such items in an appropriate place provided by Court Security Officers.
- d. Weapons, cameras, computers, tablets, and communications and/or electronic devices (such as pagers, cellular phones, PDAs, recording devices, and computers) are not permitted without prior court approval.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that persons who are incapable of complying with said foregoing provisions of this order because of religious reasons, indigence or some mental or physical impairment may be granted an exemption to some or all of said provisions provided a satisfactory showing is made to a presiding judicial officer that enforcement of any such provision would operate to unduly deprive any person of any constitutional right without due process of law. Should the Court or its lead Court Security Officer deem it appropriate to relax any standard herein within the confines of areas of his/her control, reasonable accommodations may be made for good cause shown.

FINALLY, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that failure to abide by the provisions of this standing order may result in a person's being excluded from court proceedings and/or being held in contempt of this court and punished by imprisonment for up to twenty (20) days and/or a fine of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00)

This Order shall be filed in the minutes of the Juvenile Court Clerk's Offices for the Tifton Judicial Circuit.

SO ORDERED this _____ day of _____, 2020.

RENDER M. HEARD, JR., JUDGE
Juvenile Courts of the Tifton Judicial Circuit