

Patty Baker, Clerk of Superior Court - Cherokee County, GA

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHEROKEE COUNTY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA

In the matter of
IMPLEMENTING ORDER for
ADDENDUM TO DOMESTIC STANDING ORDER Administration and Procedure
FAMILY LAW WORKSHOP

IMPLEMENTING ORDER

Family law cases make up the large majority of the civil caseload of this Court. Georgia statutes and the Uniform Superior Court Rules require that litigants in family law matters prepare and present numerous documents for the Court's consideration. The accuracy and clarity of these documents are critical to the Court's determination of issues in a contested case. Even if the case is uncontested, the language of pleadings, agreements and orders is of lasting significance to the litigants.

Over one-third of the family law cases filed in this Court have at least one self-represented party, which is more than double the national average.¹ So that these cases can proceed to resolution without undue delay, and to achieve the best outcomes for the parties and the minor children who are involved in these cases, this Court establishes a mandatory Family Law Workshop (hereafter, "the Workshop").

The Court Administrator will be responsible for all facets of the Workshop, with the approval of the Court. The Workshop will be held remotely and presented by volunteer attorneys from the Blue Ridge Bar Association. There is no cost to the participants for the Workshop.

The Court hereby orders that the attached "Addendum to Domestic Standing Order" (hereafter, "Addendum Order") shall apply to all family law actions² filed on or after July 1, 2023. The Addendum Order is incorporated by reference into this Implementing Order, and shall become a separate Order when filed in an individual case and shall constitute notice of this entire Implementing Order.

¹ National Center for State Courts.

² For purposes of this Order, "family law action" is defined as any action for divorce, alimony, equitable division of assets and liabilities, child custody, child support, legitimation, annulment, determination of paternity, any petition in respect to modification of a decree or order, or an action on a foreign judgment based on alimony or child support. It does not include contempt actions, adoptions, or petitions for temporary protective order under O.C.G.A. 19-13-3.

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The Clerk of Court shall cause the Addendum Order to be completed, by inserting the names of the parties and the case number, and filing same with the case. Upon the filing of family law actions requiring service by sheriff or that are to served by publication, the clerk shall attach filed copies of the filed Addendum Order to the original and service copies of the action and provide a copy of the filed Addendum Order to the attorney or party filing the action.

When a family law action is filed with an acknowledgment of service, the clerk will attach a copy of the filed Addendum Order to the original complaint and transmit two copies of the filed Addendum Order to the attorney or party filing the action, with instructions that he or she is responsible for serving the defendant with a copy of the Addendum Order.

The Addendum Order shall be filed in each family law action **IN ADDITION** to the Domestic Standing Orders implemented by Order of this Court filed in Superior Court Minute Book 198, Page 133, on June 13, 2014. Said Order remains in full force and effect.

Nothing herein will prohibit any judge from requiring a self-represented litigant to attend the Workshop in a case filed prior to July 1, 2023.

SO ORDERED, THIS 29th day of June, 2023.



Chief Judge Ellen McElyea
Superior Court of Cherokee County
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit

IMPLEMENTING ORDER for
ADDENDUM TO DOMESTIC STANDING ORDER
FAMILY LAW WORKSHOP

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHEROKEE COUNTY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA

Plaintiff

v.

Civil Action File No.

____-CVE-_____

Defendant.


ADDENDUM TO DOMESTIC STANDING ORDER

Pursuant to the implementing order of this court filed on June 29, 2023, the parties in the above case are subject to the terms and conditions of this Addendum to Domestic Standing Order.

If you are a self-represented litigant (that is, a plaintiff or defendant who does not have a lawyer), you must attend the Family Law Workshop ("the Workshop") within forty-five (45) days of service on the Defendant. If you become self-represented during a case, you must attend the Workshop within forty-five (45) days of the order allowing your lawyer to withdraw.

There is no cost to the Workshop, but you must sign up to attend through the Office of the Court Administration at courtadmin@brjc.net. You may visit the office's website at <https://www.cherokeega.com/Court-Administrators-Office/> for more information.

If you submit form documents ("check the box" or "fill in the blank") you obtained somewhere other than the Workshop, you will still be required to attend the Workshop and your original filings may not be approved by the judge assigned to your case.

SO ORDERED, this 29th day of June, 2023.


Chief Judge Ellen McElyea
Superior Court of Cherokee County
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit