

Juvenile Court 2026 Business Plan Presentation

Judge Nhan-Ai Du, Presiding
Judge Rodney Harris
Judge Wesley Person
Associate Judge Christina Bridger
Associate Judge Donald Lee



**Gwinnett
Judicial Circuit**
Juvenile Court

Service Delivery Mission



- Juvenile Court exercises jurisdiction in cases involving:
 - ✓ **DELINQUENT** and **TRAFFIC** under the age of 17.
 - ✓ **DEPENDENT** and **CHINS** offenses under the age of 18.
- Juvenile Court has concurrent jurisdiction with Superior Court involving capital offenses, custody/child support cases, and termination of parental rights.



Approved 2025 Operational Request Updates

- Additional staff approved and implemented:
 - Accountability Court Program Coordinator
 - Two Court Reporters
- With the addition of these positions, the Juvenile Court has increased productivity, improved administrative support, and strengthened the accountability court programs.
- By establishing the positions, the court was able to secure dedicated court reporters, ensuring consistent coverage of two Juvenile Court divisions amid a statewide shortage.



2025 Efficiencies and Improvements



- The Family Treatment Court achieved certification through the Council of Accountability Court Judges, recognizing its commitment to best practices, program integrity, and effective support for families on the path to recovery and reunification.
- Enhanced home study procedures by implementing video conferencing to reduce staff risk, conducting thorough preliminary investigations, coordinating with GCPD/911 and requiring background checks for all residents in the home, improving safety and efficiency.
- Discontinued Summons Service by Intake Officers to prioritize staff safety and achieve cost savings, improving overall efficiency while maintaining effective case management.



Emerging Developments and Our Path Forward

Staffing Shortages and Recruitment Challenges

- Enhanced recruitment efforts to attract and retain qualified candidates for critical positions, such as Court Reporters and Interpreters, to ensure we meet the growing demands of our circuit.

New Laws and Regulations

- Prepare to adapt and strategically realign Court programs to address evolving funding needs and priorities effectively.

Artificial Intelligence

- Cultivate a thorough understanding and implement effective oversight of Artificial Intelligence in court operations, thoughtfully harnessing its potential to enhance efficiency while safeguarding the integrity of the justice system.

Limited Resources and Services

- Continue ongoing search for additional psychological evaluation and counseling services.



Strategic Goals and Efficiencies

- Establishing a Handgun Intervention Program (HIP) to provide targeted education and intervention to reduce recidivism and streamline case resolution for handgun related offenses.
- Collaborating with Gwinnett County Police Department's Special Victims Unit to identify unreported runaways and connect them to appropriate resources, while screening for indicators of human trafficking, gang involvement, and substance abuse.
- Expanding prevention efforts by offering additional classes, such as healthy relationships for youth and families, in coordination with the Partnership Against Domestic Violence.



People Strategies



- Provide ongoing training and professional development opportunities for judges and court personnel.
- Focus on employee engagement and initiatives that improve workplace morale and create a positive work environment.
- Promote collaboration, respect, and open communication to boost employee satisfaction and retention, enhancing service delivery.

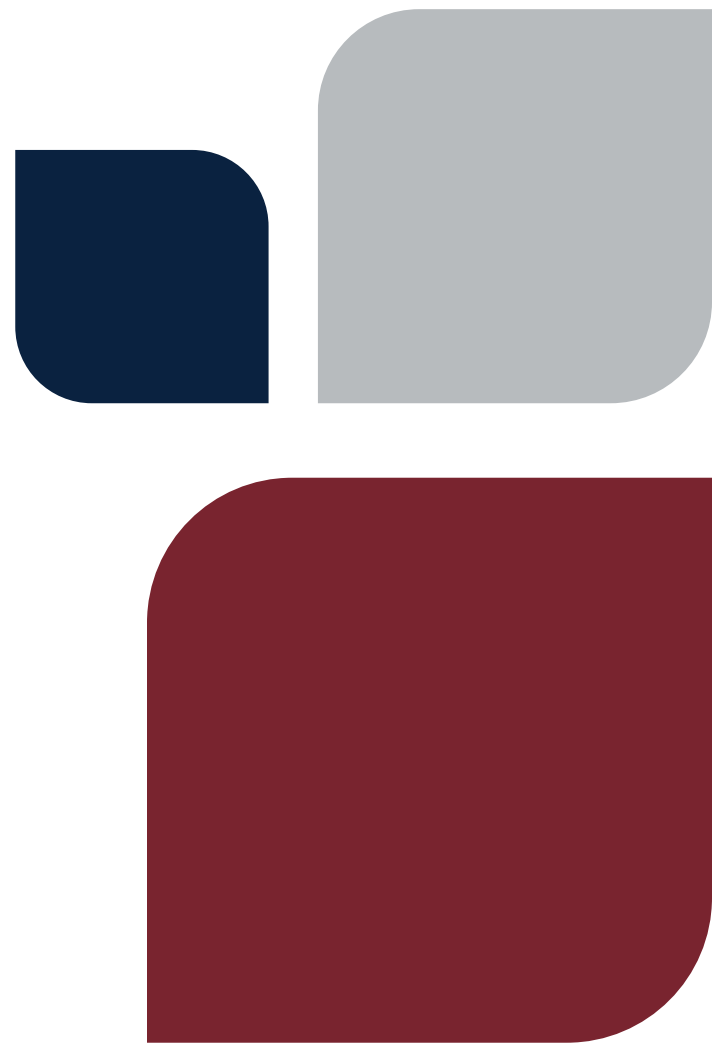


New Operational Request

Two full time Court Reporter positions

- Court Reporter positions for two judicial divisions

Personal Services	General Operating	Total
\$218,175	\$14,788	\$232,963





New Operational Request Support

- The court currently depends heavily on contract court reporters, leading to scheduling conflicts and inconsistent availability due to a statewide shortage of certified court reporters.
- Adding two full-time court reporter positions will allow each division in Juvenile Court to have an assigned court reporter providing consistent, dedicated coverage, improving scheduling reliability and the quality of the court record.
- The positions will enhance operational efficiency, reduce delays, and support the timely resolution of cases.



New Operational Request

Judicial Assistant position

- Addition of a Judicial Assistant position for the Associate Judges' division

Personal Services	General Operating	Total
\$102,018	\$0	\$102,018





New Operational Request Support

- Within the Associate Judge Division there is one Calendar Coordinator providing administrative support and scheduling assistance to the two Associate Judges.
- Adding the Judicial Assistant position will provide additional dedicated administrative support, improve docket management, reduce delays and allow the Calendar Coordinator to focus solely on scheduling leading to increased efficiency in the court.



Thank you



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