

FILED IN OFFICE
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CONNIE TAYLOR
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT
COBB COUNTY

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF COBB COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE; FILING INTO RESTRICTED &
SEALED CASES**

CAFN.: Z5MT00012

**ORDER AUTHORIZING COURT REPORTER TO FILE TRANSCRIPT
INTO FIRST OFFENDER AND CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE
RESTRICTED OR "SEALED" CASES**

Official court reporters routinely experience difficulties filing transcripts into cases resolved under the First Offender Act or the Conditional Discharge statute. Once these cases have been restricted or sealed, court reporters have been unable to e-file because they cannot view the case in PeachCourt; nor have they been permitted to directly file at the Clerk's front counter, absent a court order to unseal the file.

To the extent the Court orders such cases "sealed" pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 42-8-62.1(b)(1)(B) (for First Offenders) or O.C.G.A. § 16-13-2(d)(1)(2)(A)(ii) (for Conditional Discharges), it is to comply with the statutory requirement to preclude public access to documents in the custody of the Clerk of Superior Court, absent permission from the Court. "Sealing" orders do not prohibit filing documents or records in these cases in the future; nor do they require court authorization to do so.

The Clerk's requirement that the Court issue two orders in every First Offender or Conditional Discharge case which has been restricted or sealed – one order to unseal and permit filing, and a second order to reseat – creates an unnecessary and undue burden on the court reporter and the Court, and it impedes the orderly, timely administration of justice.

Therefore, the Clerk of Superior Court is **HEREBY ORDERED** to electronically accept and file documents, including transcripts from an official court reporter, in any case which has been restricted or sealed pursuant to the First Offender Act or Conditional Discharge statute. It is **FURTHER ORDERED** that no additional court order shall be required to e-file or directly file documents, including transcripts from an official court reporter, in any such case.

This Order shall not relieve the Clerk of Superior Court from its obligation to preclude public access to any such restricted or sealed case.

SO ORDERD this 10th day of July, 2025.



Ann B. Harris
Chief Judge, Superior Court of Cobb County