



**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER
Ogeechee Judicial Circuit**

Serving Bulloch, Effingham, Jenkins and Screven Counties
30 North Main Street • Post Office Box 86
Statesboro, Georgia 30459
Telephone 912-764-6292 • Facsimile 912-489-3223

Chief Public Defender

Renata M. Newbill-Jallow

Assistant Public Defenders

Donna Carnley Black, Chief Assistant
Kelley Kidd
Stuart H. Patray
Jeana D. Johnson
Trishna Mikell
Elise Miller
Que'Andra Campbell

Administrative Assistants

Joette Massey, Office Manager
Shannon Soles
Vicky Straley

Investigators

Elizabeth Holbrook, Chief Investigator
Casey L. Ware

August 21, 2025

Mr. Tim Callanan, County Manager
Effingham County Board of Commissioners
804 S. Laurel St.
Springfield, GA 31329

Re: FY 2026 Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement
Effingham County
Ogeechee Judicial Circuit

Dear Mr. Callanan:

Enclosed please find the original Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement for your approval and signature. Please sign on page 8, have a witness sign and return contract in the enclosed envelope. I will forward a copy of the agreement to you after all parties have signed.

Thank you for your continued support and if you have any questions, please contact this office.

Sincerely,


Joette Massey
Office Manager

Enclosure



GEORGIA INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into the 15th day of July, 2025, between the Circuit Public Defender Office of the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit (herein referred to as “**the Public Defender Office**”), and the governing authority of **Effingham County**, a body politic and a subdivision of the State of Georgia (herein referred to as “**the County**”) and is effective July 1, 2025.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Public Defender Office, and the County enter into this agreement to implement the provisions of the Georgia Indigent Defense Act of 2003, as amended;

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. § 17-12-23 (d) provides as follows:

A city or county may contract with the circuit public defender office for the provision of criminal defense for indigent persons accused of violating city or county ordinances or state laws. If a city or county does not contract with the circuit public defender office, the city or county shall be subject to all applicable standards adopted by the council for representation of indigent persons in this state; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. § 17-12-24 provides as follows:

The governing authority of the county shall provide, in conjunction and cooperation with the other counties in the judicial circuit and in a pro rata share according to the population of each county, appropriate offices, utilities, telephone expenses, materials, and supplies as may be necessary to equip, maintain and furnish the office or offices of the circuit public defender in an orderly and efficient manner. The provisions of an office, utilities, telephone expenses, materials, and supplies shall be subject to the budget procedures required by Article 1 of Chapter 81 of Title 36; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. § 17-12-35 provides as follows:

A circuit public defender office may contract with and may accept funds and grants from any public or private source; and

WHEREAS, the County is a body politic, existing and operating under the laws and Constitution of the State of Georgia with full power to enter into contracts and agreements with other political entities; and

WHEREAS, the Public Defender Office is existing under the laws of the State of Georgia and operating under the laws and Constitution of the State of Georgia with full power to enter into contracts and agreements with other entities; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the parties to this agreement to provide for the operation of an indigent defense system to assure adequate and effective legal representation is provided, independent of political considerations or private interests, to indigent defendants in criminal cases consistent with the standards adopted by Georgia Public Defender Council. This system and this agreement include the following:

- 1) The provision by the Public Defender Office of the statutorily required services to the County;
- 2) The payment for additional personnel and services by the County;
- 3) The provision by the County of its pro rata share of the costs of appropriate offices, utilities, telephone expenses, materials, and supplies as may be necessary to equip, maintain, and furnish the office or offices of the circuit public defender in an orderly and efficient manner;
- 4) Travel advances and reimbursement of expenses; and
- 5) The provision for other matters necessary to carry out this agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises contained in the agreement and other good and valuable consideration, **IT IS AGREED AS FOLLOWS:**

ARTICLE 1

STATUTORY PERSONNEL

Section 1.01 Statutory Staffing. The Public Defender Office agrees to provide for the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit full-time staff for a circuit public defender office or offices consisting of a circuit public defender; an assistant public defender for each superior court judge authorized for the circuit, excluding the chief judge and senior judges; an investigator; and 2 additional persons to perform administrative, clerical or paraprofessional services.

Section 1.02 Statutory Services. The Public Defender Office agrees to provide representation to indigent defendants in the following cases:

- 1) Cases prosecuted in the Superior Court of Effingham County under the laws of the State of Georgia in which there is a possibility that a sentence of imprisonment or probation or suspension of sentence of imprisonment may be adjudged;
- 2) Hearings in the Superior Court of Effingham County on a revocation of probation;
- 3) Cases prosecuted in the Juvenile Court of Effingham County in which a child may face a disposition in a delinquency case of confinement, commitment or probation; and
- 4) Direct appeals from a decision in cases described in (1), (2), and (3) above.

Section 1.03 Conflicts. The Public Defender Office agrees to provide for legal representation by an attorney who is not an employee of the Public Defender Office in cases described in Section 1.02 in which the Public Defender Office has a conflict of interest.

ARTICLE 2

ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL AND SERVICES

Section 2.01 Additional personnel and services. The Public Defender Office agrees to provide and the County agrees to pay for the services and personnel described in Attachment A. The parties agree to the terms in Attachment A. Attachment A is incorporated into this agreement by reference. The amount to be paid includes a 7% administrative services fee. This fee is determined by the total amount for all of the budgeted positions. Upon expiration or termination of the agreement, any unused portion of the administrative services fee may be refunded to the County in the discretion of the Georgia Public Defender Council. Any changes to Attachment A shall be made in accordance with Section 5.06 of this agreement. Any additional personnel employed by the Public Defender Office pursuant to this section are full-time state paid employees of the Public Defender Office in the unclassified service of the State Merit System of Personnel Administration with all the benefits provided by law to employees in the unclassified service. The additional personnel shall serve at the pleasure of the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit Public Defender. The parties agree that the employment of additional personnel employed by the Public Defender Office pursuant to this section may be terminated by the Public Defender

Office in the County does not pay for the cost of these personnel in advance in accordance with this agreement.

ARTICLE 3

PROVISION BY THE COUNTY OF ITS PRO RATA SHRE OF THE COSTS OF APPROPRIATE OFFICES, UTILITIES, TELEPHONE EXPENSES, MATERIALS, AND SUPPLIES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO EQUIP, MAINTAIN, AND FURNISH THE OFFICE OR OFFICES OF THE CIRCUIT PUBLIC DEFENDER.

Section 3.01 Office Expenses. The County agrees to pay its pro rata share of the budget provided in Attachment B, which is the budget for appropriate offices, utilities, telephone expenses, materials, and supplies to equip, maintain, and furnish the office or offices of the Public Defender Office. The amount of the County's pro rata share based on population is stated in Attachment B. The County agrees to the payment terms. Attachment B is incorporated into this agreement by reference.

ARTICLE 4

TRAVEL AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES

Section 4.01 Travel and expense reimbursement. The County agrees to provide travel advances and to reimburse expenses which may be incurred in the performance of the employee's official duties under this agreement by an employee of the Public Defender Office to the extent the expenses are not reimbursed by the state and to the extent the expenses are authorized by the circuit public defender and the County. The County shall provide the Public Defender Office with the information concerning the travel advances and expense reimbursements required by the State Auditor.

ARTICLE 5

MISCELLANEOUS

Section 5.01 Term. The term of this agreement is 12 months beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

Section 5.02 Maintenance of effort. The County agrees that it will continue to fund indigent defense for the term of this agreement, at a minimum, at the level of its most recent budgeted level of funding (fiscal year 2025 or fiscal year 2026 planned budget if that budget has already been developed) for indigent defense as part of this support each county agrees to provide space, equipment and operating expenses necessary to effectively operate the circuit public defender office.

Section 5.03 Severability. Any section, subsection, paragraph, term, condition, provision or other part (herein after collectively referred to as "part") of this agreement that is judged, held,

found, or declared to voidable, void, invalid, illegal, or otherwise not fully enforceable shall not affect any other part of this agreement, and the remainder of this agreement shall continue to be of full force and effect. Any agreement of the parties to amend, modify, eliminate, or otherwise change any part of this agreement shall not affect any other part of this agreement, and the remainder of this agreement shall continue to be of full force and effect.

Section 5.04 Cooperation, dispute resolution and jurisdiction.

- (a) The Public Defender Office and the County acknowledge that this agreement may need to be revised periodically to address new or unforeseen matters.
- (b) Each party to this agreement agrees to cooperate with the other party to effectuate and carry out the intent of this agreement.
- (c) This agreement, and the rights and obligations of the parties, are governed by, and subject to and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia. The parties acknowledge and agree that by law, the exclusive jurisdiction for contract actions against the state, departments and agencies of the state, and state authorities is the Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia. The Parties further acknowledge that the Fulton Superior Court has a court sponsored Arbitration and Mediation Program in which the Parties agree to fully participate.

Section 5.05 Notice. A notice to a party to this agreement shall be made in writing and shall be delivered by first class mail or personally to the person and at the address indicated below:

Circuit Public Defender Office of the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit:

Renata Newbill-Jallow
Circuit Public Defender
Post Office Box 86
Statesboro, GA 30459

Governing Authority of Effingham County:

Tim Callanan, County Manager
Effingham County Board of Commissioners
804 South Laurel Street
Springfield, GA 31329

Georgia Public Defender Council

Omotayo Alli, Executive Director
104 Marietta Street, Suite 400
Atlanta, GA 30303

Section 5.06 Agreement modification. This agreement, including all attachments hereto, constitutes the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter of this agreement and may be altered or amended only by a subsequent written agreement of equal dignity; provided, however, that the parties' representatives identified in Section 5.05 may agree in writing by an exchange of letter or emails prior to the budget revision becoming effective to budget revisions which do not increase or decrease the total dollar value of the agreement. This agreement supersedes all prior agreements, negotiations and communications of whatever type, whether written or oral, between the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter of this agreement. After the agreement has been approved by the Director of the Georgia Public Defender Council, no modifications may be made without prior notice to the Director of the council.

Section 5.07 Termination.

(a) Due to non-availability of funds. In the event that either the sources of reimbursement for services under this agreement (appropriations from the General Assembly of the State of Georgia, or appropriations from a county governing authority of the County) is reduced during the term of this agreement, the Public Defender Office may make financial and other adjustments to this agreement and notify the County accordingly. An adjustment may be an agreement amendment or may be the termination of the agreement. The certification by the director of the Georgia Public Defender Council of the occurrence of reduction in State funds is conclusive. The certification of the occurrence of the occurrence of the reduction in county funds by the person named in Section 5.05 by the County to receive notices is conclusive. The County shall promptly notify the Public Defender Office in writing on the non-existence or insufficiency of funds and the date of termination. The Public Defender Office shall then immediately cease providing the services required hereunder except for any necessary winding down and transition services required under Section 5.08. In lieu of terminating this agreement, the County and the Public Defender Office may make financial and other adjustments to this agreement by amending it pursuant to Section 5.06.

(b) For cause. This agreement may be terminated for cause, in whole or in part, at any time by either party for failure by the other party to substantially perform any of its duties under this agreement, "Cause" means a breach or default of any material obligation hereunder which default is incapable of cure, or which, being capable of cure, has not been cured within 30 days after receipt of notice of such default (or such additional cure period as the non-defaulting party may authorize). Should a party exercise its right to terminate this agreement under this subsection, the termination shall be accomplished in writing and specify the reason and the termination date. In the event of termination under this subsection of the Public Defender Office shall submit a final agreement expenditure report containing all charges incurred through and including the termination date to the County no later than 30 days after the effective date of written notice of termination and the County shall pay the amount within 15 days of the receipt of the final agreement expenditure report. Upon termination of this agreement, the Public Defender Office shall not incur any new obligations after the effective date of termination, except as required under Section 5.08. The above remedies contained in this subsection are in addition to any other remedies provided by law or the terms of this agreement.

(c) **For convenience.** This agreement may be cancelled or terminated by either of the parties without cause; however, the party seeking to terminate or cancel this agreement shall give written notice of its intention to do so to the other party at least 60 days prior to the effective date of cancellation or termination.

(d) **Post-termination obligations.** After termination of this agreement pursuant to this Section, the Public Defender Office and the County agree to comply with the provisions of Section 5.08 (a).

Section 5.08 Cooperation in transition of services.

(a) **During or at the end of the agreement.** The Public Defender Office agrees upon suspension, termination or expiration of this agreement, in whole or in part, for any reason to cooperate as requested by the County to effectuate the smooth and reasonable transition of services for existing clients. This includes but is not limited to the continuation of representation by Public Defender Office where appropriate or required by law, court rule or the State Bar of Georgia ethical standards or the facilitation of the timely transfer to the County of the client records. The County shall compensate the Public Defender for all post-suspension, post-termination or post-expiration services under this subsection. The Public Defender Office shall submit a monthly expenditure report containing all charges incurred during the preceding month on or before the 5th day of each month. The County shall pay the amount due within 15 days of the receipt of the monthly expenditure report. This subsection survives the suspension, termination or expiration of this agreement.

(c) **Statutory responsibility continuation.** The Public Defender Office and the county acknowledge that both have responsibilities for indigent defense costs under the Georgia Indigent Defense Act of 2003, as amended and that the suspension, termination or expiration of this agreement does not relieve either party of their responsibility under the law.

Section 5.09 Advance of Funds. The parties agree that advances of funds cannot remain outstanding following agreement suspension, termination or expiration and will be reclaimed. The parties agree that upon termination of this agreement, for any reason, all unexpended and unobligated funds held by the parties revert to the party entitled to the funds. The parties agree to reconcile expenditures against advances of funds within 30 days of termination of this agreement,

Section 5.10 Time. Time is of the essence.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have each here unto affixed their signatures the day and year first written above.

**CIRCUIT PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE
OGEECHEE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

EFFINGHAM COUNTY

By: *Renata M. Newbitt-Jallow* (SEAL)
Signature

Renata M. Newbitt-Jallow
Name

Circuit Public Defender

By: _____ (SEAL)
Signature

Name

Title

ATTEST:

Tkeyah Barlow (SEAL)



ATTEST:

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

(SEAL)

APPROVED AND CONSENTED TO:

**GEORGIA PUBLIC DEFENDER
COUNCIL**

BY: _____ (SEAL)
Signature
Director

Ogeechee Judicial Circuit
ATTACHMENT A – Personnel & Operating Expenditures
Effingham County
July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

The County agrees to pay the Public Defender Office \$401,404.28 in 12 monthly installments of \$33,450.36. Installments are due to the Georgia Public Defender Council (GPDC) on the 15th of the preceding month beginning on June 15, 2025. Invoices will be sent to the following address:

Effingham County Board of Commissioners
804 South Laurel Street
Springfield, Georgia 31329

Installments will be paid directly to GPDC at the following address:

GPDC
Attn: Jason Ring
104 Marietta Street
Suite 400
Atlanta, GA 30303

Office Maintenance installments, in the amount of \$4,867.85 per month, will continue to be mailed to Ogeechee Public Defender's Office, Post Office Box 86, Statesboro, Georgia 30459.

The Public Defender Office agrees to use these funds for the purpose of paying the salary and benefits for county funded public defenders and assistants in addition to the expenditures necessary to equip, maintain, and furnish the Public Defender Office.

These employees provide representation to indigent defendants in Superior Courts and Juvenile delinquency proceedings.