

24-11

DEC 19 2024

JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE FORSYTH COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT AND THE FORSYTH COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CERTIFYING FORSYTH COUNTY FUNDING FOR COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES OF FORSYTH COUNTY, INC.

WHEREAS: The Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit, by and through its Chief Judge, as well as the Forsyth County Juvenile Court, find that the Court Appointed Special Advocates of Forsyth County, Inc., (hereinafter CASA) provide a service that is critical to the functioning of the Forsyth County Juvenile Court. CASA's role of providing advocates on behalf of children under the jurisdictional purview of the Forsyth County juvenile Court ensures that the dispensation of justice for and on behalf of children is greatly enhanced.

WHEREAS: The Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit, by and through its Chief Judge, as well as the Forsyth County Juvenile Court, further find that the provision of physical space to CASA, to include space for administrative services and training, is linked to the ability of CASA to fulfill its critical mission of servicing children within the jurisdictional purview of the Juvenile Court.

WHEREAS: The Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit, by and through its Chief Judge, as well as the Forsyth County Juvenile Court, further finds that attendant overhead costs related to the provision of leased physical space for CASA (i.e., rental costs, utilities, maintenance expenses, etc.) is a need that may properly be taxed upon the County treasury upon proper certification.

WHEREAS: O.C.G.A. § 15-11-36 provides that "[t]he following charges, expenses, and costs are deemed to be charged upon the funds of the county upon certification of its juvenile court: (1) The cost of medical and other examinations and treatment of a child ordered by the court; (2) The cost of care and support of a child committed by the court to the legal custody of an individual or a public or private agency other than the Department of Juvenile Justice, but the court may order supplemental payments, if such are necessary or desirable for services; (3) Reasonable compensation for services and related expenses of any attorney appointed by the court, when appointed by the court to represent a child and when appointed by the court to conduct the proceedings; (4) Reasonable compensation for a guardian ad litem; (5) The expenses of service of summons, notices, and subpoenas; travel expenses of witnesses; transportation, subsistence, and detention of a child for juvenile court proceedings or superior court proceedings while a child is prosecuted in superior court pursuant to Code Section 15-11-560; and other like expenses incurred in the proceedings under this chapter; and (6) The cost of counseling and counsel and advice required or provided

SCANNED

under the provisions of Code Section 15-11-212 or 15- 11-610."

WHEREAS: In addition, O.C.G.A. § 15-11-54 provides in relevant part that "[e]ach juvenile court shall be assigned and attached to the superior court of the county for administrative purposes" and that "[e]xcept for state grants provided by Code Section 15-11-52, all expenditures of the court are declared to be an expense of the court and payable out of the county treasury with the approval of the governing authority or governing authorities of the county or counties for which the juvenile court judge is appointed." Further, O.C.G.A. § 15-11- 24 provides, in relevant part, that "[a]ny contingent expenses incurred in holding any session of the superior court, including lights, fuel, stationery, rent, publication of grand jury presentments when ordered published, and similar items, such as taking down testimony in felony cases, etc., shall be paid out of the county treasury of such county upon the certificate of the judge of the superior court and without further order."

WHEREAS: The Georgia Juvenile Code (O.C.G.A. §§ 15-11-2, 15-11-104, 15-11-106, and 15-11-262) contemplates the active participation of "court appointed special advocates" and "affiliate court appointed special advocate programs" in various juvenile court functions including dependency proceedings and termination of parental rights proceedings. Court Appointed Special Advocates of Forsyth County, Inc. ("CASA") is an affiliate court appointed special advocate program that furnishes court appointed special advocates to the Forsyth County court system. It is the position of the Forsyth County Superior Court and Forsyth County Juvenile Court that CASA provides a material and tangible benefit to these courts and to the citizens and taxpayers of Forsyth County, and that, by its efforts, CASA reduces the demand for more expensive guardian ad litem and related services.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED AND CERTIFIED: The Forsyth County Superior Court and Forsyth County Juvenile Court certify that funding to support the rental costs, utilities, maintenance expenses, and like costs of CASA's administrative/training space is authorized by and consistent with the statutory authority identified above. The costs anticipated by the certification are as follows:

Rent	\$4,000.00
Document Shredding Disposal	\$500.00
Office Phone/Internet	\$4,200.00
Professional Services	15,800.00
Total Estimated Annual Cost	<u>\$24,500.00</u>

In certifying appropriateness of such funding, and requesting it be a cost taxed to the County treasury, the Superior Court and Juvenile Court are not committing to oversee the day-to-day expenditures of CASA, and this certification shall be valid only for costs incurred during the 2025 calendar year. **The funds authorized by this certification shall not exceed \$24,500.00.** Any further appropriation related to CASA's administrative/training space overhead costs shall require further certification.

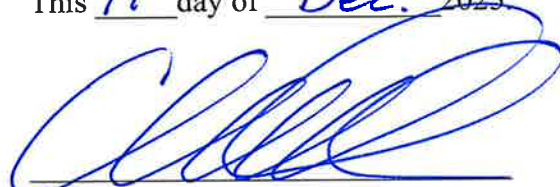
SO ORDERED AND CERTIFIED:

This 13th day of December 2025.



Jeffrey S. Bagley, Chief Judge
Superior Court of Forsyth County
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit

This 17th day of Dec. 2025.



Christopher Willis, Presiding Judge
Juvenile Court of Forsyth County
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit