

FILED IN OFFICE

FEB 25 2026

DEPUTY CLERK, STATE COURT
FULTON COUNTY, GA

IN THE STATE COURT OF FULTON COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

26EX000006

STANDING ORDER REGARDING VOLUNTARY DISMISSALS
AND CASE CLOSURES

This Standing Order establishes procedures for:

1. Handling voluntary dismissals filed more than sixty (60) days after an Answer, and
2. Clarifying the requirements for case closure following settlement announcements and other dispositions.

The intent is to ensure consistency across divisions and compliance with legal and administrative obligations related to civil case closures.

A. Voluntary Dismissals After 60 Days

1. In all civil cases where a voluntary dismissal without prejudice is filed more than sixty (60) days after the filing of an Answer:
 - a. The opposing party shall have thirty (30) days from the date of the filing of the dismissal to file any objection.
 - b. If no objection is filed within that period, then the opposing party will be deemed to have consented to the voluntary dismissal. The case may be closed in accordance with the closure procedure identified herein.
 - c. If an objection is filed within the 30-day period, the matter shall be set for hearing or otherwise addressed by the Court.

B. Settlement Announcements and Dismissals

1. A case may not be closed upon a settlement announcement alone.
2. The parties shall have thirty (30) days from the date of the settlement announcement to file a dismissal and Civil Case Disposition Form.
3. If no dismissal and Civil Case Disposition Form are filed within the 30-day period, the Court may *sua sponte* enter a dismissal with prejudice.

C. Consent Orders with Payment Plans

For clarification:

1. A Consent Order incorporating a payment plan does not constitute a final disposition unless it is accompanied by a Consent Judgment.
2. Such cases may be marked as inactive but shall remain open until a Case Disposition Form is filed or the court orders that the case be closed.

D. Authority to Close Cases

1. Unless ordered otherwise, either a party or the court must file a Civil Case Disposition Form before a case may be closed. O.C.G.A. § 9-11-58(b).
2. In lieu of filing a civil case disposition form, the Court may include the following language, or other similar language, as part of the judgment: "In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 9-11-58, the Clerk is to mark this case closed."
3. The Clerk has authorized each division's staff attorney to close civil cases. Each division's staff attorney shall be responsible for closing civil cases for that division in accordance with this Standing Order.

This Order applies to all civil divisions of this Court and shall remain in effect until further order.

All court personnel, staff attorneys, and clerk's office employees responsible shall comply with the procedures outlined herein. Failure to comply with this order may result in discipline, including revocation of permission to close cases.

SO ORDERED, this 25th day of February, 2026



Jane Morrison, Chief Judge
State Court of Fulton County