

# JUVENILE COURT

2014 BUDGET  
PRESENTATION



# VISION

*The Juvenile Court's vision is to achieve excellence by providing quality services for the positive development of children, the safety of the community, and the preservation of the family unit.*



# MISSION

*The mission of the Juvenile Court of  
Gwinnett County is:*

*To enhance the likelihood of rehabilitation  
and behavior reform of delinquent children so  
that they shall be restored, if possible, as  
secure law-abiding members of society.*

*To provide the forum, personnel, and  
facilities required for the fair, impartial and  
efficient administration of justice.*



# MISSION

*To ensure that each child coming before the court shall receive the care, guidance, and control that is in the best interest of the child and the safety of the citizens of Gwinnett County and the State of Georgia.*

*To promote the healing and recovery of abused and neglected children and to promote permanency for those that have been removed from their home.*



# OVERVIEW

*The Juvenile Court is a constitutional court. We are governed by State and Federal Statutory laws and rules. These laws and rules authorize the operation and jurisdiction of the court.*



# OVERVIEW

*The Juvenile Court currently has 57 full-time employees, down from 61 employees in January of 2010*

*We have 7 divisions:*

<i>Clerks Division</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>employees</i>
<i>Intake Division</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>employees</i>
<i>Probation Division</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>employees</i>
<i>Guardian ad litem</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>employees</i>
<i>Volunteer Resources</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>employees</i>
<i>Administration</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>employees</i>
<i>Judicial</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>employees</i>



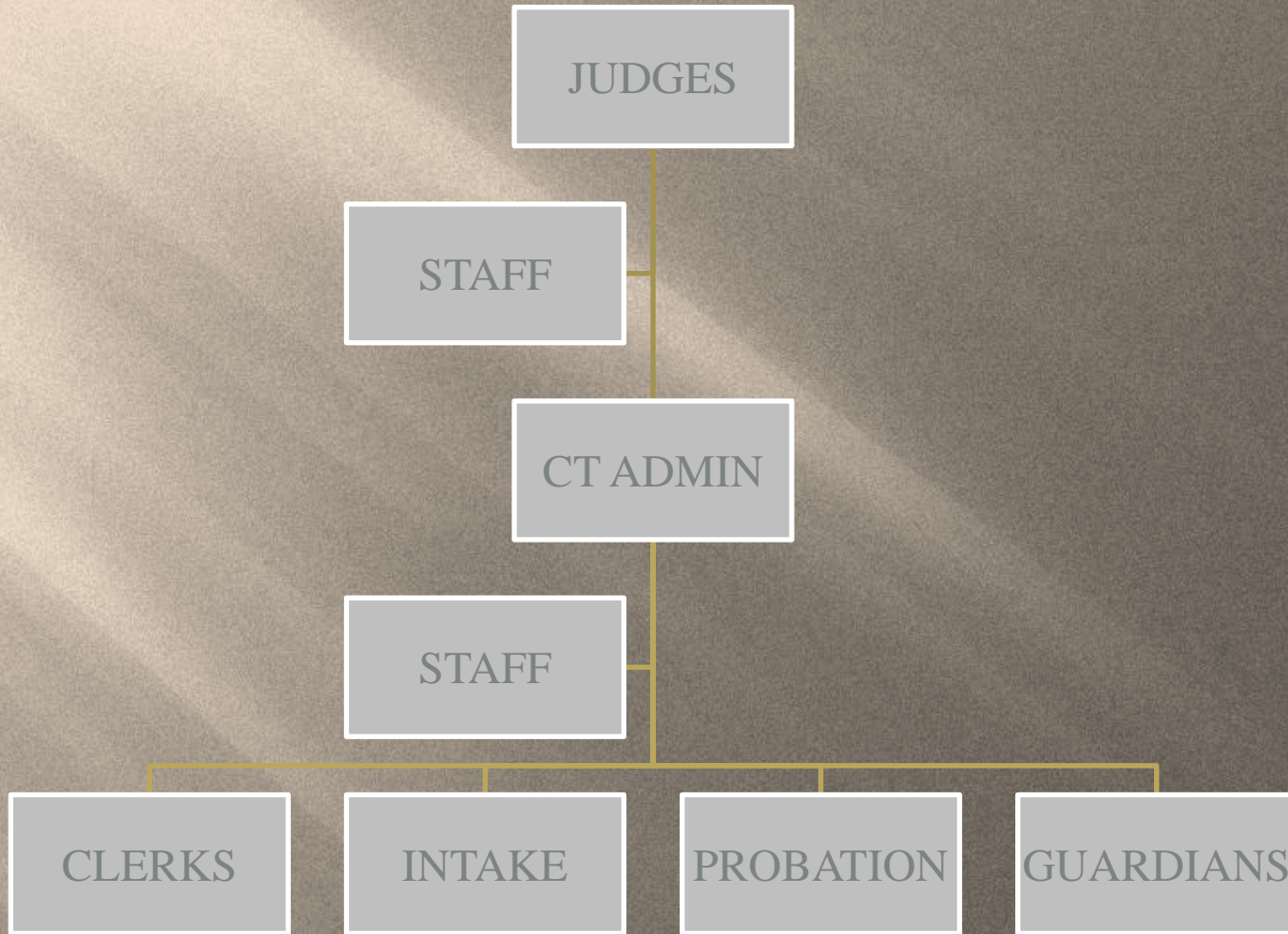
# OVERVIEW

## *Vacancy Rates*

	2010	2011	2012	YTD
<i>Juvenile Court</i>	8.20%	11.29%	8.20%	6.56%
<i>Court Admin</i>	0.00%	4.00%	3.06%	3.06%
<i>Recorders Judges</i>	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<i>Probate Judges</i>	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<i>District Attny</i>	2.91%	3.88%	1.94%	0.95%
<i>County Overall</i>	4.90%	8.79%	7.49%	6.82%



# ORGANIZATION





# DECISION PACKAGE

*In 2013, the Georgia Legislature  
Passed HB 242, the Juvenile Code  
Reform Bill. This new 248 page bill  
rewrites the previous juvenile code  
mandating major changes from  
definitions to dispositions in all areas  
of the  
Juvenile Court.*



# DECISION PACKAGE

*These changes mandate an increase in:*

*Hearings*

*Staffings*

*Orders*

*Reviews*

*Evaluations*

*Assessments*

*Hand Service*

*Filings*

*Case Plans*

*Treatment Plans*

*to name a few, which multiplies the tasks and workloads associated with these new mandates.*



# DECISION PACKAGE

*The new code changes the laws addressing unruly behaviors such as Runaway, Truancy, and Curfew. They are now identified as CHINS, Children In Need of Services. This new law is 17 pages long and mandates in detail new time limits, services, case plans, competency evaluations, plan management and the documentation needed for adjudication.*



# DECISION PACKAGE

*Under the old Juvenile Code all the laws specifically dealing with Unruly Children could be contained on one page.*



# DECISION PACKAGE

*There is no provision in the new code as to who will represent the CHINS petitioners in court. The District Attorney, in Gwinnett, in the past has handled this duty on unruly cases. They are no longer permitted to handle these cases for the Court.*



# DECISION PACKAGE

*Our Court has been successfully mediating cases for 25 years. In the new Juvenile Code there are now 5 code sections dealing with when, how and who can participate in mediation setting time limits and procedures throughout the process.*



# DECISION PACKAGE

*Under the old Juvenile Code the word mediation was used one time, as an option for the court to handle a case informally.*



# DECISION PACKAGE

*The new Juvenile code rewrites the Deprivation laws. The old code was 9 pages, the new code is 52 pages long and adds new laws, procedures, time limits, orders and hearings throughout the process. The code requires a hearing and an order just to continue a hearing, even if all the parties agree.*





# DECISION PACKAGE

*We are requesting the return of the remaining positions held open from our 2009/2010 MOU. They are:*

*Probation Manager*

*Probation Officer*

*Intake Officer*

*Court Associate II*

*And one additional new Probation Officer Position.*



# DECISION PACKAGE

## *Positions*

<i>Probation Mgr.</i>	<i>Grade C51</i>	<i>\$64,619</i>
<i>Probation Officer</i>	<i>Grade B25</i>	<i>\$45,703</i>
<i>Intake Officer</i>	<i>Grade B25</i>	<i>\$45,703</i>
<i>Court Assoc II</i>	<i>Grade B21</i>	<i>\$32,676</i>
<i>Probation Officer</i>	<i>Grade B25</i>	<i>\$45,703</i>
<i>Benefits</i>		<i>\$94,655</i>
<i>Total Cost</i>		<i>\$329,059</i>



# DECISION PACKAGE

## *Probation Manager*

*(Chief Probation Officer)*

*This unit has been without a Chief Probation Officer since 2009. This unit is responsible for carrying out the orders of the court and supervision of the delinquent and unruly/CHINS youth. There are 3 divisions and Probation is responsible for the courts programs and classes.*

*This unit is in need of a fulltime manager to guide its day to day operations. This is of special importance due to the increased focus on the treatment of high-risk youth in our community.*



# DECISION PACKAGE

## *2 Probation Officers*

*The probation division's operation and mission will be changing in 2014. They will be continuing with the daily supervision and reporting duties assigned and we will be adding responsibilities to these officers.*

*Under the new code they will be required to create and manage comprehensive service plans, focus on coordinating treatment providers and act as liaisons between the providers, the court and families, document graduated sanctions for a new Secure Probation Sanctions Program and work with a higher risk youth in the community then previously required to by the court.*



# DECISION PACKAGE

## *2 Probation Officers*

*The second Probation Officer will be assigned to provide more intensive supervision over the highest risk youth remaining under our supervision.*

*The focus of the new code is to reduce the number of youth placed in short term detention or committed to the state Department of Juvenile Justice. This will place the responsibility when these youth re-offend on the local Juvenile Courts*

*It is important that we provide the highest level of supervision to these youth as possible in place of confinement.*



# DECISION PACKAGE

## *Intake Officer*

*The Intake Division has been down one officer since 2009. The new code takes away one task, writing the delinquent petitions, but the new code adds many other duties and task to the Intake Staff at our court:*

*Some of these are:*

- ❖ Required to setup and secure competency evaluations.*
- ❖ Hand Service is now mandated on all summons.*
- ❖ Must administer the Detention Assessment instrument on detention cases.*



# DECISION PACKAGE

## *Intake Officer*

- ❖ *Required to complete a probable cause form on all detention cases.*
- ❖ *Required to create, setup and follow a comprehensive service plan on CHINS cases until they are passed to probation.*
- ❖ *Will continue to write all CHINS petitions.*



# DECISION PACKAGE

## *Clerk Associate II*

*The Clerk of Court division has been down one clerk since 2009. The new code will be increasing the workload in this division. This will slow even more the opening and closing data entry process.*

*The Clerks will be responsible for the increase in the filings, scanning and data entry on the additional orders, evaluations, dispositions, motions, reviews and case plans required by the new code.*





# DECISION PACKAGE

*Gwinnett has the largest population of at-risk youth in the State of Georgia. Similar metro court's staffing ranges from 74 to 159. Gwinnett currently has 57 fulltime employees.*



# DECISION PACKAGE

*Cobb*

*Dekalb*

*Fulton*

74

88

159



*The new Juvenile Code is process heavy. This requires additional staffing in order to maintain our current workflow and service levels. This is in addition to the added level of supervision that will be required for high-risk youth in the community.*



*The focus of the new code is to localize the rehabilitation and treatment of serious high-risk offenders. This will require all but the most serious and violent of offenders to remain outside of the jurisdiction of the Department of Juvenile Justice.*

*By doing this, the state has stated it will save \$88,000,000 dollars.*



*As a result of the new code, high risk youth who would have been placed with DJJ will now remain in the community under the supervision of the Court.*



## JUVENILE MURDER SUSPECT

- DJJ released 5 days before murder
- Suspect had run away early in 2013
- DJJ released with 1 year remain



2



# Search for the word "shall" in the old code

All Search Browse Document Contents HitList

- CHAPTER 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS
- CHAPTER 2 SUPREME COURT
- CHAPTER 3 COURT OF APPEALS
- CHAPTER 3A SENIOR APPELLATE COURT JUSTICES AND
- CHAPTER 4 REPORTER OF THE SUPREME COURT AND
- CHAPTER 5 ADMINISTRATION OF COURTS OF RECORD
- CHAPTER 6 SUPERIOR COURTS
- CHAPTER 7 STATE COURTS OF COUNTIES
- CHAPTER 8 CITY COURTS
- CHAPTER 9 PROBATE COURTS
- CHAPTER 10 MAGISTRATE COURTS
- 188  **CHAPTER 11 JUVENILE PROCEEDINGS**
  - Annotations

TITLE 1  
CHAPT  
15-  
15-  
15-  
15-  
15-



# Search for the word “shall” in HB 242

The screenshot shows a word processing application window with a search pane on the left and a document view on the right. The search pane displays the following information:

- Looking For: **shall in the current document**
- Results: **1 documents with 1628 instances**
- A button labeled "New Search"
- Results list showing a file named "C:\pdf\135887.wpd" with several instances of the word "shall" highlighted in blue. The visible instances are:
  - chapter **shall** be liberally consi
  - and **shall** not include weekenc
  - shall** not have arisen out of th
  - delinquency **shall** not have 18

The document view on the right shows a page with line numbers 61 through 73. The text on the page includes:

13

61 parties are assured fair

62 all, this chapter shall b

63 policy of this state is to

64 15-11-2.

65 As used in this chapter

66 (1) 'Abandonment' co

67 or legal custodian sho

68 Intent to forgo parent

69 (A) Failure, for a p

70 child.

71 (B) Failure, for a p

72 child.

73 (C) Leaving a child





# ADDITIONAL COST

*Additional costs to the County and Community associated with the new code:*

*The appointment of additional Attorneys to represent the child or parties.*

*Additional transportation cost.*

*Days parents will lose from work.*

*Days children will lose from school.*

