

Northeastern Judicial Circuit Parental Accountability Court

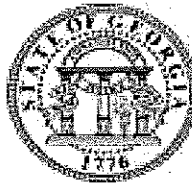
Admission Criteria

PURPOSE/SCOPE:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure program integrity and to establish specific criteria that must be met in order for an individual to be accepted into the Parental Accountability Court (PAC) Program.

Admission Criteria: Persons considered for the Program must meet the following criteria:

1. Be incarcerated or be in contempt of court for failure to pay child support/child abandonment or referred in lieu of incarceration by a Superior Court Judge.
2. Have a child support case within the Northeastern Judicial Circuit and an active contempt by Division of Child Support Services.
3. Be a noncustodial parent (NCP) with a child support case through the DCSS. If the NCP does not have a DCSS case prior to enrollment, then he/she must be willing to apply for DCSS services at the time of his/her enrollment and pay the application fee, if applicable.
4. Be able to read, understand, and agree to the PAC Contract and Consent order.
5. Certain legal factors may exclude one from being eligible for the PAC Court Program.
 - These factors include:
 - Prior felony convictions
 - A severe physical or mental handicap that would prevent program participation, though an appropriate referral will be made
 - Conviction of any felony violent offense
 - Illegal alien status
 - Felony firearm charges (an individual may reapply at a later date if charges are reduced)
 - Current felony charge may cause denial
 - Pending charges in other jurisdictions



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Continued: Admission Criteria

- I. Has one or more prior convictions of a felony crime of violence involving the use or attempted use of force against a person with the intent to cause death or serious bodily harm.
 - i. According to BJA's Frequently Asked Questions webpage, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/drugcourts.html> dated 2/23/11. Is an offender eligible for the program if a charge that would qualify as a violent offense according to the statute is dropped or reduced to a nonviolent offense?
 - a) Charges that have been dropped cannot be considered when assessing whether an offender falls under the violent offender definition.
 - b) Reduced charges are subject to the violent offender definition. Therefore, if the reduced charge does not qualify as a violent offense, then the offender is eligible.

Non Exclusionary Factors: The following factors will not exclude individuals from participating in PAC.

1. Prior participation in the Division of Child Support Services Fatherhood Program
2. Active status of probation or parole
3. Residency in Hall County is not required as long as the participant has the ability to travel to Hall County for all required PAC events.

PROCEDURE:

All individuals meeting the screening criteria as determined by the Parental Accountability Court Team will be transported to the next available court session in which the PAC Judge will do a final summary of the program requirements with the candidate before accepting him/her into the Program. The PAC Program is a minimum of six months in duration and consists of three phases.