



2026
TALK
JUSTICE
TUESDAY

SECOND CHANCE DO-IT-YOURSELF PRO SE LEGAL & REENTRY RESOURCES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2026
12:00 NOON

DID YOU KNOW? YOU CAN DO THESE THINGS WITHOUT AN ATTORNEY! COME LEARN HOW!

- RECORD CLEARING / SEALING (EXPUNGEMENT)
- PARDONS
- EARLY TERMINATION OF FELONY PROBATION
- DRIVER'S LICENSE STATUS, FTA'S & REINSTATEMENTS
- REENTRY RESOURCES & PROGRAMS

REGISTER NOW



JUSTICEREFORMPARTNERSHIP.ORG/TJT



**BARRED
BUSINESS**

GEORGIA
JUSTICE
PROJECT



**BARRED
BUSINESS**

GEORGIA
JUSTICE
PROJECT

**Welcome! We will
get started shortly.**





COMMUNITY AFTER INCARCERATION

REENTRY SUPPORT, INDIVIDUAL POWER, AND
SELF-DETERMINATION



**BARRED
BUSINESS**

GEORGIA
JUSTICE
PROJECT

GEORGIA JUSTICE PROJECT'S INTERVENTION

HOLISTIC CRIMINAL DEFENSE

- Legal Representation with Social Services
- Restorative Justice
- Warrant Resolution
- Early Termination of Probation
- Survivor Justice Act re-sentencing

POLICY/27 LAWS CHANGED

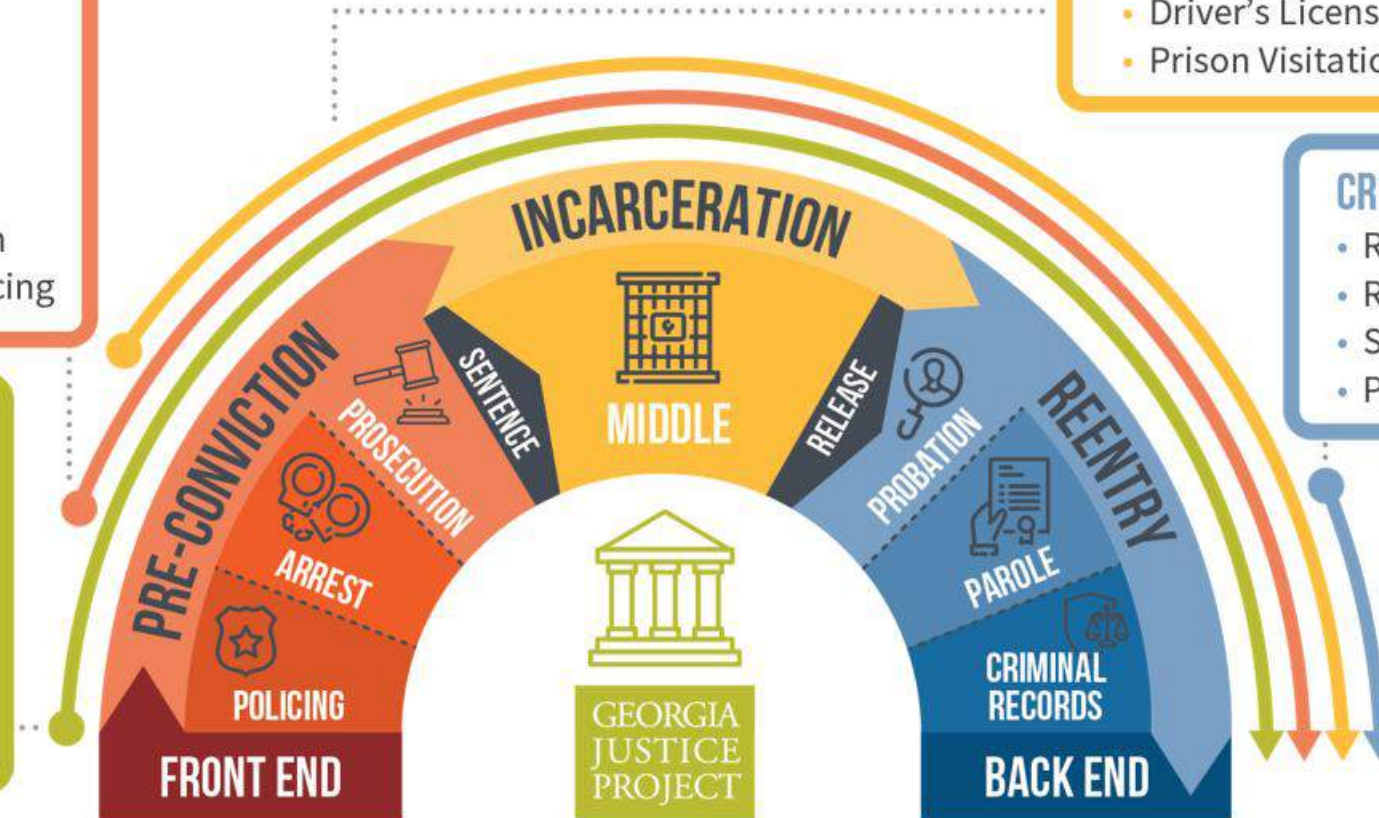
- SB 207 - Fair Chances for Licensed Careers
- HB 162 - Modernizes the First Offender Act
- HB 535 - Brings Consistency to Time-Served Calculations

UNDER CORRECTIONAL CONTROL

- Metro Reentry Facility (MRF)
- Reentry Lawyering
- Family Support
- Driver's License Reinstatements
- Prison Visitation

CRIMINAL RECORDS

- Record clearing (expungement)
- Record Clearing Events
- Second Chance Desks
- Pardon Clinic



GEORGIA
JUSTICE
PROJECT

This presentation will help you:

1. UNDERSTAND GEORGIA RECORD CLEARING

2. KNOW WHATS ON YOUR RECORD?

3. FIND YOUR GJP RECORD CLEARING PATH

5. EARLY TERMINATION OF PROBATION &
DRIVERS LICENSE RESOURCES

4. BARRED BUSINESS + REENTRY RESOURCES



UNDERSTANDING GEORGIA RECORD CLEARING

**Restriction And Sealing
Georgia's Two Step Process**

GEORGIA
JUSTICE
PROJECT

UNDERSTAND GEORGIA RECORD CLEARING

Two Kinds Of Background Checks

GEORGIA
JUSTICE
PROJECT

GCIC/FBI Background Check

Official Government Background Check
Fingerprint based

Georgia Crime Information Center
3121 Panthersville Road
Decatur, GA 30037
(404) 244-2639

Criminal History Record

Introduction

This rap sheet was produced in response to the following request (Produced on 2023-12-08):

State ID Number [REDACTED]
ARN [REDACTED]
Purpose Code U
Attention [REDACTED]

The information in this rap sheet is provided subject to the following caveats:
**THIS RESPONSE IS BEING PRODUCED FOR YOUR REQUEST SENT: 2023-12-08 (GA; 2007-08-11)

Important! Criminal history record information is obtained one of two ways: 1) by conducting an inquiry using personal identifiers such as name and date of birth (name search), or 2) by submitting fingerprint cards to the Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC). When conducting a name search for criminal history record information, there is a possibility that the information returned belongs to a different person with the same, or similar, identifiers. In this case, a positive match of the person whose criminal history record is sought requires submission of fingerprint cards to GCIC. When conducting a fingerprint search for criminal history record information, the information returned does, in fact, belong to the individual. In this case, conducting a name search using the individual's personal identifiers would be the same information. (GA; 2007-08-11)

Private Background Check

Private companies Name, DOB, SS# search Rely
on court records

Background Check Providers

BDO BUSINESS CAPITAL C6 Group CFM EXIGER

FACTIVA Financial Risk Mitigation, Inc First Advantage

Google HILTON INTELLIGO JUSTICE SOLUTIONS GROUP

Kroll LexisNexis mnAI Owlin

PSG REFINITIV Sterling ✓check GLOBAL

Source: DiligenceVault

UNDERSTAND GEORGIA RECORD CLEARING

Two Step Process

Restriction

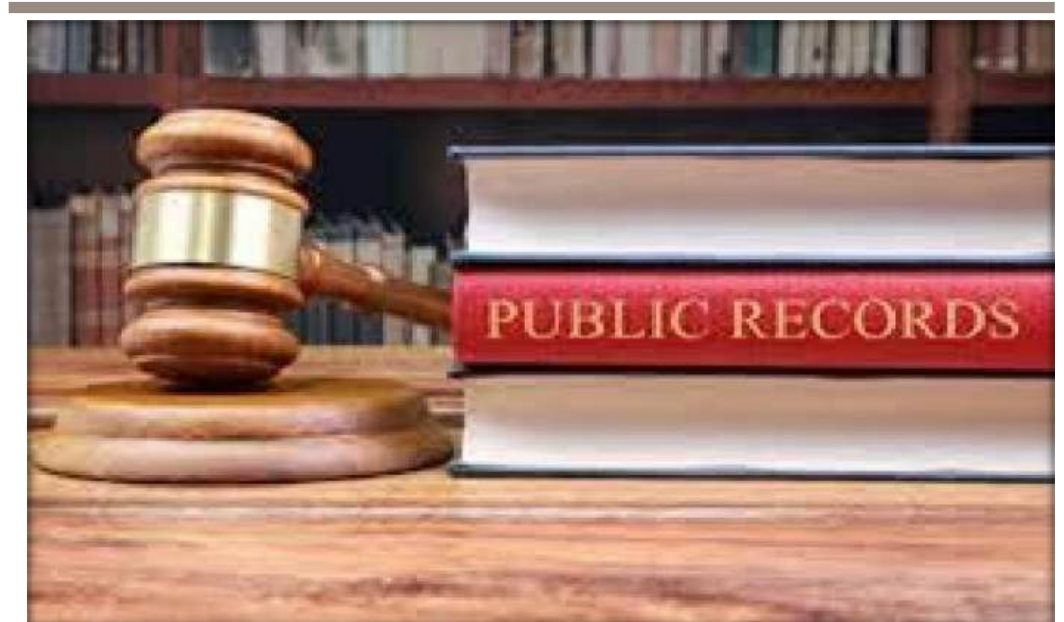
Restriction **hides** case information on a GCIC/FBI background check

Court Disposition	(Cycle 2)
Case Number	[REDACTED]
Court Agency	GA102015J MONROE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
Subject's Name	[REDACTED]
Charge	1
Charge Tracking Number	88396639074-1
Charge Literal	THEFT BY TAKING
Statute	16-8-2; GA
NCIC Offense Code	2399
State Offense Code	2383
Severity	Misdemeanor
Disposition	NOLLE PROSEQUI/NOLLE PROSSED - RESTRICT NON-CJ PURPOSE (2015-02-04; Dismissed)



Sealing

Sealing **hides** case information from private background checks (which rely on court records)



*****GEORGIA DOES NOT EXPUNGE/DESTROY/REMOVE CRIMINAL RECORDS*****

UNDERSTAND GEORGIA RECORD CLEARING

The Big Picture

GEORGIA
JUSTICE
PROJECT

What Georgia cases can be restricted and sealed?

- SOME Felony Convictions
- SOME Pardoned Felony Convictions
- SOME Misdemeanor Convictions
- ALL Non-Convictions
- SOME Dead Docket cases



WHAT'S ON MY RECORD?

How to get my GCIC
(Official GA record)

GEORGIA
JUSTICE
PROJECT

WHATS ON MY RECORD?

Step One: Get a Copy of your GCIC

Request a copy of your
GCIC PURPOSE CODE U
at Georgia Police/Sheriff's Dept.

*(If you think you have a warrant **DO NOT** go to the police station speak with an attorney)*

*Personal copy do not share with
ANYONE*

- Bring your ID card Pay the fee (\$10-25)
- Review your GCIC and make sure it is accurate



Georgia Crime Information Center
3121 Panthersville Road
Decatur, GA 30037
(404) 244-2639

Criminal History Record

Introduction

This rap sheet was produced in response to the following request (Produced on 2023-12-08):

State ID Number	[REDACTED]
ARN	RESTRICTION
Purpose Code	U
Attention	[REDACTED]

The information in this rap sheet is provided subject to the following caveats:

**THIS RESPONSE IS BEING PRODUCED FOR YOUR REQUEST SENT: 2023-12-08 (GA; 2007-08-11)

Important! Criminal history record information is obtained one of two ways: 1) by conducting an inquiry using personal identifiers such as name and date of birth (name search), or 2) by submitting fingerprint cards to the Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC). When conducting a name search for criminal history record information, there is a possibility that the information returned belongs to a different person with the same, or similar, identifiers. In this case, a positive match of the person whose criminal history record is sought requires submission of fingerprint cards to GCIC. When conducting a fingerprint search for criminal history record information, the information returned does, in fact, belong to the individual. In this case, conducting a name search using the individual's personal identifiers would be the same information. (GA; 2007-08-11)

WHATS ON MY RECORD?

Step Two: Confirm the Final Disposition

For case(s) you want help with
look at GCIC to find the case
disposition

Disposition = How did case end?

Non-conviction?

First offender?

Misdemeanor Conviction?

Felony conviction?

Unsure? Unclear? Not listed?

Request a copy of the Final Disposition from the
Clerk's office where the case(s) happened

Court Disposition	(Cycle 2)
Case Number	[REDACTED]
Court Agency	GA102015J MONROE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
Subject's Name	[REDACTED]
Charge	1
Charge Tracking Number	88396639074-1
Charge Literal	THEFT BY TAKING
Statute	16-8-2; GA
NCIC Offense Code	2399
State Offense Code	2383
Severity	Misdemeanor
Disposition	NOLLE PROSEQUI/NOLLE PROSSED - RESTRICT NON-CJ PURPOSE (2015-02-04; Dismissed)

Court Disposition	(Cycle 001)
Court Agency	GA094015J MCDUFFIE COUNTY STATE COURT
Subject's Name	[REDACTED]
Charge	1
Charge Tracking Number	00021763943-001
Charge Literal	THEFT BY SHOPLIFTING
Statute	16-8-14; GA
State Offense Code	2373
Severity	Misdemeanor
Disposition	GUILTY (CONVICTED / ADJUDICATED) (1991-06-27; Convicted)

← court

← outcome of charges
(final disposition)





WHATS ON MY RECORD?

Step Three: What DIY pathway can I take?

GEORGIA
JUSTICE
PROJECT

GJP's GEORGIA CONVICTION CHECK

*Is the felony or misdemeanor
conviction eligible?*



EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS AND CHECKLISTS

*What does this pathway
mean and how does it work?*



THE RIGHT RESOURCE DEPENDS ON THE DISPOSITION/RESULT



GJP.org/diyrecordclearing/

PARDON TOOLKIT

*What information and
documents should I gather?*



TEMPLATE MOTIONS

*What will the court papers look
like?*

GJP CONVICTION PATHWAY

Felony and Misdemeanor



GEORGIA
JUSTICE
PROJECT

GJP CONVICTION PATHWAY

Felony and Misdemeanor

GEORGIA
JUSTICE
PROJECT

If your GCIC says Felony/Misdemeanor:

- *Guilty Plea (including time served)*
 - *Guilty After Trial*
- *Nolo Contendre (No Contest)*
 - *Alford Plea*
- *REVOKED First Offender or Conditional Discharge*

This is a conviction

USE GJP'S
GA CONVICTION CHECK

Go to [GJP.org/diyrecordclearing](https://gjp.org/diyrecordclearing)



GJP CONVICTION PATHWAY

Felony and Misdemeanor

HOW DO I USE IT?

1. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

2. REVIEW THE ELIGIBILITY SUMMARY

3. FOLLOW THE NEXT STEP:

DIY self help resource/legal advice if the record is confusing



[GJP.org/diyrecordclearing](https://gjp.org/diyrecordclearing)

Felony Case

Has your felony conviction been pardoned by the State Board of Pardons and Paroles?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Pardons

Generally, a pardon is the path to record clearing if you have multiple felony convictions or when retroactive first offender is not available.

To qualify for a pardon, five years must have passed since you completed your last sentence (including reporting and non-reporting probation). In exceptional cases, the State Board of Pardons and Paroles can waive the waiting period. During the waiting period, you cannot have a new arrest. Although a pardon does not automatically restrict and seal your felony conviction, most offenses become eligible for restriction and sealing once they have been pardoned.

Note that if the felony conviction was defined as a serious violent or serious sexual offense, Georgia law does not currently allow for restriction and sealing, even if the case is pardoned.

[Here is more information about how to get a pardon in Georgia.](#)

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)



GJP NON- CONVICTION PATHWAY

**Dismissed/Nolle Prossed
Pretrial diversion
First Offender**

GEORGIA
JUSTICE
PROJECT

Non-Conviction Pathway

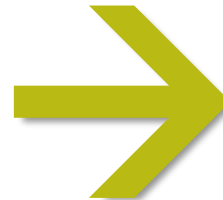
A case that did not end in a conviction

IF YOUR GCIC SAYS:

- *Dismissed, Nolle Prose; Not Prosecuted; Acquitted (Not Guilty at Trial)*
- *Pretrial Intervention (PTI) or diversion (PTD) Dismissal*
 - *County Ordinance Violation*
- *Successfully Completed Conditional Discharge*

THIS IS A NON-CONVICTION

**USE GJP'S DIY
NON-CONVICTION RESOURCES**



Go to [GJP.org/diyrecordclearing](https://gjp.org/diyrecordclearing)

RESTRICTING AND SEALING A NON-CONVICTION

Click below if you have a case that did not end in a conviction. This is for most cases that ended in a dismissal, acquittal/not guilty, not presented to the grand jury, etc.

☐ Watch How-To Video

☒ Checklist

☐ Template Motion

Non-Conviction Pathway

A case that did not end in a conviction

NEXT STEPS:

STEP 1.

WATCH HOW TO/DIY VIDEO
FOR NON- CONVICTIONS

STEP 2.

REVIEW THE NON- CONVICTION DIY CHECKLIST

STEP 3.

PREPARE THE MOTION AND FOLLOW THROUGH



Go to [GJP.org/diyrecordclearing](https://gjp.org/diyrecordclearing)

RESTRICTING AND SEALING A NON-CONVICTION

Click below if you have a case that did not end in a conviction. This is for most cases that ended in a dismissal, acquittal/not guilty, not presented to the grand jury, etc.

☐ Watch How-To Video

☒ Checklist

☐ Template Motion

First Offender Non- Conviction Pathway:

A first offender case that did not end in revocation/conviction

IF YOUR GCIC SAYS

- First Offender Act
- (OCGA 42-8-60)
- Successfully Completed/discharged First Offender

- EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026 you can now restrict and seal an active First Offender Case

**THIS IS NOT
A CONVICTION**

**USE GJP'S DIY
FIRST OFFENDER RESOURCES**

NEXT STEPS:

STEP 1.

REVIEW RESTRICTING AND SEALING
A FIRST OFFENDER SHEET

STEP 2.

PREPARE THE MOTION
AND FOLLOW THROUGH

*(NOTE: different templates for active VS
successfully completed FO.*



Quick note about when to speak with an attorney

GEORGIA
JUSTICE
PROJECT

If the tool recommends these pathways:

Retroactive First Offender (“RFO”)

&

Survivor’s First Act

- Can use on misdemeanor AND felony convictions
- If granted, case will no longer be conviction

Best to have an attorney because of the process

GJP'S DIY Pathways & Tools RECAP

Go to [GJP.org/diyrecordclearing](https://gjp.org/diyrecordclearing)

GEORGIA
JUSTICE
PROJECT

FELONY CONVICTION



USE GA CONVICTION CHECK FOR ELIGIBILITY → USE GJP'S DIY FELONY (PARDON DIY toolkit)
(RETROACTIVE FIRST OFFENDER - LAWYER STRONGLY RECOMMENDED)

MISDEMEANOR CONVICTION



USE GA CONVICTION CHECK FOR ELIGIBILITY → USE GJP'S DIY MISDEMEANOR RESOURCES

NON- CONVICTION



USE GJP'S DIY NON- CONVICTION RESOURCES

FIRST OFFENDER SENTENCE



ACTIVE/ COMPLETED FIRST OFFENDER → USE GJP'S DIY RESOURCES;

SURVIVOR OF SEX/LABOR
TRAFFICKING



SPECIALIZED VACATUR/RESTRICTION → LAWYER STRONGLY RECOMMENDED
→ REVIEW GJP'S RESOURCES

CONFUSED?/UNSURE?/UNCLEAR?



GET HELP!!! REACH OUT TO GJP OR A PRIVATE ATTORNEY TO ASSIST YOU

Know Your Rights

Probation

Voting Rights

Driver's License Suspensions

GEORGIA
JUSTICE
PROJECT

Felony Probation: Know Your Rights Handbook



Coming soon!

- **Guidance on:**
 - Understanding Your Sentence & Conditions
 - How to communicate effectively with Probation
 - Fines, Fees, Restitution
 - Sanctions, Technical Violations, Revocations
 - How to successfully navigate the many challenges of Probation

Handbook will be posted at **GJP.org/probation**



Felony Probation: Early Termination

Who is eligible for early termination consideration?

EVERYONE!

After serving 3 years on felony probation

GJP.org/probation



You must have served 3 years of probation sentence and have...

- **No new arrests** for anything besides a nonserious traffic offense
- No **probation revocations** in the **past 24 months**
- Paid all their **restitution** (not including fines and fees)

DCS does **not** have any **blanket policies** that disqualify certain offenses from early termination

A reminder about voting...

You can vote in Georgia if...

- You are **NOT** currently serving a sentence for a felony conviction
- You are **"Off Paper"**
 - Completed incarceration, parole, and probation
- You are serving a felony **First Offender** or **Conditional Discharge** sentence and the status has not been revoked

When your sentence is complete, your right to vote is automatically restored! You just need to **register** or **re-register** in order to vote.

Outstanding monetary obligations do **NOT** keep you from voting if your sentence is complete.

Visit GJP.org/voting for more information



SCAN ME

Driver's License Suspensions

Understanding the Status of a Driver's License: [GJP.org/DL-suspensions](https://gjp.org/DL-suspensions)

3 Ways to Check DL Status:

1. Log-in or Create Online DDS account

- *Best option, as you can see DL status, suspension information, points, pay outstanding fees, etc.*

2. Online search function

- *Shows DL status (valid, suspended, expired, etc.) but not reason for suspension.*

3. Call (404) 657-9300 and enter driver's license number.

- *Shows DL status (valid, suspended, expired, etc.) but not reason for suspension.*

If suspended

Obtain Suspension Detail Report (SDR):

1. Through DDS account

2. At a DDS Customer Service Center

3. If unable to create account or visit customer service center → Call DDS Help Line at (678) 413-8400 for more information about the suspension.

SDR shows number and reason(s) for suspension(s), steps required for reinstatement. SDR also shows if a limited driving permit is available and if so, what steps are needed to obtain a limited driving permit.

Driver's License Suspensions

Requesting a Suspension Detail Report Online

1. Log on to: https://dds.drives.ga.gov/_/#1
2. On right side of home page under “Online Driver Services,” find link that say: **“Suspension/Reinstatement.”**
3. Click **“View Report”** to download.

Date of Birth:

Driver Status

Real ID Status: Compliant

Points on Driving Record: 0

Congratulations on a clean driving record for days!

Online Driver Services

Available

Balance

\$0.00

> [Order History](#)

> [Free 2Yr MVR](#)

> [Purchase 3Yr / 7Yr MVR](#)

> [Electronic Notification](#)

> [Suspension / Reinstatement](#)

← **Obtain
Suspension
Detail Report**

License Information

Drivers License Number:

Residential Address:

Online Licensing and/or ID Card Services

> [Start Here for Licensing and/or ID Card Services](#)

Not all services may apply to your account.

- Renew
- Change Your Address
- Replace a Lost / Stolen Card
- Upgrade from Class D to C
- Replace after Reinstating

Regular Drivers License Class C

Expiration Date: 2/9/2033

Status

Valid



Verify License Status →

Click “View Report” to download a copy of Suspension Detail Report.



 DDS Online Services



Suspension / Reinstatement Report

Click the button below to view details regarding your suspension / reinstatement

[View Report](#)

[Pay Fees](#)

[Back](#)

***Note: If no active issues with your driving privileges, you will see a document that says,
“Driver has no pending or active withdrawals.”***

How to Read a Suspension Detail Report

Number of
Suspensions (from
most recent to least
recent)

Suspension Detail Report
Suspension 1 of 7

Name:

[REDACTED]

License Num:

[REDACTED]

Your License is Suspended Due to Failure to Appear

Effective: 10-Sep-2021

Court/Agency Information:

Agency: [REDACTED] Municipal Court

[REDACTED] GA

Phone:

[REDACTED]

Violation: 02-Apr-2021

Disposition:

Reinstate Eligible: 10-Sep-2021

Citation:

[REDACTED]

Processed: 14-Jun-2021

Information
regarding the
underlying
citation/case.

Date eligible for
reinstatement

No permit is available for this withdrawal.

To resolve this suspension you must do the following:

1. Obtain a Failure to Appear Release release from [REDACTED] Municipal Court, [REDACTED] Georgia prior to 10-Sep-2021 to avoid the reinstatement fee.
2. Pay \$90.00 through the DDS web site, (WWW.DDS.GEORGIA.GOV), or by mail to Department Driver Services, P.O. Box 80447, Conyers, GA 30013. Or pay \$100.00 if paying in person at a DDS Customer Service Center.
3. Wait the required time. You are eligible to reinstate 10-Sep-2021. **REQUIREMENT MET.**

If a limited driving permit is
available, instructions on
obtaining a limited driving
permit are listed here.

Requirements that
have already been
met are indicated.

Driver's License Suspensions (FTA)

Getting a license back after missing traffic court:

1. Contact the traffic court as soon as possible.

- The traffic court **must** end the suspension after either: **scheduling a new court date or appearing in traffic court.**
- Should tell the clerk they missed traffic court and would like a new court date. Tell the clerk or judge that their license is suspended, and they would like to get their license back.

2. Reinstate a license with DDS.

- Must pay \$90-100 reinstatement fee.
- Can ask the judge to waive this fee.
- Can also **request a fee waiver form** from DDS (called a “Pauper’s Affidavit”). If qualified, DDS will waive reinstatement fees.

Visit our website for more information:



www.GJP.org/DL-suspensions

WHO WE ARE?

“Built by people who know what coming home takes”

Since 2018, Barred Business has worked with thousands of justice-impacted people seeking community, support, and a chance to shape their own futures.

We are an organization led by justice-impacted people working to heal, resource, and build power for and with justice-impacted people, their families, and communities. We do this through

* **ORGANIZING**

* **POLICY ADVOCACY**

* **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

INDIVIDUAL POWER

A PLACE TO BELONG

- * **PRACTICAL HELP WITH REENTRY AND STABILITY**
- * **TRUSTED RELATIONSHIPS AND ROOM TO HEAL**
- * **CONNECTIONS TO RESOURCES BEYOND ONE ORGANIZATION**

THE SUPPORT PEOPLE NEED

People deserve the tools and community to make decisions about their own lives.

* **INFORMATION OPENS A DOOR. COMMUNITY HELPS PEOPLE
WALK THROUGH IT.**

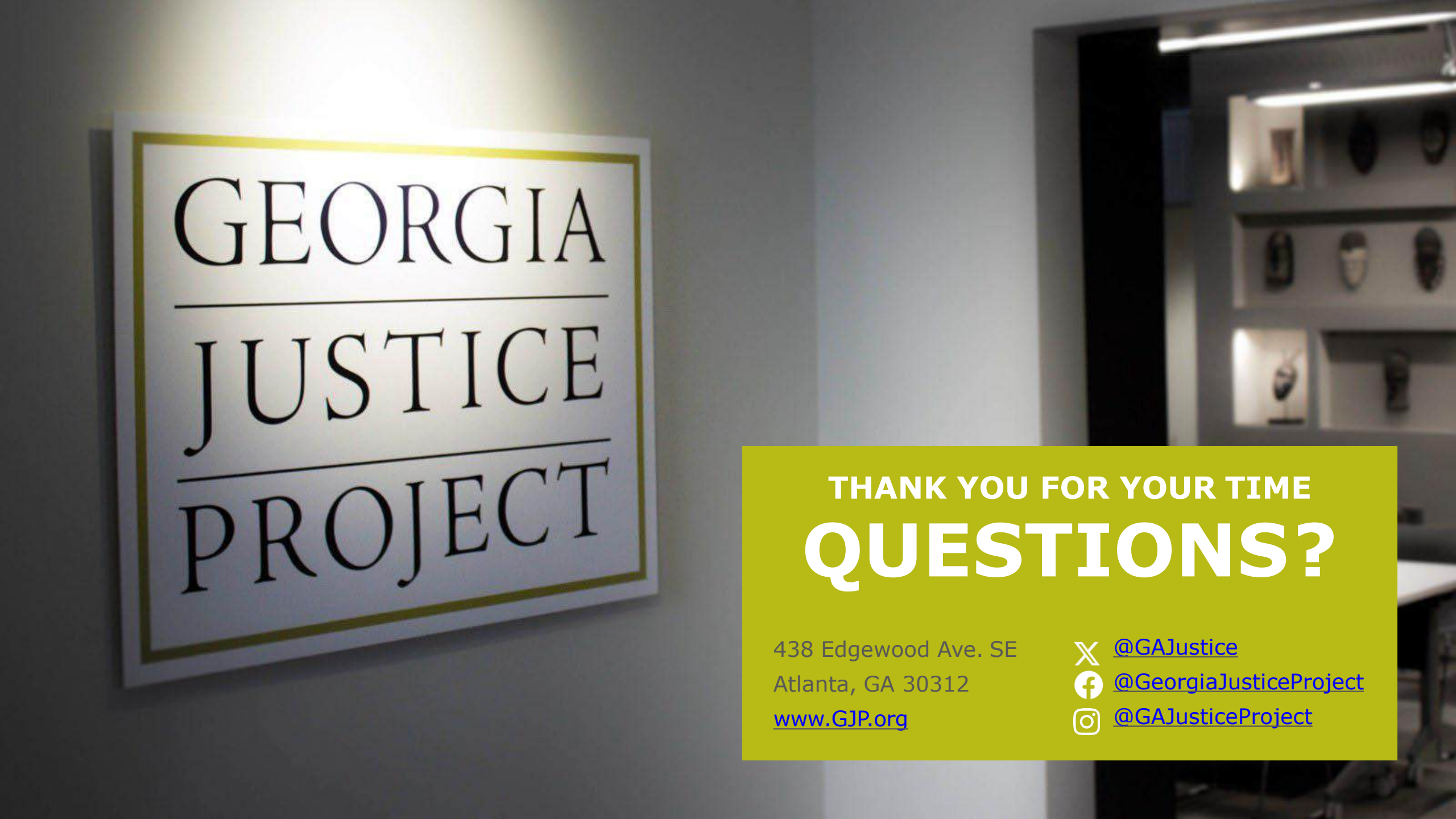
SUPPORT AND SYSTEMS CHANGE

We help people navigate reentry while organizing to remove the barriers they face.

Our work helped win Atlanta protections against discrimination based on criminal history in housing, employment, and public accommodations.



FIND COMMUNITY. KNOW YOUR OPTIONS. BUILD POWER TOGETHER.

A photograph of a museum interior. On the left, a large white sign with a gold border reads "GEORGIA JUSTICE PROJECT" in a serif font, with horizontal lines separating the words. The sign is mounted on a light-colored wall. In the background, to the right, there is a display case with several shelves containing various artifacts, including what appear to be masks and small objects. The lighting is soft and focused on the sign and the display case.

GEORGIA JUSTICE PROJECT

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME
QUESTIONS?

438 Edgewood Ave. SE
Atlanta, GA 30312
www.GJP.org

 [@GAJustice](https://twitter.com/GAJustice)
 [@GeorgiaJusticeProject](https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaJusticeProject)
 [@GAJusticeProject](https://www.instagram.com/GAJusticeProject)