## **Table of Contents**

## CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

8 1:1	Revision of the law of evidence in Georgia
§ 1:2	Evidence—Generally—O.C.G.A. §§ 24-1-1 and 24-1-2

- § 1:3 Positive and negative evidence
- § 1:4 Burden of proof
- § 1:5 Preponderance of the evidence
- § 1:6 Clear evidence
- § 1:7 Clear and convincing evidence
- § 1:8 Reasonable doubt
- § 1:9 Presumption of innocence
- § 1:10 Corpus delicti
- § 1:11 Motion to suppress based on Fourth Amendment
- § 1:12 Motion for a *Jackson v. Denno* hearing on confessions and admissions
- § 1:13 Stipulations
- § 1:14 Statutory reciprocal discovery
- § 1:15 Brady v. Maryland discovery
- § 1:16 Real evidence
- § 1:17 Jury view of scene and objects not viewed in court
- § 1:18 Cumulative evidence
- § 1:19 Demonstrative evidence
- § 1:20 Chain of custody
- § 1:21 Rulings on evidence—O.C.G.A. § 24-1-103(a)–(c)
- § 1:22 Plain error—O.C.G.A. § 24-1-103(d)
- § 1:23 Preliminary considerations—O.C.G.A. § 24-1-104, admission of evidence
- § 1:24 Limited admissibility—O.C.G.A. § 24-1-105
- § 1:25 Order of proof
- § 1:26 Remainder of or related writings or recorded statements; "rule of completeness"—O.C.G.A. § 24-1-106
- § 1:27 Examination of witnesses
- § 1:28 Confrontation—Physical confrontation of witnesses
- § 1:29 —Cross-examination
- § 1:30 —Unavailable witnesses; "testimonial" statements
- § 1:31 —Expert witnesses and scientific testing
- § 1:32 —Exceptions
- § 1:33 Redirect and recross examination
- § 1:34 Rebuttal and recalling witnesses
- § 1:35 Reopening the case
- § 1:36 Motions in limine

#### GEORGIA HANDBOOK ON CRIMINAL EVIDENCE

§ 1:37	Objections
§ 1:38	Motions to strike
§ 1:39	Curative instruction and mistrial
§ 1:40	Harmless error
§ 1:41	Weight and sufficiency; corroboration
§ 1:42	General requirements of proof
§ 1:43	Variance—General
§ 1:44	Variances in the description, value, or ownership of
	property stolen, damaged, or entered
§ 1:45	Variances in persons named in the indictment
§ 1:46	Variances in crime charged in cases related to theft
§ 1:47	Variances in crime charged in non-theft cases
§ 1:48	Variance in name or nature of substance in drug cases
§ 1:49	Variance in description of sexual offenses

#### **CHAPTER 2. JUDICIAL NOTICE**

- $\$  2:1 General—O.C.G.A.  $\$  24-2-201
- § 2:2 Facts of common knowledge
- § 2:3 Law—O.C.G.A. §§ 24-2-220 and 24-2-221
- § 2:4 Jury

## CHAPTER 3. PRESUMPTIONS AND INFERENCES

ions and
cific offenses
ntraband

#### CHAPTER 4. RELEVANT EVIDENCE

§ 4:1 Definition—O.C.G.A. § 24-4-401 § 4:2 Admissibility of relevant evidence—O.C.G.A. § 24-4-402 § 4:3 Exclusion of relevant evidence on grounds of prejudice, confusion or waste of time—O.C.G.A. § 24-4-403 § 4:4 Inflammatory evidence § 4:5 Circumstantial evidence § 4:6 Miscellaneous examples relating to circumstantial evidence § 4:7 —Intent § 4:8 -Motive -State of mind § 4:9 § 4:10 -Sexual pictures and paraphernalia § 4:11 —Gang membership —Conduct at time of arrest or in prison § 4:12 § 4:13 —Conduct suggesting guilt § 4:14 —Interference with evidence, witnesses, or jurors —Syndrome evidence § 4:15 —Victim behavior § 4:16 —Reasonable inferences § 4:17 § 4:18 Sympathy § 4:19 Victim impact statements § 4:20 Profile of defendants who commit a specific crime § 4:21 Possession of contraband with intent to distribute § 4:22 History of the charges § 4:23 Failure to produce evidence § 4:24 Evidence of third party guilt § 4:25 View of scene § 4:26 Action of dogs § 4:27 Third party confessions Evidence generated by artificial intelligence § 4:28 § 4:29 Character of the accused—O.C.G.A. § 24-4-404(a)(1) Defendant's character—Generally § 4:30 —"Opening the door" by claiming good character § 4:31 —Establishing defendant's good character—O.C.G.A. § 4:32 § 24-4-405 § 4:33 —Attacking defendant's good character Character of victim, generally; O.C.G.A. § 4:34 § 24-4-404(a)(2) § 4:35 Victim's character for reputation or violence Character of witness—O.C.G.A. § 24-4-404(a)(3) § 4:36 § 4:37 Other crimes or acts evidence—O.C.G.A. § 24-4-404(b)—Background § 4:38 — Relevance

```
§ 4:39
        — Probative value
§ 4:40
        ——Prejudicial effect
§ 4:41
        — Notice and timing of hearing; findings of fact
§ 4:42
        — —Proof at trial
§ 4:43
        ——Purposes for which it may be offered
        — — — Absence of mistake or accident
§ 4:44
§ 4:45
        ———Bent of mind; course of conduct
        ———"Doctrine of chances"
§ 4:46
        — — — Identity; modus operandi
§ 4:47
§ 4:48
        — — —Impeachment
        --Intent
§ 4:49
§ 4:50
        — — —Knowledge
        — — — Miscellaneous
§ 4:51
        — — — Motive
§ 4:52
        --Opportunity
§ 4:53
        ———Plan or preparation
§ 4:54
        —Sex crimes, child molestation: O.C.G.A. §§ 24-4-413
§ 4:55
         and 24-4-414
        —DUI cases: O.C.G.A. § 24-4-417
§ 4:56
        -Gangs: O.C.G.A. § 24-4-418
§ 4:57
§ 4:58
        —Insanity
§ 4:59
        —Defendant's use of Rule 404(b) evidence
        —Bad acts—Specific threats and violent conduct of
§ 4:60
         victim against defendant ("prior difficulties")
§ 4:61
            -Specific threats and violent conduct of victim
         against third persons
        ----Specific threats and violent conduct of defendant
§ 4:62
         against victim ("prior difficulties")
        ——Specific threats and violent conduct of defendant
§ 4:63
         against or in presence of third persons
            -Specific threats and violent conduct of third
§ 4:64
         persons against or in the presence of victim
§ 4:65
            -Specific threats and violent conduct of third
         persons against or within knowledge of defendant
§ 4:66
            -General threats and prior conduct of defendant
         against persons not named
§ 4:67
        — —Boasts and plans of defendant
§ 4:68
        Habit—O.C.G.A. § 24-4-406
§ 4:69
        Subsequent remedial measures—O.C.G.A. § 24-4-407
        Compromise and offers to compromise—O.C.G.A.
§ 4:70
         § 24-4-408
§ 4:71
        Payment of medical and similar expenses—O.C.G.A.
         § 24-4-409
§ 4:72
        Admissibility of pleas, plea discussions, and related
         statements—O.C.G.A. § 24-4-410
```

TABLE OF	F CONTENTS	
§ 4:73	Intrinsic evidence (formerly res gestae)—Inextricably intertwined doctrine	
§ 4:74	Rape shield—O.C.G.A. § 24-4-412	
§ 4:75	Comparable materials in obscenity cases	
§ 4:76	Sentence	
§ 4:77	Aggravating and mitigating factors in sentencing phase of a death case	
§ 4:78	Parol evidence	
CHAPTER 5. PRIVILEGES AND		
CON.	FIDENTIAL INFORMATION	
§ 5:1	General—O.C.G.A. § 24-5-501	

§ 5:1	General—O.C.G.A. § 24-5-501
§ 5:2	Spousal privilege—O.C.G.A. §§ 24-5-503 and 24-5-509
§ 5:3	Attorney and client—O.C.G.A. § 24-5-501(a)(2)
§ 5:4	Crime—Fraud exception
§ 5:5	Mental health privileges
§ 5:6	Medical information of physician, health care facility or pharmacist
§ 5:7	Confidentiality of raw research data
§ 5:8	Certified public accountant and client—O.C.G.A. § 24-5-501 (a)(9)
§ 5:9	Clergy privilege—O.C.G.A. § 24-5-502
§ 5:10	Journalistic privilege—O.C.G.A. § 24-5-508
§ 5:11	Self-incrimination—O.C.G.A. §§ 24-5-505 and 24-5-506
§ 5:12	—Incriminating acts—Ga. Const. 1983, Art. 1, Sec. 1, Par. XVI
§ 5:13	Government privilege—O.C.G.A. §§ 24-5-501(a)(4) and 24-5-505(c)
§ 5:14	AIDS
§ 5:15	Mediation directed by a court
§ 5:16	Juvenile proceedings and records
§ 5:17	Records relating to disabled adults
§ 5:18	First offender punishment and accountability court programs
§ 5:19	Grand jurors
§ 5:20	Grant of immunity—O.C.G.A. § 24-5-507
§ 5:21	Ambassadors and consuls
§ 5:22	Court records
§ 5:23	Probation records
§ 5:24	Records of State Board of Pardons and Paroles
§ 5:25	Clinical records of mentally ill
§ 5:26	Records of institutions for drug and alcohol abuse receiving financial assistance from the federal government
§ 5:27	DFACS records

- § 5:28 Police investigatory files
- § 5:29 Police surveillance privilege
- § 5:30 Communications between law enforcement officers and peer counselors—O.C.G.A. § 24-5-510

#### CHAPTER 6. WITNESSES

- § 6:1 General rule of competency—O.C.G.A. § 24-6-601
- § 6:2 General considerations relating to witnesses
- § 6:3 Access to
- § 6:4 Interference with
- § 6:5 Oath—O.C.G.A. § 24-6-603(a)
- § 6:6 Interpreters—O.C.G.A. §§ 24-6-604 and 24-6-650
- § 6:7 Order of interrogation and presentation—O.C.G.A. § 24-6-611
- § 6:8 Calling and questioning witnesses by the court— O.C.G.A. § 24-6-614
- § 6:9 Sequestration of witnesses—"Invoking the rule"— O.C.G.A. § 24-6-615
- § 6:10 Perjury
- § 6:11 Writing used to refresh memory—O.C.G.A. § 24-6-612
- § 6:12 Competency of judge as witness—O.C.G.A. § 24-6-605
- § 6:13 Competency of counsel as a witness
- § 6:14 Competency of juror as witness—O.C.G.A. § 24-6-606
- § 6:15 Statements made by children—O.C.G.A. § 24-6-603(b)
- § 6:16 Reluctant witnesses and incrimination
- § 6:17 Impeachment generally—O.C.G.A. § 24-6-607
- § 6:18 Impeachment—By contradiction or disproving facts— O.C.G.A. § 24-6-621
- § 6:19 —Prior inconsistent statements—O.C.G.A. § 24-6-613
- $\$  6:20 —Rehabilitation—Prior consistent statements— O.C.G.A.  $\$  24-6-613(c)
- § 6:21 —Bias, interest or corruption—O.C.G.A. §§ 24-6-620 and 24-6-622
- § 6:22 —Bad character generally—O.C.G.A. § 24-6-608
- § 6:24 —Incapacity
- § 6:25 —Lack of knowledge—O.C.G.A. § 24-6-602
- § 6:26 —Absence of religious beliefs—O.C.G.A. § 24-6-610
- § 6:27 —Prior statement of defendant
- § 6:28 Continuing witness rule
- § 6:29 General considerations on presenting evidence by the defense
- § 6:30 The defendant as a witness
- § 6:31 Perjury of the defendant

#### Table of Contents

- § 6:32 Immunity for state's witnesses
- § 6:33 Immunity for defense witness
- § 6:34 Who is an accomplice?
- § 6:35 Weight of accomplice's testimony
- § 6:36 Calling a co-defendant
- § 6:37 Witness lists

## CHAPTER 7. OPINIONS AND EXPERT TESTIMONY

- § 7:1 Opinion testimony by lay witnesses—Generally— O.C.G.A. § 24-7-701
- § 7:2 Lay witnesses—Shorthand rendition of facts
- § 7:3 —Condition of defendant or victim
- § 7:4 —Identification of substances
- § 7:5 —Value
- § 7:6 —Testimony of speed
- § 7:7 —Testimony as to obscenity
- § 7:8 Identification of defendant by eyewitnesses: out-ofcourt identification
- § 7:9 Opinion evidence as to credibility; bolstering
- § 7:10 Testimony of experts—Generally; O.C.G.A. §§ 24-7-702
- § 7:11 —Relevance
- § 7:12 —Reliability
- § 7:13 —Qualifications of experts
- § 7:14 *Harper* vs. *Daubert*: A comparison
- § 7:15 Statistics and expert testimony
- § 7:16 Bases of opinion testimony by experts—O.C.G.A. § 24-7-703
- § 7:17 Tests of intoxication—General; field sobriety evaluations
- § 7:18 —Implied consent: O.C.G.A. § 40-5-55
- § 7:19 —Unconsciousness or serious injury—Consent: O.C.G.A. § 40-5-55
- § 7:20 —Warnings and general procedures for obtaining and admitting chemical tests—O.C.G.A. § 40-6-392
- § 7:21 —Timing of warnings
- § 7:22 —Timing of obtaining breath, blood, urine, or other bodily substances
- § 7:23 —Defendant's right to request independent test
- § 7:24 —Refusal to submit to a chemical test; withdrawal of refusal
- § 7:25 —Qualifications of person drawing blood
- § 7:26 —Methods to be used in testing blood and urine
- § 7:27 —Inferences

§ 7:28 —Requirements for admission of test results obtained from Intoxilyzer —Limits on the use of chemical test results § 7:29 § 7:30 Crime lab reports § 7:31 Blood analysis § 7:32 Identification—Fingerprints, handprints, and footprints —DNA analysis § 7:33 § 7:34 -DNA records § 7:35 —Neutron activation analysis § 7:36 —Other means § 7:37 Firearms and ballistics § 7:38 Experiments § 7:39 Speed detection tests—Radar and license plate reader § 7:40 —Laser § 7:41 Truth tests—Polygraph § 7:42 —Hypnosis and memory restoration § 7:43 —Truth drugs § 7:44 —Psychological stress evaluation § 7:45 Gang membership § 7:46 Opinion on ultimate issue: O.C.G.A. § 24-7-704(a) Opinion on defendant's mental state or condition: § 7:47 O.C.G.A. § 24-7-704(b) § 7:48 Disclosure of facts or data underlying expert opinion—

#### CHAPTER 8. HEARSAY

O.C.G.A. § 24-7-705

## I. DEFINITIONS; EXAMPLES OF HEARSAY AND NON-HEARSAY

Court appointed experts: O.C.G.A. § 24-7-706

Definitions—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-801(a), (b), and (c) § 8:2 Implicit hearsay § 8:3 Prior statements by witness or declarant: hearsay considerations; O.C.G.A. § 24-8-801(d)(1) Admissions by party opponent—O.C.G.A. §§ 24-8-§ 8:4 801(d)(2)(A), 24-8-821, 24-8-822, 24-8-823 § 8:5 —Adoptive admissions: O.C.G.A. § 24-8-801(d)(2)(B) § 8:6 —Agent admissions: O.C.G.A. § 24-8-801(d)(2)(C), (D) § 8:7 —Co-conspirator statements: O.C.G.A. § 24-8-801(d)(2)(E) § 8:8 -Bruton § 8:9 Confessions: O.C.G.A. §§ 24-8-823, 24-8-824, 24-8-825

#### II. THE HEARSAY RULE

§ 8:10 Hearsay rule, objection required—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-802

§ 7:49

# III. HEARSAY EXCEPTIONS IN WHICH THE AVAILABILITY OF DECLARANT IS IMMATERIAL

§ 8:11	Present sense impression exception—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-803(1)
§ 8:12	Excited utterance exception—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-803(2)
§ 8:13	To explain conduct, generally
§ 8:14	To explain conduct of police
§ 8:15	Then existing mental, emotional, or physical condition exception—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-803(3)
§ 8:16	Statements for purposes of medical diagnosis or treatment exception—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-803(4)
§ 8:17	Recorded recollection exception—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-803(5)
§ 8:18	Records of regularly conducted activity—Business records exception—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-803(6)
§ 8:19	Records held not admissible under business records exception
§ 8:20	Certificate of lab results involving controlled substances
§ 8:21	Hospital records
§ 8:22	Absence of entry in records kept in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 24-8-803(7); O.C.G.A. § 24-8-803(10)
§ 8:23	Public records and reports exception—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-803(8)
§ 8:24	Records of vital statistics exception—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-803(9)
§ 8:25	Records of religious organizations exception—O.C.G.A § 24-8-803(11)
§ 8:26	Statements of fact contained in marriage, baptismal and similar certificates exception—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-803(12)
§ 8:27	Statements of fact contained in family records exception—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-803(13)
§ 8:28	Records of documents affecting an interest in property exception—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-803(14)
§ 8:29	Statements in documents affecting an interest in property—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-803(15)
§ 8:30	Statements in ancient documents—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-803(16)
§ 8:31	Market reports, commercial publications exception—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-803(17)
§ 8:32	Learned treatises exception—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-803(18)
§ 8:33	Reputation among family members concerning personal or family history exception—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-803(19)

- § 8:34 Reputation concerning boundaries or general history exception—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-803(20)
- § 8:35 Reputation or character exception—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-803(21)
- § 8:36 Previous conviction exception—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-803(22)
- § 8:37 Judgment as to personal, family, or general history or boundaries exception—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-803(23)
- § 8:38 Statements made by children—Child hearsay— O.C.G.A. § 24-8-820
- § 8:39 Hearsay—Various non-jury hearings

## IV. HEARSAY EXCEPTIONS WHERE DECLARANT IS UNAVAILABLE

- § 8:40 Definition of unavailable—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-804(a)
- § 8:41 Former testimony exception—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-804(b)(1)
- § 8:42 Dying declaration exception—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-804(b)(2)
- \$ 8:43 Statement against interest exception—O.C.G.A. \$ 24-8-804(b)(3)
- § 8:44 Statement of personal or family history exception—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-804(b)(4)
- § 8:45 Forfeiture by wrong doing exception—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-804(b)(5)
- § 8:46 Hearsay within hearsay—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-805
- § 8:47 Attacking and supporting credibility of declarant—O.C.G.A. § 24-8-806
- § 8:48 Residual exception (formerly necessity exception)— O.C.G.A. § 24-8-807

#### CHAPTER 9. REQUIREMENT OF AUTHENTICATION OR IDENTIFICATION

- § 9:1 General—O.C.G.A. § 24-9-901
- § 9:2 Testimony of witness with knowledge—O.C.G.A. § 24-9-901(b)(1)
- § 9:3 Nonexpert opinion on handwriting—O.C.G.A. § 24-9-901(b)(2)
- § 9:4 Comparison by trier or expert—O.C.G.A. § 24-9-901(b)(3)
- § 9:5 Distinctive characteristics—O.C.G.A. § 24-9-901(b)(4)
- § 9:6 Voice identification—O.C.G.A. § 24-9-901(b)(5)
- § 9:7 Telephone conversations—O.C.G.A. § 24-9-901(b)(6)
- § 9:8 Public records or reports—O.C.G.A. § 24-9-901(b)(7)
- § 9:9 Records of Department of Corrections
- \$9:10 Ancient documents or data compilation—O.C.G.A. \$24-9-901(b)(8)

#### Table of Contents

§ 9:11	Process or system—O.C.G.A. § 24-9-901(b)(9)
§ 9:12	Method provided by statute or rule—O.C.G.A.
	§ 24-9-901(b)(10)
§ 9:13	Medical records
§ 9:14	Automatic recordings; cases where the witness is unavailable—O.C.G.A. § 24-9-923
§ 9:15	Photographs, motion pictures, and video—O.C.G.A. § 24-9-901
§ 9:16	Audio recordings
§ 9:17	Eavesdropping and surveillance
§ 9:18	Maps, drawings and plats
§ 9:19	General authentication and admissibility of
	documents, emails, text messages, web pages, and records
§ 9:20	Domestic public documents under seal—O.C.G.A. §§ 24-9-902(1) and 24-9-920
§ 9:21	Domestic public documents not under seal—O.C.G.A. § 24-9-902(2)
§ 9:22	Foreign public documents—O.C.G.A. § 24-9-902(3)
§ 9:23	Certified copies of public records—O.C.G.A. § 24-9-902(4)
§ 9:24	Official publications—O.C.G.A. § 24-9-902(5)
§ 9:25	Newspapers and periodicals—O.C.G.A. § 24-9-902(6)
§ 9:26	Trade inscriptions and the like—O.C.G.A. § 24-9-902(7)
§ 9:27	Acknowledged documents—O.C.G.A. § 24-9-902(8)
§ 9:28	Commercial paper and related documents—O.C.G.A. § 24-9-902(9)
§ 9:29	Presumptions created by law—O.C.G.A. § 24-9-902(10)
§ 9:30	Certified domestic records of regularly conducted activity—O.C.G.A. § 24-9-902(11)
§ 9:31	Certified foreign records of regularly conducted activity—O.C.G.A. § 24-9-902(12)
§ 9:32	Subscribing witness's testimony unnecessary— O.C.G.A. § 24-9-903
§ 9:33	Certified records or data from electronic processes or devices—Federal Rule of Evidence 902(13), (14)
§ 9:34	Public office: officer defined—O.C.G.A. § 24-9-904
§ 9:35	Laws of other jurisdictions—O.C.G.A. § 24-9-922
§ 9:36	Public safety records—O.C.G.A. § 24-9-924
	<del>-</del>

# CHAPTER 10. CONTENTS OF WRITINGS, RECORDINGS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS

- § 10:1 Definitions—O.C.G.A. § 24-10-1001
- § 10:2 Requirement of original—O.C.G.A. § 24-10-1002
- § 10:3 Admissibility of duplicates—O.C.G.A. § 24-10-1003

#### GEORGIA HANDBOOK ON CRIMINAL EVIDENCE

Admissibility of other evidence of contents—O.C.G.A. § 10:4 § 24-10-1004 Public records—O.C.G.A. § 24-10-1005 § 10:5 § 10:6 Judgment of previous conviction § 10:7 Scientific reports § 10:8 Summaries—O.C.G.A. § 24-10-1006 § 10:9 Testimony or written admission of party—O.C.G.A. § 24-10-1007 Functions of court and jury—O.C.G.A. § 24-10-1008 § 10:10

#### **APPENDICES**

- Appendix A. Hearsay—Practical considerations and flow chart
- Appendix B. A Brief Summary of Some of the Major Differences Between Prior Georgia Law and the 2013 Evidence Code
- $\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Appendix C.} & \text{Georgia Rules of Evidence (Current as of July 1,} \\ & 2025) \end{array}$
- Appendix D. Selected Georgia Statutes Relevant to the Law of Evidence in Criminal Proceedings
- Appendix E. Federal Rules of Evidence

Table of Laws and Rules

**Table of Cases** 

**Index**