



Understanding Discovery

Discovery is the stage of a case where each party gathers information from the other. It makes sure everyone is working from the same facts, whether the case settles by agreement or goes before a judge. It is where the details that pleadings leave out come to light.

The main tools

- 1 Financial Disclosure.** Each party exchanges a sworn financial affidavit and supporting records, such as pay stubs, tax returns, and account statements.
- 2 Interrogatories.** Written questions the other party must answer in writing, under oath.
- 3 Requests for Production.** Requests for documents and records, such as bank statements, emails, text messages, or photos.
- 4 Requests for Admission.** Statements the other party must admit or deny. Requests left unanswered can be treated as admitted.
- 5 Depositions.** Questioning under oath, in person or by video, recorded word for word by a court reporter.
- 6 Subpoenas.** Requests for records from people or businesses outside the case, such as banks or employers.

How timing works

Response Deadlines. Written requests are generally due 30 days after they are served.

Discovery Period. Georgia generally allows six months for discovery, which begins on the date the Defendant is served. The court can extend this period.

Updates. If information changes, responses must be updated.

Missed Deadlines. The court can order a party to respond and may impose penalties.

What to keep in mind

Discovery is a normal part of the process. It is not a punishment or a sign that anything is wrong.

We cannot complete discovery without your cooperation. Your prompt help keeps your case moving.

Honesty is required. Responses are given under oath, and hiding information can seriously damage your case.

Do not delete anything. Texts, emails, social media, and financial records must be preserved.

More is not always better. We tailor requests to what your case actually needs.

This guide provides general information about discovery in Georgia family law matters and is not legal advice about your specific case. Your attorney will explain how discovery applies to your situation.

YOUR ROLE

Send requested documents by the deadline we give you, review draft responses carefully before signing, and let us know right away if anything changes.

QUESTIONS?

As always, all questions and requests should be directed to the team via email to team@pepitone.law.