



Emergency Hearings

An emergency hearing is reserved for true emergencies, such as an immediate risk of harm to a child or a situation that cannot wait for a regularly scheduled hearing. Courts take these requests seriously and apply a high standard before granting them.

How it works

- 1 Assessment.** The filing party's attorney reviews the facts to decide whether the situation truly qualifies as an emergency.
- 2 Emergency Motion.** A motion is filed explaining the emergency, supported by a sworn statement and any evidence.
- 3 Judge Review.** The judge decides whether to hear it quickly. In limited cases, a short order may be entered before the other party is heard.
- 4 Prompt Hearing.** When an order is entered without the other party, a hearing generally follows quickly so both sides can be heard.
- 5 The Ruling.** The judge may grant, deny, or modify the request, and the case then continues on its normal path.

What may qualify

Safety Risks. Abuse, threats, or dangerous conditions for a child.

Abduction Risk. A real risk that a child will be hidden or taken out of state.

Serious Neglect. A child's basic needs or medical care are not being met.

Irreparable Harm. Loss that cannot be undone later, such as assets being hidden or destroyed.

What to keep in mind

Disagreements about schedules, communication, or parenting styles usually are not emergencies.

A request that is not a true emergency may be denied and can hurt credibility with the judge.

Documentation matters on both sides. Save photos, messages, and any police or medical reports.

If you are served with an emergency motion, send it to us immediately. Hearings can be set within days.

If anyone is in immediate danger, call 911 first.

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

YOUR ROLE

Give us the facts accurately and quickly, send any supporting documents right away, and be available on short notice for the hearing.

QUESTIONS?

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