

Senate Bill 116

By: Senators Hamrick of the 30th, Clay of the 37th, Mullis of the 53rd and Smith of the 52nd

**AS PASSED**

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT**

To amend Article 1 of Chapter 11 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to juvenile proceedings, so as to provide for the regulation of discovery and inspection in juvenile cases; to provide for conditions, limitations, and procedures with respect thereto; to provide for applicability; to provide for disclosure of evidence and reciprocal discovery; to provide for exceptions; to provide for continuing duties to disclose; to provide for production of statements of witnesses; to provide for court orders with respect to failure to comply; to provide for other matters relative to the foregoing; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

**SECTION 1.**

Article 1 of Chapter 11 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to juvenile proceedings, is amended by adding a new Part 7A following Part 7 to read as follows:

**"Part 7A**

**15-11-75.**

(a) *Request for discovery.* In all cases in which a child is charged with having committed a delinquent act as defined in Code Section 15-11-2, the child shall, upon written request to the person or entity prosecuting the case having actual custody, control, or possession of the material to be produced, have full access to the following for inspection, copying, or photographing:

(1) A copy of the complaint;

(2) A copy of the petition;

(3) The names and last known addresses and telephone numbers of each witness to the occurrence which forms the basis of the charge;

1 (4) A copy of any written statement made by the child or any witness that relates to the  
2 subject matter concerning the testimony of the witness that the prosecuting attorney or  
3 entity prosecuting the case intends to call as a witness;

4 (5) Transcriptions, recordings, and summaries of any oral statement of the child or of any  
5 witness, except the product of counsel;

6 (6) Any scientific or other report which is intended to be introduced at the hearing or that  
7 pertains to physical evidence which is intended to be introduced;

8 (7) Photographs and any physical evidence which are intended to be introduced at the  
9 hearing; and

10 (8) Copies of the police incident report and supplemental report, if any, regarding the  
11 occurrence which forms the basis of the charge.

12 (b) *Reciprocal discovery*. If the child requests disclosure of information pursuant to  
13 subsection (a) of this Code section, it shall be the duty of the child to promptly make the  
14 following available for inspection, copying, or photographing to the prosecuting attorney  
15 or the entity prosecuting the case:

16 (1) The names and last known addresses and telephone numbers of each witness to the  
17 occurrence which forms the basis of the defense;

18 (2) Any scientific or other report which is intended to be introduced at the hearing or that  
19 pertains to physical evidence which is intended to be introduced;

20 (3) Photographs and any physical evidence which are intended to be introduced at the  
21 hearing; and

22 (4) A copy of any written statement made by any witness that relates to the subject  
23 matter concerning the testimony of the witness that the child intends to call as a witness.

24 (c) *Timing of response to discovery*. A request for discovery or reciprocal discovery shall  
25 be complied with promptly and not later than 48 hours prior to the adjudicatory hearing  
26 except when later compliance is made necessary by the timing of the request. If the request  
27 for discovery is made fewer than 48 hours prior to the adjudicatory hearing, the discovery  
28 response shall be produced in a timely manner. If, subsequent to providing a discovery  
29 response in compliance with this Code section, the existence of additional evidence is  
30 found, it shall be promptly provided to the person or child making the discovery request.

31 (d) *Alibi*. (1) Upon written request by the prosecuting attorney or entity prosecuting the  
32 case stating the time, date, and place at which the alleged delinquent act was committed,  
33 the child shall serve upon the prosecuting attorney or entity prosecuting the case a written  
34 notice of the child's intention to offer a defense of alibi. Such notice by the child shall  
35 state the specific place or places at which the child claims to have been at the time of the  
36 alleged delinquent act and the names, addresses, dates of birth, and telephone numbers  
37 of the witnesses, if known to the child, upon whom the child intends to rely to establish

1 such alibi unless previously supplied. A request for alibi evidence shall be complied with  
2 promptly and not later than 48 hours prior to the adjudicatory hearing except when later  
3 compliance is made necessary by the timing of the request. If the request for alibi  
4 evidence is made fewer than 48 hours prior to the adjudicatory hearing, the alibi evidence  
5 shall be produced in a timely manner. If the defendant withdraws the notice of intention  
6 to rely upon an alibi defense, the notice and intention to rely upon an alibi defense are not  
7 admissible. However the prosecuting attorney or entity prosecuting the case may offer  
8 any other evidence regarding alibi.

9 (2) The prosecuting attorney or entity prosecuting the case shall serve upon the child a  
10 written notice stating the names, addresses, dates of birth, and telephone numbers of the  
11 witnesses, if known to the state, upon whom the state intends to rely to rebut the child's  
12 evidence of alibi unless previously supplied.

13 (e) *Order granting discovery; limitations; sanctions.* If a request for discovery is refused,  
14 application may be made to the court for a written order granting discovery. Motions for  
15 discovery shall certify that a request for discovery was made and was refused. An order  
16 granting discovery shall require reciprocal discovery. Notwithstanding the provisions of  
17 subsection (a) of this Code section, the court may deny, in whole or in part, or otherwise  
18 limit or set conditions concerning the discovery response upon a sufficient showing by a  
19 person or entity to whom a request for discovery is made that disclosure of the information  
20 would:

- 21 (1) Jeopardize the safety of a party, witness, or confidential informant;
- 22 (2) Create a substantial threat of physical or economic harm to a witness or other person;
- 23 (3) Endanger the existence of physical evidence;
- 24 (4) Disclose privileged information; or
- 25 (5) Impede the criminal prosecution of a minor who is being prosecuted as an adult or  
26 the prosecution of an adult charged with an offense arising from the same transaction or  
27 occurrence.

28 (f) *Failure to comply.* If at any time during the course of the proceedings it is brought to  
29 the attention of the court that a person or entity has failed to comply with an order issued  
30 pursuant to this Code section, the court may grant a continuance, prohibit the party from  
31 introducing in evidence the information not disclosed, or enter such other order as the court  
32 deems just under the circumstances.

33 (g) *Court discretion.* Nothing contained in this Code section shall prohibit the court from  
34 ordering the disclosure of any information that the court deems necessary and appropriate  
35 for proper adjudication.

36 (h) *Confidentiality of discovery responses.* Any material or information furnished to the  
37 child pursuant to this part shall remain in the exclusive custody of the child and shall only

1 be used during the pendency of the case and shall be subject to such other terms and  
2 conditions as the court may provide.

3 (i) *Danger of proceeding pro se*. If a child proceeds pro se, the court shall instruct the  
4 child concerning the danger of proceeding pro se and his or her rights under this Code  
5 section."

6 **SECTION 2.**

7 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2003, and shall apply to all cases in which a  
8 petition is filed on or after that date.

9 **SECTION 3.**

10 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.