

NOV 25 2025

Rebecca G. Crowe
Clerk of Courts
Bryan County, Georgia

IN THE STATE COURT OF BRYAN COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: STANDING ORDER §
REGARDING USE OF GENERATIVE §
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND § STANDING ORDER NO. 2025-4
CERTIFICATION OF CITATIONS IN §
BRIEFS AND PROPOSED ORDERS §

ORDER

This Standing Order governs the use of generative artificial intelligence tools in the preparation of all briefs, proposed orders, and other written submissions filed in this Court's criminal and civil dockets, and it applies to all attorneys, parties, and *pro se* litigants. A copy of this Standing Order shall be distributed by the Clerk of Court to all parties upon the initiation of any civil or criminal action.

Definitions:

For purposes of this Order, "Generative Artificial Intelligence" (hereinafter "Generative AI") means software applications that use large language models, machine learning, or similar technologies to generate substantive text, legal arguments, case summaries, factual narratives, or legal research outputs in response to user prompts. Generative AI includes, but is not limited to, tools such as ChatGPT, Claude, Google Gemini, Microsoft Copilot (when used for text generation), and similar applications marketed or used for drafting legal content or conducting legal research beyond traditional database queries.

"Generative AI" specifically INCLUDES AI-assisted legal research platforms that generate synthesized answers, draft language, or analytical summaries, including but not limited to:

- Westlaw's Co-Counsel, AI-Assisted Research, or similar AI-enabled features;

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- Lexis+AI or similar AI-enabled features within LexisNexis products;
- Casetext's CoCounsel;
- Thomson Reuters's AI-assisted research tools;
- Any similar AI-enabled features integrated into legal research platforms that generate text, summarize cases, or draft legal analysis rather than merely returning database search results.

'Generative AI' does NOT include:

- Spell-check, grammar-check, or style-checking features embedded in word processing software (e.g., Microsoft Word Editor, Grammarly);
- Citation formatting or verification tools that confirm the accuracy of citations without generating legal analysis (e.g., Westlaw's KeyCite, Lexis Nexis's Shepard's Citations);
- Traditional legal research database functions that return search results based on Boolean or natural language queries but do not generate original text or synthesize legal arguments (e.g., standard database searching in Westlaw, Lexis Nexis, Fastcase);
- Document assembly software that populates form templates with user-provided information;
- Transcription services or voice-to-text applications.

Certification:

Any attorney or party proceeding without an attorney (hereinafter "*pro se* litigant") who uses Generative AI *in any capacity* to prepare, draft, conduct legal research for, or review a filing shall disclose such use in the document with the following certification:

This document was generated with the assistance of Generative Artificial Intelligence [identify specific AI tool(s) used, e.g., ChatGPT-4, Claude, Westlaw Co-Counsel, Lexis+AI, etc.].

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that, despite reliance on Generative AI, I have independently reviewed this document to confirm accuracy, legitimacy, and use of good and applicable law.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that every citation to law, case, statute, or the record in this document has been verified as accurate and that it exists as cited and for the proposition cited.

The above certification must appear at the end of the document before the signature block.

Compliance:

Failure to comply with this Order may result in the Court taking appropriate action, including without limitation, striking the filing, imposing sanctions, or disciplinary referral. Mistake, lack of technical expertise, or time constraints will not be accepted as good faith excuses for noncompliance. The use of Generative AI does not relieve any attorney or *pro se* litigant of their ethical obligations and/or professional obligations such as Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 and 3.1.

This Order is effective immediately and applies to all filings submitted after the date of entry for all matters in the State Court of Bryan County.

SO ORDERED, this 25th day of November, 2025.



HON. BILLY E. TOMLINSON
Judge, State Court of Bryan County
State of Georgia

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STATE COURT OF BRYAN COUNTY

PLAIN-LANGUAGE GUIDE FOR PARTIES: Understanding the Court's Rules About Artificial Intelligence (AI)

What is this about?

The Court has rules about using Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools when you prepare documents to file with the Court. This guide explains those rules in simple terms.

Do these rules apply to me?

YES. These rules apply to:

- Attorneys
- Anyone representing themselves without a lawyer (called “*pro se*” or self-represented litigants)
- Any party filing documents with this Court

What is “Generative AI”?

Generative AI means computer programs that write text for you, answer questions by creating new content, or help you research the law by writing summaries or explanations.

Common examples of Generative AI that ARE covered by this Order are, which include both paid and free versions:

- **ChatGPT**
- **Claude**
- **Google Gemini** (formerly called Bard)
- **Microsoft Copilot** (when it writes text for you)
- **Westlaw Co-Counsel** (the AI feature in Westlaw)
- **Lexis+AI** (the AI feature in LexisNexis)

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- **Casetext CoCounsel**
- Any similar tool that writes legal documents, creates summaries of cases, or drafts arguments for you

What is NOT considered “Generative AI” under this Order:

You do **NOT** need to tell the Court if you only use:

- **Spell-check or grammar-check** in Microsoft Word, Google Docs, or Grammarly
- **Citation checkers** like KeyCite (Westlaw) or Shepard's (Lexis) that just verify your citations are correct
- **Traditional legal research databases** when you search for cases yourself (like searching Westlaw, Lexis, Fastcase, or Google Scholar)
- **Form templates** that you fill in with your own information
- **Voice-to-text** or transcription services

What do I have to do if I use Generative AI?

If you use any Generative AI tool to help you write, research, or prepare any document you plan to file with the Court, you **MUST**:

1. **Tell the Court** by including a special statement (called a “certification”) at the end of your document
2. **Name the specific AI tool** you used
3. **Verify everything** the AI wrote is accurate and cites real cases that actually say what you claim they say

What does the certification look like?

Add this statement at the end of your document, right before you sign it:

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This document was generated with the assistance of Generative Artificial Intelligence [name the tool you used, such as “ChatGPT-4” or “Westlaw Co-Counsel”].

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that, despite reliance on Generative AI, I have independently reviewed this document to confirm accuracy, legitimacy, and use of good and applicable law.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that every citation to law, case, statute, or the record in this document has been verified as accurate and that it exists as cited and for the proposition cited.

Important warnings:

AI makes mistakes! AI tools sometimes:

- **Make up fake cases** that don’t exist (called “hallucinations”)
- **Misquote** real cases
- **Get the law wrong**
- **Cite cases that don’t say what the AI claims they say**

You are responsible!

- Just because AI wrote something doesn’t mean it’s correct
- **YOU must check everything** the AI produces
- **YOU must verify every case** the AI cites actually exists and says what you claim
- The Court will **NOT** accept “the AI made a mistake” as an excuse

What happens if I don't follow these rules?

If you use AI but don’t include the required certification, the Court may:

- **Strike (reject) your filing**

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- **Impose monetary sanctions** (fines)
- **Refer attorneys to the State Bar** for discipline
- Take other appropriate action

The Court will **NOT** accept these excuses:

- “I didn't know about this rule”
- “I’m not good with technology”
- “I didn't have time to check everything”

Examples to help you understand:

EXAMPLE 1: You MUST certify

Situation: You ask ChatGPT to “write a motion to dismiss my case” and it creates a draft motion for you. You edit it and file it.

What you must do: Include the certification stating you used ChatGPT.

EXAMPLE 2: You MUST certify

Situation: You use Westlaw Co-Counsel and ask it “What does Georgia law say about evictions?” and it writes a summary that you copy into your brief.

What you must do: Include the certification stating you used Westlaw Co-Counsel.

EXAMPLE 3: You do NOT need to certify

Situation: You write your own motion, then use Microsoft Word’s spell-check and grammar-check to fix errors.

What you must do: Nothing. Spell-check is not Generative AI under this Order.

EXAMPLE 4: You do NOT need to certify

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Situation: You search Westlaw using regular search terms, read the cases yourself, and write your own brief based on what you read.

What you must do: Nothing. Traditional legal research database searching is not Generative AI under this Order.

EXAMPLE 5: You MUST certify

Situation: You use Claude to help you research whether you have a good defense, and it suggests several cases. You read those cases yourself and write your own motion citing them.

What you must do: Include the certification stating you used Claude for legal research.

Questions?

If you're unsure whether a tool you used counts as "Generative AI," **it's safer to include the certification.**

If you have questions not discussed in this handout, review the Court's Standing Order carefully. Court staff cannot give you legal advice, but they can provide you with a copy of the full Standing Order.

Summary checklist:

Before filing any document with this Court, ask yourself:

- ☐ Did I use ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, or similar AI tools to write any part of this?
- ☐ Did I use Westlaw Co-Counsel, Lexis+AI, or similar AI research tools?
- ☐ Did I use any AI tool to help me research the law or find cases?

If you answered YES to any question above:

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- ☐ I included the required certification at the end of my document
- ☐ I named the specific AI tool I used
- ☐ I personally verified every case citation is real and accurate
- ☐ I personally verified every case says what I claim it says

If you answered NO to all questions above:

- ☐ I did not use Generative AI, so no certification is needed

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