

# STATE COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY

---

## ***What happens to my case when it is sent to State Court?***

- Although your case has been sent (“bound over”) to the State Court of Chatham County, it could be at least one to two weeks before the State Court receives the documents from the court of inquiry (Recorder’s Court or Municipal Court).
- The State Court Clerks enter the information from the documents received into the State Court Case Management system and assign a case number.
- The charges are then reviewed by the District Attorney’s Office to determine if an accusation will be issued on the charge(s). The District Attorney’s Office must issue the accusation within two years of the offense date. A court date is not scheduled until the accusation is issued. Questions regarding the issuance of an accusation should be addressed to the District Attorney’s Office.

*(see note below with regards to certain types of traffic violations)*

- Once the District Attorney files the accusation in State Court the case is then scheduled for a court hearing (arraignment) and you are notified by subpoena of your court date. The subpoena will be mailed to the address provided on the documents received from the court of inquiry. If the information is incorrect or your address changes you must appear in person at the State Court Clerk’s Office in the Chatham County Courthouse (Room 308) and submit a change of address.

### ***What you need to do:***

- Make certain the State Court Clerk’s Office has your current mailing address.

*This information is necessary to notify you of your court date. Failure to appear at this hearing or subsequent hearings may result in a warrant being issued for your arrest, your driving privilege being suspended by your licensing state, and your bond being called and forfeited.*

- If you are not represented by attorney, decide whether or not you wish to obtain the counsel of an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney you may make application for an attorney at the Public Defender’s Office, 509 East Oglethorpe Ave., Savannah, Georgia 31401.
- Allow sufficient time for your case to be scheduled. You are able to check the status of your case at our website : [www.statecourt.org](http://www.statecourt.org), or you may come in to use the public computer terminals located in the lobby of our office (3<sup>rd</sup> floor, room 308).

Note: This office cannot accept phone calls regarding scheduling of your case.

***NOTE: Certain types of traffic violations, such as speeding and failure to stop at a stop sign, are scheduled quickly, without an accusation being issued. These charges may be paid in lieu of appearing in court. Allow 4 weeks following the date your traffic charges are sent to State Court before paying.***