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OFFICIAL OPINION

Ms. Rhonda Westbrook
Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Division Director, Georgia Crime Information Center
P.O. Box 370808
Decatur, Georgia 30037-0808

Re: *2025 Update of Crimes and Offenses for Which the Georgia Crime Information Center is Authorized to Collect and File Fingerprints*

Dear Ms. Westbrook,

You have requested in your letter of January 8, 2026, my opinion concerning whether any of the following misdemeanor offenses, some of which were enacted during the 2025 Session of the General Assembly and others which were enacted prior to that time (but for which no request for a fingerprintable designation was made), should be designated as offenses for which persons arrested or taken into custody are to be fingerprinted. Pursuant to Georgia law, I make the following designations in relation to your question.

Generally, under Georgia law, in addition to the determination of fingerprintable offenses which the General Assembly may mandate by statute, O.C.G.A. § 35-3-33(a)(1)(A)(v) provides that the Attorney General may designate any other offense as one for which those charged with violations are to be fingerprinted. *See, e.g.*, 2021 Op. Att’y Gen. 2021-1; 2020 Op. Att’y Gen. 2020-4; 2020 Op. Att’y Gen. 2020-1; 2019 Op. Att’y Gen. 2019-3; 2018 Op. Att’y Gen. 2018-3, 2017 Op. Att’y Gen. 2017-1.

The offenses under review from the 2025 Session of the General Assembly include: O.C.G.A. § 4-11-10.1(b) (transfer of domestic animals along public areas; enforcement; fines); O.C.G.A. § 6-1-4(d) (regulation of the testing or operation of unmanned aircraft system; preemption; unauthorized operation at ticketed entertainment event; penalty; exemptions); O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1181(a) (disrupting operation of public school, public school bus, or school bus stop; penalty; progressive discipline); O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1181.1(b) (terroristic threat or acts against a school; penalty); O.C.G.A. § 21-5-16 (soliciting the organization of political events on school property); O.C.G.A. § 45-11-8(a)(2) (engaging in bail bond business).

The offense under review from a prior legislative session is O.C.G.A. § 16-10-35(b) (obstructing emergency personnel with fireworks).

The first misdemeanor offense is O.C.G.A. § 4-11-10.1(b). This Code section makes it unlawful for a person to engage in the transfer of any dog, cat, or domestic rabbit at any roadside, public right of way, parkway, median, public or commercial parking lot or sidewalk, park, recreation area, fair, transient or seasonal flea market, or a similar transient market or outdoor location, regardless of whether this activity is otherwise authorized by any person or entity. I hereby designate misdemeanor offenses arising under O.C.G.A. § 4-11-10.1(b) as offenses for which those charged are to be fingerprinted.

The second misdemeanor offense is O.C.G.A. § 6-1-4(d). This Code section makes it unlawful (with some limited exceptions) for a person to operate an unmanned aircraft system within 400 feet of or above a ticketed entertainment event. I hereby designate misdemeanor offenses arising under O.C.G.A. § 6-1-4(d) as offenses for which those charged are to be fingerprinted.

The third misdemeanor offense is O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1181.1(a). This Code section makes it unlawful for a person to knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly disrupt, or interfere with the operation of any public school, public school bus, or public school bus stop as designated by local boards of education. I hereby designate misdemeanor offenses arising under O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1181.1(a) as offenses for which those charged are to be fingerprinted.

The fourth misdemeanor offense is O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1181.1(b). This Code section makes it unlawful for a person to make a terroristic threat against a school. I hereby designate misdemeanor offenses arising under O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1181.1(b) as offenses for which those charged are to be fingerprinted.

The fifth misdemeanor offense is O.C.G.A. § 21-5-16. This Code section makes it unlawful for a candidate, campaign committee, or political action committee to solicit a minor to fraudulently organize an event on the property of a local school system when the purpose of the event is influencing the nomination for election or election of any person for office, bringing about the recall of a public officer holding elective office, or the influencing of voter approval or rejection of a proposed constitutional amendment, a state-wide referendum, or a proposed question which is to appear on the ballot in this state or in a county or a municipal election in this state when the event is otherwise prohibited by law or by policy of the local school system or an individual school thereof. I hereby designate misdemeanor offenses arising under O.C.G.A. § 21-5-16 as offenses for which those charged are to be fingerprinted.

The sixth misdemeanor offense is O.C.G.A. § 45-11-8(a)(2). This Code section makes it unlawful for a member of a governing authority of a county, municipal corporation, or consolidated government to directly or indirectly engage in the bail bond business within the county, municipal corporation, or consolidated government where said member holds office. I hereby designate misdemeanor offenses arising under O.C.G.A. § 45-11-8(a)(2) as offenses for which those charged are to be fingerprinted.

The seventh misdemeanor offense is O.C.G.A. § 16-10-35(b). This Code section makes it unlawful for a person to knowingly and intentionally ignite a firework when the firework or a component thereof explodes or detonates with 150 feet of or causes injury or harm to an emergency medical technician, firefighter, or law enforcement officer for the purpose of hindering or disrupting such medical technician, firefighter, or law enforcement officer during the lawful discharge of their duties. I hereby designate misdemeanor offenses arising under O.C.G.A. § 16-10-35(b) as offenses for which those charged are to be fingerprinted.

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Issued this 24th day of March, 2026.



CHRISTOPHER M. CARR
Attorney General

Prepared by:



Elliot Meyer Dordick
Assistant Attorney General

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