

42. Definition of “Close of Court” in the Criminal and Civil Fee Schedules

The term “close of court” is used in the schedules of fees that court reporters may charge courts for contract services in criminal¹, civil, and juvenile² court cases. However, the term is not defined in the Board rules, in statute, or in any other statewide resource. This opinion will provide that definition.

“Close of court,” for the purposes of calculating the deadlines for daily and expedited copies specified in the court reporter fee schedules, means the time court adjourns or concludes on a given day. For example, on some days, court might adjourn at noon, so the 24-hour/48-hour clock starts at noon. On other days, court might adjourn at 7 p.m., so the clock starts at 7 p.m. This definition only applies when the transcript is requested on the day that the proceeding ends.

If the transcript is requested on any day after the proceeding ends, the term “close of court” refers to when the request is made. For example, if a transcript is requested days, weeks, or years after the proceeding has ended, the daily and expedited rates still apply if the reporter finishes the transcript within 24 or 48 hours of the request.

Moreover, the 24-hour/48-hour clock for daily and expedited copies runs only on business days and does not include weekends or holidays.

This definition applies to all current and future fee schedules unless specifically contradicted.

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¹ The Judicial Council of Georgia Policies and Fees for Court Reporting Services in Criminal Cases, effective January 1, 2015, footnote 2, states: “Daily copy is furnished within 24 hours from the close of court. Expedited copy is produced within 48 hours from the close of court. The transcript page rate is in addition to these fees.”

² The civil and juvenile fee schedule, effective July 1, 2008, footnote 4, states: “Daily copy is furnished within 24 hours from the close of court. Expedited copy is produced within 48 hours from the close of court. The transcript page rate is in addition to these fees.”