

SPALDING COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff's Citizens Academy

Student Application and Course Information

Class #26-01

Each Tuesday August 18 – October 27, 2026

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Graduation: Monday, 11/2/26, at 6:00 pm

Spalding County Sheriff's Office Training Room

401 Justice Blvd., Griffin Georgia 30224

Sponsored by Sheriff Darrell Dix

A Note from Spalding County Sheriff Darrell Dix

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in the Spalding County Sheriff's Citizens Academy. The academy is sponsored and presented by the Spalding County Sheriff's Office staff as part of our Community Outreach Program.

This program is designed to provide citizens with basic information about the Office of the Sheriff and the daily operations of the Spalding County Sheriff's Office. The ultimate objective of this course is to establish and maintain trust and transparency with citizens and develop partnerships between the community and the Sheriff's Office through interaction, understanding, and communication.

After completing this program, it is our hope that the students will use the information presented to help develop a better understanding of what we do as Sheriff's Deputies. Because of the insights that you will gain, we hope that you will be able to show support for law enforcement in the community that we all live, work, and raise our families in.

Your interest in the Sheriff's Citizens Academy demonstrates your commitment to the men and women of law enforcement and your desire to become involved in our community.

Again, thank you for your interest in what we hope is a fascinating educational experience for you.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Darrell Dix

Spalding County Sheriff's Office

SHERIFF'S CITIZENS ACADEMY

Some of the topics that will be discussed:

History and Information about the Spalding County Sheriff's Office

Participants are introduced to the Sheriff's Academy Staff and fellow classmates. The Sheriff and Command Staff are introduced. A brief history of our office will be presented by the Sheriff along with information about budgeting, Office of Professional Standards, and Internal Affairs.

Traffic Enforcement and Patrol Function

Participants are introduced to the Georgia Motor Vehicle Law. Other topics that are presented will include traffic direction, RADAR/LASER, vehicle pullovers, officer safety, vehicle pursuits, and functions of the Uniform Patrol Division.

Criminal Investigations and Crime Scene Processing

Members of the Criminal Investigation Division will present this course. Participants will be exposed to criminal law, the structure of the Investigative Division, interview techniques, investigative tactics, and available resources. Techniques for crime scene processing and evidence gathering are discussed. Participants will conduct a practical exercise processing a mock crime scene. Investigators will present an overview of procedures for dealing with the special needs and responsibilities relating to the arrest and processing of juvenile offenders.

Special Operations, K-9 Program, Criminal Street Gangs, and S.T.I.N.G. Unit

Participants will be introduced to the different drugs that affect our community. Topics included will be drug recognition and intervention programs. The class will be supplemented by a variety of visual aids and demonstrations. Investigators tasked with investigating and documenting participants in criminal street gang activity will present information centered on the gang problem, gang history, and gang issues as they affect us on a local level.

Courts, Civil Processes, and the Criminal Justice System

During this presentation students will get a first-hand view of the criminal process from the initial call the officer receives, arrests, hearings, trial, and final case disposition. The role of the Sheriff's Office in the Civil Process will be discussed.

Internal Affairs and Ethics in Law Enforcement

Students will learn how internal affairs investigations are conducted, and what leads to an internal affairs investigation. Students will learn the process of filing a complaint on a Deputy and the steps taken after their complaint is filed. Law enforcement ethics will be discussed in an open forum in which students will be encouraged to ask questions and discuss issues.

Response to Aggression

Laws regarding use of force and options in use of force will be discussed. Students will view and discuss video recordings of use of force incidents and their outcomes. "Force on Force" training will be utilized during this section of the academy. This training will place participants in shoot-don't shoot situations using role players. Students are also introduced to the use of force continuum, and case law regarding use of force.

Search and Seizure

Students will be presented with information regarding search and seizure, search warrants, searches that require warrants, various types of warrantless searches, vehicle searches, the results of unlawful searches.

SWAT, 911 Center, and Special Operations

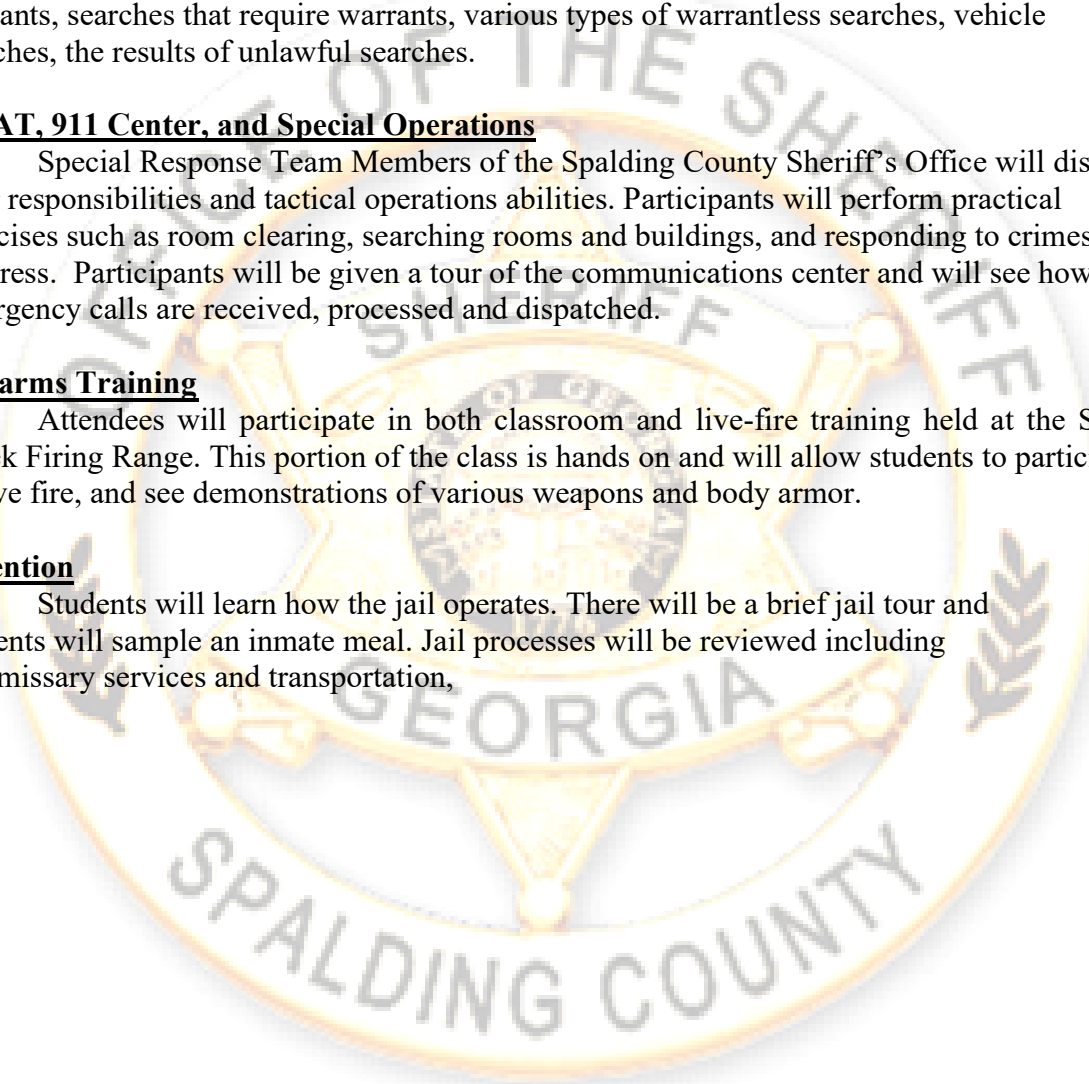
Special Response Team Members of the Spalding County Sheriff's Office will discuss their responsibilities and tactical operations abilities. Participants will perform practical exercises such as room clearing, searching rooms and buildings, and responding to crimes in progress. Participants will be given a tour of the communications center and will see how emergency calls are received, processed and dispatched.

Firearms Training

Attendees will participate in both classroom and live-fire training held at the Shoal Creek Firing Range. This portion of the class is hands on and will allow students to participate in live fire, and see demonstrations of various weapons and body armor.

Detention

Students will learn how the jail operates. There will be a brief jail tour and students will sample an inmate meal. Jail processes will be reviewed including commissary services and transportation,



SPALDING COUNTY SHERIFF'S CITIZENS ACADEMY

GOAL:

The goal of the Spalding County Sheriff's Citizens Academy is to create and develop a nucleus of well-informed, responsible citizens who have the potential to influence public opinion concerning SHERIFF'S practices and the delivery of Sheriff services. Graduates from our academy will increase citizen involvement on issues of mutual concern. The active participation will help to improve the quality of life and build lasting and productive partnerships between the Sheriff's Office and the community we serve.

MOTTO:

"Protect with Courage, Serve with Compassion"

OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of the Sheriff's Citizens Academy, each student will:

1. Gain a better understanding of how the Spalding County Sheriff's Office is organized and how each unit functions, as well as achieve an understanding for the daily challenges facing law enforcement professionals.
2. Possess the skill and desire to identify, recruit and mentor potential candidates for employment with the Spalding County Sheriff's Office, as well as future participants in the Sheriff's Citizens Academy.
3. Demonstrate the enhancement of their observation skills and make a commitment to report any suspected criminal behavior.
4. Bring greater support to our Sheriff's Office by giving the citizens an understanding of what our roles are as Deputy Sheriffs.
5. Build lines of communication, regain trust, and promote transparency.

SHERIFF'S CITIZENS ACADEMY

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please Note the following:

1. Please complete and return the attached Application for Enrollment and waiver/release forms in its entirety. Class members must be at least 18 years of age. Acceptance of applicants is at the discretion of the Spalding County Sheriff's Office.
2. All applicants will be subject to a criminal history check as a precondition to acceptance into the academy. **The deadline for the return of the application package is July 27, 2026.** Return complete application package in person to the Sheriff's Office front office, or e-mail to wstinchcomb@spaldingcounty.com.
3. The Sheriff or his designee has final approval of all applicants and reserves the right to deny entry to any applicant. Accepted applicants will be notified by email.
4. The academy is free of charge to all members. Class size is limited to the first thirty (30) people.
5. Dress for class is casual. Name badges will be provided and should be worn to class.
6. Qualified applicants who are denied admission due to class size will be given first choice when the next academy session is scheduled.
7. The Release of Liability Statement form must be signed and turned in by the applicant with the completed application.
8. The classes will be held in the training room of the Sheriff's Office located at 401 Justice Blvd. Griffin, Georgia.
9. Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
10. For those of you who enjoy smoking, a designated smoking area will be available during the scheduled breaks.
11. Please contact the Spalding County Sheriff's Office 770-467-5415 or 770-467-5414 for any additional questions.
12. Ride-alongs with the Sheriff's Office will be on the student's own time and must be applied for and scheduled separately.

Students will receive more information during the first class session.

SHERIFF'S CITIZENS ACADEMY

APPLICATION PACKAGE

The **APPLICATION PACKAGE** consists of the following documents:

- 1. Application for Enrollment**
- 2. Waiver of Liability**
- 3. Authorization for Release of Information/Consent Form**
- 4. Ride-Along Request**
- 5. GCIC Awareness Statement**

The complete Application Package must be returned to the Sheriff's Office, either in person or by e-mail, wstinchcomb@spaldingcounty.com:

Spalding County Sheriff's Office
401 Justice Blvd.
Griffin, GA 30224
Attention: Sheriff's Citizens Academy

**SPALDING COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF'S CITIZENS ACADEMY
APPLICATION FOR ENROLLMENT**

Class #26-01

Each Tuesday August 18– October 27, 2026 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Spalding County Sheriff's Office Training Room

401 Justice Blvd., Griffin Georgia 30224

Name _____ **Preferred Name** _____

Address _____

(P.O. Box not acceptable)

Phone: _____ **E-Mail Address:** _____

D.O.B. _____ **Driver's License Number** _____ **State** _____

Shirt Size for Class T-Shirt: _____ **(Cotton blend, long sleeve)**

Employer _____

Name

Address

How long have you lived in Spalding County? _____

How did you hear about the Sheriff's Citizens Academy?

Are you committed to attending all of the scheduled classes? _____

Have you ever been arrested for any offense other than minor traffic offenses?

If yes, what for _____ **When** _____ **Where** _____

Check all that apply:

Resident _____ **Business Owner** _____ **Employed by** _____

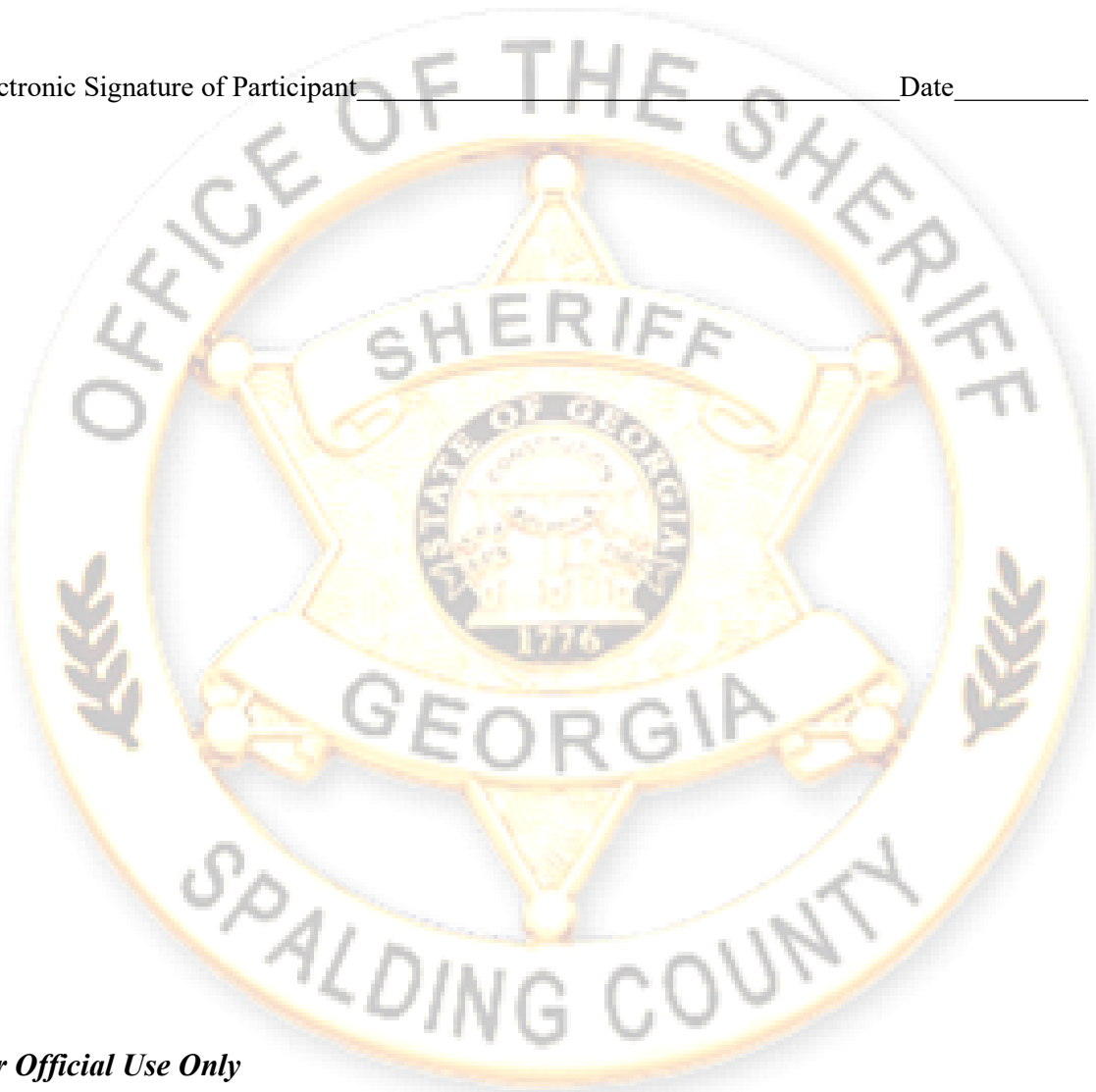
Occupation _____

The Spalding County Sheriff's Office will make reasonable efforts to assure all persons access to any programs and services. If a disability requires special accommodations, please call the Spalding County Sheriff's Office, 770-467-5415 or 770-467-5414.

I hereby certify that the information contained in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. The Spalding County Sheriff's Office is authorized to make any investigation of my personal history deemed necessary for consideration to attend the Sheriff's Citizens Academy.

By typing my name in the field below indicated as "Electronic Signature," I agree to the terms stated in this document and am applying for participation in the Spalding County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff's Citizens Academy.

Electronic Signature of Participant _____ Date _____



For Official Use Only

Date/Time Received _____ / _____

Criminal History Check Date/Time _____ / _____

Sheriff's Approval _____

SPALDING COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF DARRELL DIX

SHERIFF'S CITIZENS ACADEMY

WAIVER OF LIABILITY

Whereas, I

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

E-MAIL

have made a voluntary request on my own initiative to participate in the Sheriff's Citizens Academy of the Spalding County Sheriff's Office, Spalding County Georgia.

Now, therefore in consideration of Spalding County, Georgia allowing me to participate in the Sheriff's Citizens Academy and in consideration of Spalding County Sheriff's Office permitting me use of its facilities, the validity, sufficiency, and receipt of which consideration is acknowledged, I do hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, remise, release and forever discharge Spalding County, The Spalding County Sheriff's Office, its employees, officers, commission staff, representatives, affiliates, and agents, acting officially or otherwise (hereinafter Spalding County) from any and all claims, actions, demands, or causes of action, on account of my death or on account of my personal injury or damage to my personal property which may occur, regardless of whether or not said harm or injury occurs through the negligence, misfeasance, or malfeasance on the part of the Spalding County Sheriff's Office, or whether said harm or damage occurs through acts of a person not employed by Spalding County.

I **ACKNOWLEDGE** that I am aware that participating in the Sheriff's Citizens Academy can be dangerous and may result in property damage or serious bodily injury. I assume the risk of all injuries that may occur as a result of my being permitted to participate in the Sheriff's Citizens Academy.

I **ACKNOWLEDGE** that my participation in the Sheriff's Citizens Academy is strictly voluntary on my part, is solely for my personal benefit, and is in no way related to any employment I may have/have had with Spalding County.

I **ACKNOWLEDGE** that my participation in the Sheriff's Citizens Academy may cause me to view possibly graphic and/or hazardous emergency photographs or scenes, and I agree to abide by all rules and instructions provided to me by Spalding County Sheriff's

personnel. I agree to assume the risk of any harm or injury I may receive as a result of my participation.

I **ACKNOWLEDGE** and **UNDERSTAND** that I will not engage in, perform, or interfere with any life threatening or emergency activities I may observe during my participation in the Sheriff's Citizens Academy. I further acknowledge that I am solely responsible for any medical or other expenses resulting from accidents, injuries, or illnesses that I may incur or be exposed to during my participation in the Sheriff's Citizens Academy.

I **AGREE** to abide by all instructions given to me while participating in the Sheriff's Citizens Academy and I **ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY** for my failure to abide by those instructions.

During the Sheriff's Citizens Academy, I may gain access to information or documents of a sensitive nature, and/or information deemed confidential by the Spalding County Sheriff's Office, The State of Georgia or other agencies. I agree that I will not release ANY information, or items obtained by me or that I may become privy to in the course of my participation in the Sheriff's Citizens Academy.

During the period of my participation in the Sheriff's Citizens Academy, I agree to advise the program coordinator immediately of any personal interaction I may have with any law enforcement official. This contact consists of but is not limited to; arrests, citations, being a party to an incident of report, or the object of any law- suits.

I **HEREBY AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS** Spalding County, and the Spalding County Sheriff's Office from and against any and all liability, loss, cost or expense (including attorneys' fees) arising from or in any manner connected with being permitted to participate in the Sheriff's Citizens Academy.

I **HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS AGREEMENT AND BY ELECTRONICALLY SIGNING IT I VOLUNTARILY RELEASE SPALDING COUNTY, GEORGIA FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY FOR PERSONAL INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE THAT RESULTS FROM MY PARTICIPATION IN THE SHERIFF'S CITIZENS ACADEMY. BY TYPING MY NAME IN THE FIELD BELOW I AGREE TO THE TERMS STATED IN THIS DOCUMENT.**

ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT

DATE

WITNESS

NOTE: THIS RELEASE MUST BE EXECUTED PRIOR TO PARTICIPATION IN THE SHERIFF'S CITIZENS ACADEMY.

SPALDING COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF'S CITIZENS ACADEMY

401 Justice Blvd.
SPALDING COUNTY, GEORGIA 30224

AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION / CONSENT FORM

I hereby authorize the Spalding County Sheriff's Office to obtain and/or receive criminal history record and history record information pertaining to me, which may be in the files of any state or local criminal justice agency in Georgia, any other state, or any other country.

The intent of this authorization is to give my consent for full and complete disclosure of the following records and request that the custodian of such records/information permit my records to be examined, copied or otherwise reviewed:

Criminal History Record

A photocopy of this release form will be valid as an original hereof even though the said photocopy does not contain an original writing of my signature. The release is executed with full knowledge and understanding that the information is for the official use of the Spalding County Sheriff's Office in determining my suitability to attend the Sheriff's Citizens Academy.

By typing my name in the "Electronic Signature" I am giving consent electronically to the Spalding County Sheriff's Office to conduct criminal history and driver history record checks.

I hereby waive and release any claims against any party, which I may have as a result of the release of any records or information referenced in this authorization. I acknowledge that no party shall have any liability to me as a result of complying with a request for such information and /or records.

Full name (print) _____

Driver's License number _____ State _____

Complete home address _____

Home phone number _____ Work phone number _____

Race _____ Sex _____ Social Security number _____

Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____

Electronic Signature of Participant _____

Today's Date

SHERIFF'S CITIZENS ACADEMY

RIDE-ALONG REQUEST

Date of Request _____

Name _____ D.O.B. _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Related to or acquainted with a SCSO employee? () yes () no

If so, who _____

Waiver of Liability

I request permission to accompany a Spalding County Sheriff's Officer in a Spalding County Sheriff's Office vehicle during the requested time. I understand that as a condition of accompanying a member of the Spalding County Sheriff's Office, I relieve and absolve the Spalding County Sheriff's Office and their employees from any and all claims that may arise from accompanying a member of the Spalding County Sheriff's Office.

It is further understood that I am not to carry any type of firearm or weapon and may not engage in the arrest or restraint of any law violator during the time I am accompanying a Spalding County Sheriff's Deputy.

By typing my name in the "Electronic Signature" I acknowledge that I have read and understand this Ride-Along Request and Waiver of Liability.

Electronic Signature of Participant _____ Date _____

() Approved

() Disapproved

Date

Spalding County Sheriff Darrell Dix

SHERIFF'S CITIZENS ACADEMY GCIC AWARENESS STATEMENT

Access to Criminal Justice Information, as defined in GCIC Council Rule 140-1-.02 (amended), and dissemination of such information are governed by state and federal laws and by GCIC Council Rules. Criminal Justice Information cannot be accessed or disseminated by any employee except as directed by superiors and as authorized by approved standard operating procedures, which are based on controlling state and federal laws, relevant federal regulations, and the Rules of the GCIC Council.

O.C.G.A. 35-3-38 establishes criminal penalties for specific offences involving obtaining, using, or disseminating criminal history record information except as permitted by law. The same statute establishes criminal penalties for disclosing or attempting to disclose techniques or methods employed to ensure the security and privacy of information or data contained in Georgia criminal justice information systems.

The Georgia Computer Systems Protection Act (O.C.G.A. 16-9-90 et seq.) provides for the protection of public and private sector computer systems, including communications links to such computer systems. The Act establishes four criminal offenses, all major felonies for violations of the Act: Computer Theft, Computer Trespass, Computer Invasion of Privacy and Computer Forgery. The criminal penalties for each offense carry maximum sentences of 15 years in prison and/or fines up to \$50,000, as well as possible civil ramifications. The act also establishes Computer Password Disclosure as a criminal offense with penalties of one year in prison and/or a \$5,000 fine.

The Georgia Justice Information System (CJIS) Network is operated by the Georgia Crime Information Center in compliance with O.C.G.A. 35-3-31. The Computer Systems Protection Act protects all databases accessible via CJIS Network terminals. Similar communications and computer systems operated by municipal/county governments are also protected by the Act.

By typing my name in the "Electronic Signature" I acknowledge that I have read and understand this GCIC Awareness Statement.

Print Name: _____

Electronic Signature of Participant _____ Date _____