

Law Office of Blake A. Poole Secures Partial Suppression Ruling in High-Profile Hall County DUI Case

Gainesville, Georgia Oct 26, 2026 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - The Law Office of Blake A. Poole, LLC, a Gainesville, Georgia criminal defense firm, announced today an update in its defense of Hall County Sheriff Gerald Couch, whose DUI case has drawn attention across the state. After a pretrial suppression hearing, a judge excluded evidence gathered from a search of the sheriff's vehicle. The defense is now seeking review of the remaining evidence rulings before the Georgia Court of Appeals, and the trial has been postponed pending that review.

Sheriff Couch was arrested on February 27, 2026, and faces charges that include DUI, failure to maintain lane, and open container. On May 6, 2026, defense attorney Blake A. Poole filed a motion to suppress evidence gathered during the investigation. The court heard from three witnesses during a pretrial hearing on June 9, 2026, that lasted nearly six hours.

The motion challenged the legality of officers' entry onto the sheriff's private driveway, the voluntariness of the field sobriety tests, the timing of the implied consent reading, and the warrantless search of the vehicle. During the hearing, Attorney Poole argued, "All evidence indicates there's no consent."

On July 9, 2026, Judge Charles Auslander granted the motion in part, ruling that evidence obtained from the vehicle search cannot be used at trial. The court denied several other portions of the motion and reserved remaining issues for a later hearing, finding that officers lawfully entered the property, did not unlawfully prolong the detention, and that Sheriff Couch voluntarily took the field sobriety tests. The court also found that the implied consent notice was properly and timely read and that Sheriff Couch voluntarily consented to a blood test.

The defense is appealing the evidence rulings, and the Georgia Court of Appeals is now reviewing them. The trial, which had been scheduled for September of 2026, has been postponed indefinitely with no new date set. Poole confirmed that the timeline now depends on how long the appellate court takes to issue its decision.

The proceedings highlight the role suppression motions play in Georgia DUI cases. Under O.C.G.A. § 17-5-30, a defendant can ask the court to exclude unlawfully obtained evidence, and when police search without a warrant, the State must prove the search falls within a recognized exception. These evidentiary challenges can change what a jury hears, and they can be reviewed by a higher court on interlocutory appeal before trial begins.

Sheriff Couch is presumed innocent, and the case remains pending. This announcement reflects only public court proceedings and published news reports. Every case depends on its own facts, and past results do not guarantee or predict a similar outcome in any future matter.

The Law Office of Blake A. Poole, LLC specializes in defending clients facing DUI and other criminal charges throughout Hall County, Dawson County, Forsyth County, and throughout Northeast Georgia.

About The Law Office of Blake A. Poole, LLC:

The Law Office of Blake A. Poole, LLC is a Gainesville, Georgia criminal defense firm that serves clients throughout Hall County, Dawson County, Forsyth County, and all of Northeast Georgia. Led by former

Assistant District Attorney Blake A. Poole, the firm defends clients facing DUI, drug, violent, white-collar, sex crime, theft, and other criminal charges and is available 24/7 for emergency help. The firm is located at 505 Green St, Gainesville, GA 30501. Its website is <https://blakepoolelaw.com/>.

Media Contact

The Law Office of Blake A. Poole, LLC

*****@blakepoolelaw.com

(770) 573-3707

505 Green St, Gainesville, GA 30501

<https://blakepoolelaw.com/>

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