

Court of Appeals of the State of Georgia

ATLANTA, August 24, 2026

The Court of Appeals hereby passes the following order:

A27A0124. IN THE INTEREST OF D. W. C., A CHILD (FATHER).

The trial court denied Dennis Jackson’s (“Father”) petition for legitimation.¹ Father then filed both this direct appeal and an application for discretionary appeal. We denied his discretionary application on the merits, see Case No. A26D0451 (Apr. 28, 2026), and the direct appeal has been docketed as the current case. We lack jurisdiction for two reasons.

First, to the extent that Father is seeking to appeal the denial of his petition for legitimation, as Father indicated his intent to do so in the notice of appeal, he was required to follow the discretionary appeals procedures. *In the Interest of N. C.*, 363 Ga. App. 398, 403(1) (870 SE2d 569) (2022) (“Normally, appeals in legitimation cases must be initiated by filing an application for discretionary appeal.”); *Voyles v. Voyles*, 301 Ga. 44, 47 (799 SE2d 160) (2017) (“[T]he proper appellate procedure to employ depends upon the issue involved in the appeal[.]”).

Second, our denial of Father’s application renders the current appeal barred by the law of the case doctrine. See *Ross v. State*, 310 Ga. App. 326, 327 (713 SE2d 438) (2011) (“[A]ny issue that was raised and resolved in an earlier appeal is the law of the case and is binding on this Court[.]”) (citation and punctuation omitted); accord *Hook v. Bergen*, 286 Ga. App. 258, 261(1) (649 SE2d 313) (2007) (a ruling on an application

¹ Father also asked for custody in the legitimation petition. The trial court summarily denied all other motions after denying Father’s legitimation request. Father’s mother also asked for custody and visitation, which was likewise denied. She is seeking to appeal that ruling separately.

for discretionary appeal acts as res judicata in later proceedings).

For the above reasons, this direct appeal is hereby DISMISSED.



Court of Appeals of the State of Georgia

Clerk's Office, Atlanta, 08/24/2026

*I certify that the above is a true extract from
the minutes of the Court of Appeals of Georgia.*

*Witness my signature and the seal of said court
hereto affixed the day and year last above written.*

Christina Bailey Smith

, Clerk.