

Court of Appeals of the State of Georgia

ATLANTA, October 07, 2026

The Court of Appeals hereby passes the following order:

A27A0518. USHA JOSHI v. VIJAY PARGAONKAR.

Usha Joshi and Vijay Pargaonkar were divorced in May 2025. Since then, Joshi has filed nearly a dozen post-judgment motions in the divorce proceeding, each of which the trial court denied in January 2026. Joshi then filed this pro se direct appeal. We lack jurisdiction.

“Appeals from judgments or orders in divorce, alimony, and other domestic relations cases” must be initiated by filing an application for discretionary review. OCGA § 5-6-35(a)(2), (b). See *Onyemobi v. Onyemobi*, 375 Ga. App. 538, 538, 540–41 (916 SE2d 738) (2025).¹ “Compliance with the discretionary appeals procedure is

¹ To the extent that Joshi seeks to appeal any child custody issues, we note that, under OCGA § 5-6-34(a)(11), direct appeals may be had from “[a]ll judgments or orders in child custody cases awarding, refusing to change, or modifying child custody or holding or declining to hold persons in contempt of such child custody judgment or orders.” But because an appeal in a divorce case must be initiated by filing a discretionary application, direct appeals will not lie from “orders relating to child custody issues that are entered in divorce cases.” *Voyles v. Voyles*, 301 Ga. 44, 45 (799 SE2d 160) (2017) (quotation marks omitted). Accord *Hoover v. Hoover*, 295 Ga. 132, 134(1) (757 SE2d 838) (2014) (“Where . . . child custody issues are ancillary to a divorce action, the determination of child custody does not transform the case into a ‘child custody case,’ as that phrase is used in OCGA § 5-6-34(a)(11), for purposes of determining the appropriate method for appealing a child custody order.”). Because “a divorce case in which child custody is an issue” “is not a child custody case,” “OCGA § 5-6-35(a)(2) requires an application for discretionary appeal, and a direct appeal is not authorized by OCGA § 5-6-34(a)(11).” *Todd v. Todd*, 287 Ga. 250, 252(1)

jurisdictional.” *Smoak v. Dep’t of Human Res.*, 221 Ga. App. 257, 257 (471 SE2d 60) (1996). Joshi’s failure to follow the required appellate procedure deprives us of jurisdiction over this direct appeal, which is hereby DISMISSED. See *Onyemobi*, 375 Ga. App. at 541; *Smoak*, 221 Ga. App. at 257–58.



Court of Appeals of the State of Georgia
Clerk’s Office, Atlanta, 10/07/2026

*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.

(703 SE2d 597) (2010). Accord *Ford v. Ford*, 347 Ga. App. 233, 234 (818 SE2d 690) (2018).