

THE SUPERIOR COURTS OF HALL AND DAWSON COUNTIES
NORTHEASTERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA

FILED
HALL CO., GA
2020 APR -2 PM 2:55
CHARLES BAKER, CLERK
SUPERIOR-STATE COURT
BY 

IN RE: Extension of Judicial Emergency

Date: April 2, 2020

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ORDER EXTENDING DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, a Judicial Emergency was previously determined to exist pursuant to both a local Order entered in these Courts on March 13, 2020 and, thereafter, a superseding statewide Order entered by Chief Justice Harold D. Melton of the Georgia Supreme Court on March 14, 2020.

WHEREAS, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED that the Judicial Emergency substantially endangers or infringes upon the normal functioning of the judicial system as it relates to jury service, including grand jury service, and any non-essential matters.

Therefore, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-61, the Honorable Chief Judge Kathlene F. Gosselin of the Superior Courts of Hall and Dawson Counties DOES HEREBY ORDER AND DECLARE the continued existence of a Judicial Emergency in the Northeastern Judicial Circuit. The nature of this emergency is the continued transmission of Coronavirus/COVID-19 throughout Hall and Dawson Counties and the potential infection of those who are required to appear in our courts.

Thus, in order to protect the health, safety, and liberty of all citizens, the undersigned hereby makes this declaration of a judicial emergency affecting all courts and clerk's offices in the Northeastern Judicial Circuit as it relates to jury service and all other judicial proceedings.

Accordingly, IT IS THE ORDER of the Court that no jurors or grand jurors shall report and no jury trials shall be held until after May 31, 2020. Furthermore, no civil or non-essential matters shall be heard by the courts during the month of April 2020, unless they can be conducted

via video or teleconferencing. A decision about hearing non-essential matters in May 2020 will be considered and announced by further Order of this Court, or the Georgia Supreme Court, at a later date. Parties or attorneys in any non-essential matters should contact the chambers of the judge assigned to their case if they have any questions and/or need to ensure their compliance with this Order. Essential matters include: (1) where an immediate liberty or safety concern is present requiring the attention of the court as soon as the court is available; (2) criminal court search warrants, arrest warrants, initial appearances, and bond reviews; (3) domestic abuse temporary protective orders and restraining orders; (4) juvenile court delinquency detention hearings and emergency removal matters; and (5) mental health commitment hearings.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the *Emergency Order Mandating Temporary Security Measures* previously entered on March 25, 2020 is hereby be extended until the state of emergency has terminated, or upon further order of the Court.

Pursuant to OCGA §38-3-62, during the period of this Order, the undersigned hereby suspends, tolls, extends, and otherwise grants relief from any deadlines or other time schedules or filing requirements imposed by otherwise applicable statutes, rules, regulations, or court orders, whether in civil or criminal cases or administrative matters, including, but not limited to any: (1) statute of limitation; (2) time within which to issue a warrant; (3) time within which to try a case for which a demand for speedy trial has been filed; (4) time within which to hold a commitment hearing; (5) deadline or other schedule regarding the detention of a juvenile; (6) time within which to return a bill of indictment or an accusation or to bring a matter before a grand jury; (7) time within which to file a writ of habeas corpus; (8) time within which discovery or any aspect thereof is to be completed; (9) time within which to serve a party; (10) time within which to appeal or to seek the right to appeal any order, ruling, or other determination; and (11) such other legal proceedings as determined to be necessary by the authorized judicial official.

This Judicial Emergency shall terminate on May 31, 2020, at 11:59 p.m., unless otherwise extended, rescinded, or superseded.

Should the state of emergency extend beyond May 31, 2020 or should the nature of the emergency otherwise require modification by the Court, the Court will make a determination of available alternative remedies for the conduct of court business, as necessary, and a corresponding Order will be entered and distributed in accordance with Georgia law.


IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-63, that the Sheriffs of Hall and Dawson Counties shall post this Order on their public notification site and in the courthouses;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the undersigned shall immediately notify and serve Chief Justice Harold D. Melton of the Supreme Court with a copy of this Order, such service to be accomplished via email to Tee Barnes, the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Georgia, at barnest@gasupreme.us;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the undersigned shall immediately notify and serve a copy of the order on the judges and clerks of all courts sitting within the jurisdictions affected and on the clerks of the Georgia Court of Appeals and the Georgia Supreme Court, such service to be accomplished through reasonable means to assure expeditious receipt; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the undersigned shall give notice of the issuance of this Order to the affected parties, counsel for the affected parties, and the public.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 2nd day of April, 2020 at 1:54 a.m. (p.m.)


Kathlene F. Gosselin, Chief Judge
Northeastern Judicial Circuit