

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

FILED
HALL CO., GA.

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CHARLES BAKER, CLERK
SUPERIOR-STATE COURT

BY _____



IN RE: COVID-19 Judicial Emergency *
Date: December 23, 2020 *

ORDER SUSPENDING JURY PROCEEDINGS


On December 16, 2020, the undersigned entered an *Order Extending Judicial Emergency* for both Hall and Dawson Counties due to the ongoing threat of transmission of COVID-19. The State of Georgia has been in a continual judicial state of emergency since March 14, 2020, with the most recent extension having been entered by Chief Justice Harold D. Melton on December 9, 2020. Earlier today, Justice Melton modified this most recent order and re-imposed a prohibition on all jury proceedings statewide. *See Order Modifying Ninth Order Extending Declaration of Statewide Judicial Emergency.*

Therefore, applying Justice Melton's order, and in consultation with local health officials and all classes of court in the Northeastern Judicial Circuit, all jury trials in Hall and Dawson counties are hereby suspended and removed from the court's calendar through January 31, 2021.

Furthermore, while this order does *not* suspend non-essential hearings in this circuit, all courts are reminded again to use remote video technology wherever possible, as a safer alternative to in-person proceedings.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A § 38-3-63, the Sheriffs of Hall and Dawson Counties shall post this Order on their public notification site and in the courthouses; the undersigned shall immediately notify and serve Chief Justice Melton with a copy of this Order, to be accomplished via email to Tee Barnes, the court's clerk; and the undersigned shall immediately notify and serve a copy of the order on the judges and clerks of all courts sitting within Hall and Dawson Counties.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 23rd day of December, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.



Hon. Kathleen F. Gosselin
Chief Judge, Northeastern Judicial Circuit