

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF COBB COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

MAR 13, 2020 04:32 PM

IN RE: Declaration of Judicial Emergency
Date: March 13, 2020

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20-1-0005


Rebecca Keaton, Clerk of Superior Court
Cobb County, Georgia

ORDER DECLARING JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED that a Judicial Emergency exists in Cobb County, Georgia affecting all courts such that there is a serious health emergency pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-60(2)(D). *See* O.C.G.A. § 38-3-60(2)(D) (providing that “Judicial Emergency” means “[s]uch other serious emergency”).

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 petit jury service, and any non-essential matters, unless they can be conducted via video or teleconferencing.

Therefore, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-61, The Honorable Chief Judge Reuben Green of the Superior Court of Cobb County, Cobb Judicial Circuit, DOES HEREBY ORDER AND DECLARE the existence of a Judicial Emergency in the Cobb Judicial Circuit. The nature of this emergency is the continued transmission of Coronavirus/COVID-19 throughout Cobb County and the potential infection of those who are required to appear in our courts and interact with large groups due to jury service, including grand jury service, or other large, non-essential calendars.

Thus, the undersigned hereby makes this declaration of a judicial emergency affecting all courts and clerk’s offices in Cobb County as it relates to jury service, including grand jury service, and any non-essential matters, unless they can be conducted via video or teleconferencing.

Accordingly, IT IS THE ORDER of the Court that no petit jurors shall report and no jury trials shall be held for a period of **thirty (30) days** from the date of the entry of this Order. Furthermore, civil and other non-essential matters shall be limited by the courts during this 30-day time period. Parties or attorneys in any civil or 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. The Superior Court is issuing a statement to provide guidance to litigants, attorneys, and members of the public.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-62, during the period of this Order, the Court hereby suspends, tolls, extends, and otherwise grants relief from: (1) a statute of limitation; (2) the time within which to try a case for which a demand for speedy trial has been filed; (3) the time within which to hold a commitment hearing; (4) the time within which to return a bill of indictment or an accusation or to bring a matter before a grand jury; and/or (5) such other legal proceedings as determined to be necessary, including calendars involving large numbers of litigants, lawyers, or other persons.

Should the state of emergency extend beyond the period indicated above 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.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-63:

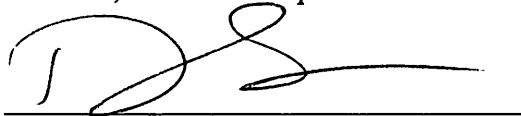
IT IS ORDERED that the Sheriff of Cobb County shall post this Order on his public notification site and in the courthouses;

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 by public notice and other reasonable means.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 13th day of March, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Green', written over a horizontal line.

Reuben Green, Chief Judge
Cobb County Superior Court
Cobb Judicial Circuit

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that I have this day served all interested parties in the within and foregoing matter a copy of the Order by delivering a copy in open court, electronic mail, via PeachCourt, and/or depositing a copy in the Cobb County Mail System in properly addressed envelopes with adequate postage thereon addressed as follows:

The Honorable Carl W. Bowers
Chief Judge, Cobb County State Court
12 East Park Square
Marietta, GA 30090

The Honorable Angie Davis
Clerk, Cobb County State Court
12 East Park Square
Marietta, GA 30090

The Honorable Brendan F. Murphy
Chief Judge, Cobb County Magistrate Court
32 Waddell Street
Marietta, GA 30090

Ms. Anne Gordon
Clerk, Cobb County Magistrate Court
32 Waddell Street
Marietta, GA 30090

The Honorable Amber N. Patterson
Chief Judge, Cobb County Juvenile Court
32 Waddell Street
Marietta, GA 30090

Ms. Shonell Sfreddo
Clerk, Cobb County Juvenile Court
32 Waddell Street
Marietta, GA 30090

The Honorable Kelli L. Wolk
Chief Judge, Cobb County Probate Court
32 Waddell Street
Marietta, GA 30090

Ms. Jennifer Ritchey
Chief Clerk, Cobb County Probate Court
32 Waddell Street
Marietta, GA 30090

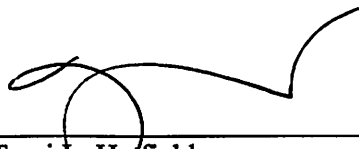
The Honorable Rebecca Keaton
Clerk, Cobb County Superior Court
70 Haynes Street
Marietta, GA 30090

Ms. Therese Tee Barnes
Clerk, Supreme Court of Georgia

Mr. Steve E. Castlen
Clerk, Georgia Court of Appeals

Chief Justice Harold D. Melton
and the Supreme Court of Georgia

This 13 day of March, 2020.



Traci L. Hatfield
Judicial Administrative Assistant to
Chief Judge Reuben M. Green
Superior Court, Cobb Judicial Circuit