

**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](mailto: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 Sfredo  
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.

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