



# CHIEF JUDGE REUBEN M. GREEN

SUPERIOR COURT OF COBB COUNTY

COBB JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SUPERIOR COURT OF COBB COUNTY

70 HAYNES STREET

MARIETTA, GEORGIA 30090

(770) 528-1860

## **Notice to the Criminal Defense Bar About Scheduling Nonessential Matters:**

On April 6, 2020, the Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court issued an Order Extending Declaration of Statewide Judicial Emergency. In keeping with that Order and to ensure continued operation of the Cobb Judicial Circuit, the Superior Court has implemented procedures to protect the health and safety of those serving and appearing in the Superior Court.

There have been questions about whether the Superior Court could hear additional matters beyond those that have been defined as essential, i.e. where an immediate liberty or safety concern is present.

The Chief Justice's Order addresses this by stating "With regard to matters not deemed essential functions under the Statewide Judicial Emergency Order, courts and litigants are encouraged to proceed to the extent feasible and consistent with public health guidance, for example through the use of teleconference and videoconferences, to reduce backlogs when the judicial emergency ends."

Further, the Updated Memorandum issued by this Court on April 13, 2020, sets forth examples of nonessential case matters and how they can be heard. If the attorneys cannot agree as to whether a matter should be heard during the Judicial Emergency, contact the assigned judge's chambers to set up a teleconference with both attorneys and the assigned judge where the assigned judge will determine whether it should be heard during the Judicial Emergency. If the assigned judge determines it is a nonessential matter that should be heard during the Judicial Emergency, then it will be scheduled via videoconference on the assigned judge's Duty Judge day. If you wish to host the videoconference, then let the assigned judge know at the time of scheduling.

Thank you for your cooperation during this challenging time. With these practices, together we will do everything in our power to keep each other safe while continuing to keep the Cobb Judicial Circuit open.

This the 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Green', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Reuben Green

Chief Superior Court Judge

Cobb Judicial Circuit