

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

MAY 12, 2020 01:00 PM

IN RE: Declaration of Judicial Emergency
Date: May 12, 2020

20-1-0005

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Rebecca Keaton, Clerk of Superior Court
Cobb County, Georgia

SECOND ORDER DECLARING JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

On March 14, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Honorable Harold D. Melton, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, issued an Order Declaring Statewide Judicial Emergency pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-61. Due to the continuing statewide emergency, the Order has now been extended until June 12, 2020.

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).

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 any large groups of people in or around the Cobb Judicial Complex.

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 or in person judicial proceedings, but only in compliance with public health guidance and with the requirements of the United States and Georgia constitutions and applicable statutes and court rules, including the public's right of access to judicial proceedings and a criminal defendant's right to confrontation and open courtrooms.

Accordingly, IT IS THE ORDER of this Court that the Cobb Judicial Circuit will continue to follow the SECOND ORDER EXTENDING DECLARATION OF STATEWIDE JUDICIAL EMERGENCY in all respects. The Superior Court is issuing a Memorandum to provide comprehensive, written guidelines as to how in-court proceedings generally, and particular types of proceedings, will be conducted to protect the health of litigants, lawyers, judges, court personnel, and the public. This Memorandum is incorporated herein and made a part of this ORDER by reference.

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 12th day of May, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Green', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and extends to the right of the line.

Reuben M. Green
Chief Superior Court Judge
Cobb Judicial Circuit