

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: Declaration of Judicial Emergency *

Date: March 30, 2020 *

AMENDED ORDER DECLARING JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the **AMENDED ORDER DECLARNG JUDICIAL EMERGENCY** entered by this Court on March 20, 2020 is hereby amended, as follows:

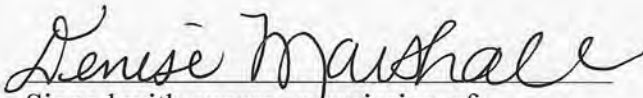
Despite the implementation of and adherence to designated safety guidelines necessitated in response to COVID-19, a number of courthouse employees have tested positive. Therefore, the undersigned has determined that it is no longer feasible to allow the courthouse to remain open to the general public. Effective immediately and until midnight on May 17, 2020 unless further extended by order of this Court, the Dougherty County Courthouse will be closed to the public.

While the courthouse building is closed to the public, essential functions will be provided electronically through online services, by telephone and by other means or location as may later be provided and noticed to the public.

All other provisions of the previous order will remain in effect. The Court will continue to address essential functions as previously noted. If you have a judicial emergency, please contact the Clerk of Court of at (229) 435-8376.

Service of notice of this **AMENDED ORDER DECLARING JUDICIAL EMERGENCY** shall be made upon all affected parties in the same manner as the original order and a copy of this notice shall be placed upon all entry points to the Albany-Dougherty Judicial Building.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 30th day of March, 2020.

By: 
Signed with express permission of
WILLIE E. LOCKETTE, Chief Judge
Dougherty County Superior Court
Dougherty Judicial Circuit

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY
DOUGHERTY JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: Declaration of Judicial Emergency

Date: March 13, 2020

*
*
*
*
*

FILED IN OFFICE

MAR 13 2020


CLERK OF SUPREME
COURT OF GEORGIA

ORDER DECLARING JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED that a Judicial Emergency exists in Dougherty 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 jury service, including grand 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 Willie E. Lockette of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, Dougherty Judicial Circuit DOES HEREBY ORDER AND DECLARE the existence of a Judicial Emergency in the Dougherty Judicial Circuit. The nature of this emergency is the continued transmission of Coronavirus/COVID-19 throughout Dougherty 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 Dougherty 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 jurors or grand 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, no civil or non-essential matters shall be heard by the courts during this 30-day time period, unless they can be conducted via video or teleconferencing. Parties or attorneys in any 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.

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 Dougherty 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 to the affected parties, counsel for the affected parties, and the public.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 13th day of March, 2020 at 1:30 a.m. (p.m.)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W.E. Lockette", written over a horizontal line.

Willie E. Lockette, Chief Judge
Dougherty County Superior Court
Dougherty Judicial Circuit