

FILED IN OFFICE  
MAR 16 2020

IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF GRANTVILLE  
COWETA JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
STATE OF GEORGIA

*Theresa J. Baker*  
CLERK OF SUPREME  
COURT OF GEORGIA

IN RE: Declaration of Judicial Emergency )  
Date: March 16, 2020 )

RECEIVED  
3-16-2020  
DL 10:26am

ORDER DECLARING JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Honorable Brian Kemp, Governor of the State of Georgia has determined that a Public Health State of Emergency exists in the State of Georgia due to the spread of the Coronavirus/COVID-19, and whereas that State of emergency constitutes a "judicial emergency" pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-60, et seq.

WHEREAS, the Honorable Harold Melton, Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court has issued an Order declaring a Statewide Judicial Emergency due to the continued transmission of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 throughout the State and the potential infection of those who work in or are required to appear in our courts.

Thus, in order to protect the health, safety and liberty of all citizens in this State, the undersigned hereby declares a Judicial Emergency in the Municipal Court of Grantville, Georgia as it relates to all judicial proceedings. The Court will remain open to address essential functions and will give priority to matters necessary to protect the health, safety and liberty of individuals such as criminal court search warrants, arrest warrants, initial appearances and bond reviews.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A § 38-3-62, during the period of this Order, the undersigned hereby suspends, tolls, extends, and otherwise grants relief from any: (1) time within to issue a warrant; (2) time within to issue a probation violation warrant; and (3) other legal proceedings to be necessary by the authorized judicial official.

**This Judicial Emergency shall terminate on April 13, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. unless otherwise extended.** Should the State of Emergency extend beyond this period or should the nature of the emergency 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 O.C.G.A. § 38-3-63.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the undersigned shall immediately notify and serve Chief Justice Harold D. Melton of the Supreme Court of Georgia with a copy of this Order, such service to be accomplished via email to Tee Barnes, Clerk of Supreme Court of Georgia at [barnes@gasupreme.us](mailto:barnes@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 each court 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.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the undersign shall give reasonable notice of the issuance of this Order to the affected parties, counsel for affected parties and the public.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa R. Reeves", written over a horizontal line.

JUDGE LISA R. REEVES  
GRANTVILLE MUNICIPAL COURT  
COWETA JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

TO: Al Grieshaber, Jr., City Manager  
Mayor Doug Jewell and Grantville City Council  
Diane Littleton, Clerk of Court  
Chief Steve Whitlock

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FROM: Judge Lisa Reeves, Grantville Municipal Court

RE: STATE OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY DECLARED BY CHIEF JUSTICE MELTON  
STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED BY GOVERNOR KEMP

DATE: March 16, 2020

I am so grateful to our Chief Justice Harold Melton of Georgia Supreme Court for taking the lead on the Georgia Judiciary's response to COVID-19, or the new Coronavirus, and to the AOC for the website on Coronavirus. On March 11, 2020 COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization. As of March 14, 2020 Governor has declared a State of Emergency for the State of Georgia and a Public Health Emergency amid the coronavirus outbreak and the virus spreading in Georgia. As of March 16, 2020 the number of confirmed cases in Georgia has increased to ninety (99) cases.

Due to the increasing number of cases in Georgia within the last forty-eight (48) hours, I am concerned about the transmissibility of this virus and the role our Municipal Court plays in public gatherings where transmission is more than likely to occur and exacerbate the exponentially growing threat of harm to our citizens. It is anticipated that citizens throughout the State of Georgia and other states may be adversely affected by such virus and its actual or potential transmission since there are approximately 99 cases in Georgia.

The Judicial State of Emergency substantially infringes upon the normal functioning of the judicial system as it relates to arraignment, revocation hearings, bond hearings, first appearance hearings and trials in Municipal Courts as well as Courts in the State of Georgia.



In compliance with Justice Melton's Statewide Judicial Emergency Order and O.C.G.A. § 38-3-61, I am declaring a Judicial Emergency in the City of Grantville and suspending Court in Grantville Municipal Court until April 13, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. *I have attached a copy of the Order Declaring Statewide Judicial Emergency filed by Chief Justice Harold Melton and Judicial Emergency Order for Grantville Municipal Court.* The nature of the emergency is the potential spread of COVID-19 throughout the State of Georgia and the potential infection of those who required to appear in our courts and interact with large groups. "The judicial emergency suspends, tolls, extends and otherwise grants relief from any: (1) statute of limitation; (2) time within which to issue a warrant; (3) time within which to try a case for which a demand for speedy trial has been filed; (4) time within which to hold a commitment hearing; (5) deadline or other schedule regarding the detention of a juvenile; (6) time within which to return a bill of indictment or an accusation or to bring a matter before a grand jury; (7) time within which to file a writ habeas corpus; (8) time within which discovery or any aspect thereof is to be completed; (9) time within which to serve a party; (10) time within which to appeal to or seek the right of appeal any order, ruling, or other determination; and (11, including trial, arraignment, revocation hearings and other determination; and (11) such other legal proceedings as determined to be necessary by the authorized judicial order."

"The Statewide Judicial Emergency shall terminate on April 13, 2020 at 11:59 p.m., unless otherwise extended" per Chief Justice Harold Melton.

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In order to protect the citizens entering into our court, we will implement the following procedures upon reopening:

\*\*\*\*\* Please post a sign with the following:

**PLEASE TELL SECURITY OFFICERS AT SECURITY CHECKPOINT THE FOLLOWING:**

1. If you have traveled to any country, including but not limited to, China, Iran, South Korea, Japan, and Italy within the last fourteen (14) days.
2. If you have traveled outside the State of Georgia within the last fourteen (14) days.
3. If you reside or live with a person or had close contact with someone who has traveled to outside of the U.S. or any of the countries listed in #1 within the last fourteen (14) days.
4. If you have been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, health agency or hospital.
5. If you or someone in close contact has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
6. If you have fever, cough or shortness of breath.

If yes is the answer, then the name, address and telephone number of persons will be taken to the Clerk of Court and the person's case will be continued to another date.

These preventative measures will help us do our part to protect the citizens we serve.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance with this matter.