



Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Harold D. Melton
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Memorandum

TO: Georgia Certified Court Reporters

FROM: Hon. Carla Wong McMillian, Chair, Judicial Council Standing Committee on Court Reporting Matters
Hon. John K. Edwards, Chair, Board of Court Reporting

RE: Statewide Judicial Emergency Order

DATE: March 17, 2020

On Saturday, March 14, 2020, Chief Justice Melton of the Supreme Court of Georgia issued an order declaring a statewide judicial emergency until 11:59 PM, on April 13, 2020, unless otherwise extended. The amended order can be found here:

<https://www.gasupreme.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/CJ-Melton-amended-Statewide-Jud-Emergency-order.pdf>

The order automatically tolls, suspends, and extends all statutory and rule-based deadlines in Georgia's court system, including the statute of limitations, appellate deadlines, and discovery deadlines, among others. The order does not close any courts. It permits local courts to make decisions about whether to hold court and which proceedings to suspend, and it provides guidance on which proceedings should be considered "essential functions" and should continue while the order is in effect. A list of local court emergency orders can be found here:

<https://georgiacourts.gov/emergency-judicial-orders/>

Please note that this website may not be accurate up to the minute, and any questions about whether a particular court is closed or has a modified schedule should be directed to that court.

For court reporters, the order tolls the 120-day filing deadline within which court reporters must file transcripts. This rule is located in the Judicial Council's Policies and Fee Schedule (Rule 2.3(C)). The order also suspends the registration renewal and CE deadlines, which have already been extended by the Board of Court Reporting to May 1. Court reporters do not need to request extensions on the time to file a transcript, which would normally be required by Rule 2.3(C).

When the order expires, court reporters will have to file transcripts within whatever time was remaining to file each transcript as of the date of the order, March 14, 2020. So, for example, if a

court reporter had 20 days left to file a transcript on March 14, 2020, she or he will have 20 days left to file a transcript on April 14, 2020, unless the order is extended. The fee schedule should be interpreted accordingly as well.

The Judicial Council's Policies and Fees for Court Reporting Services in Criminal Cases can be found here:

<https://georgiacourts.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/JC-Policies-and-Fees-for-Court-Reporting-Criminal-Cases-8.8.18-Approved-Version-1.pdf>