

IN THE SUPERIOR COURTS OF
PATAULA JUDICIAL CIRCUIT INCLUDING
THE COUNTIES OF CLAY, EARLY, MILLER, QUITMAN,
RANDOLPH, SEMINOLE AND TERRELL
STATE OF GEORGIA

FILED IN OFFICE

MAR 17 2020

Thane J. Bane

CLERK OF SUPREME
COURT OF GEORGIA

IN RE: Judicial Emergency

Date: March 16, 2020

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**ORDER IN FURTHERANCE OF THE AMENDED ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE
OF THE GEORGIA SUPREME COURT DECLARING A JUDICIAL EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED in an order issued by Chief Justice Harold D. Melton on March 14, 2020, and amended on March 14, 2020, (the "Chief Justice's Amended Emergency Order") that a Judicial Emergency exists in the State of 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"); and

WHEREAS, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED that the Judicial Emergency substantially endangers or infringes upon the normal functioning of the judicial system, including among other things, jury service, grand jury service, trials, hearings, any non-essential court matters and generally any matters where large numbers of persons are required or allowed to be in the court in close proximity with each other;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to and in furtherance of the Chief Justice's Amended Emergency Order, and based upon the existence of a Judicial Emergency in the Pataula Judicial Circuit including the Counties of Clay, Early, Miller, Quitman, Randolph, Seminole and Terrell and in order to limit the continued transmission of Coronavirus/COVID-19 throughout said Circuit and Counties and the potential infection of those who are required to appear in our courts

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and interact with large groups due to jury service, including grand jury service, or other large, non-essential calendars, IT IS THE ORDER of this Court that

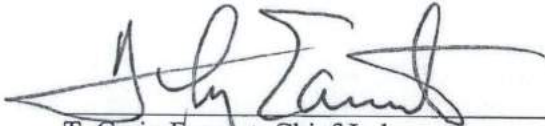
1. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until 11:59 PM on April 13, 2020;
2. No jurors or grand jurors shall report and no jury trials shall be held for a period of this Order and to the extent that any such have been scheduled the same are continued until further order of the Court;
3. Criminal Arraignment, Criminal Calendar Call and Criminal Motions Calendars that have been previously scheduled through April 13, 2020 are continued until further order of the Court;
4. No non-essential matters shall be heard by the classes of court, including Superior, Juvenile, State, Probate and Magistrate, during the period of this Order, unless they can be conducted in a manner, taking all factors into account, that limits personal contact between any persons involved in a court proceeding. Video or teleconferencing may be used as determined by the judge hearing a matter. Parties or attorneys in any non-essential court matters shall contact the chambers of the judge assigned in the respective class of court if they have any questions and/or need to ensure their compliance with the Chief Justice's Amended Emergency Order;
5. Essential Criminal Superior Court matters, including without limitation, revocations and bond hearings, shall be heard at a time deemed appropriate by the assigned judge and also on the following dates and at the following locations:
 - A. March 19, 2020 in Randolph County for Clay, Quitman, and Randolph County cases;
 - B. March 24, 2020 in Early County for Early County Cases;
 - C. April 6, 2020 in Seminole County for Seminole County Cases; and
 - D. April 7, 2020 in Randolph County for Clay, Quitman and Randolph Counties.

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6. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-62, during the period of this Order, and in furtherance of the Chief Justice Melton's Order, the Court hereby suspends, tolls, extends, and otherwise grants relief from any deadlines or other time schedules or filing requirements imposed by otherwise applicable statutes, rules, regulations, or court orders, whether in civil or criminal cases or administrative matters.
7. 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.
8. With regard to the Service of this Order,:
 - A. the respective Sheriffs of Clay, Early, Miller, Quitman, Randolph, Seminole and Terrell Counties shall post a copy of this Order on his public notification site and in the courthouses;
 - B. 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; and
 - C. the undersigned shall immediately notify and serve a copy of this Order on the judges and clerks of all classes of court sitting within the Pataula Judicial Circuit 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.

ME
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ORDERED this 16th day of March, 2020 at 5:42 0 a.m./p.m.



T. Craig Earnest, Chief Judge
Superior Courts of the Pataula Judicial Circuit



Henry L. Balkcom IV, Judge
Superior Courts of the Pataula Judicial Circuit

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have this day served a copy of the above and foregoing ORDER OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY upon the following named persons:

Supreme Court of Georgia
Chief Justice Harold D. Melton via fax: 404 656-2253
Therese Barnes, Clerk barnest@gasupreme.us

Georgia Court of Appeals
Patty Bender, Deputy Clerk coaefast@gaappeals.us

Hon. Henry L. Balkcom, IV
scjhlb@gmail.com

Hon. Joe C. Bishop
scjjcb@windstream.net

Hon. Bill Mills
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whmills@windstream.net

Hon. Danny Shepard
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Hon. Ronnie Rentz
rhrentz@bellsouth.net

Hon. Ed Collier
ed@colliergamble.com

Hon. Clay Bagwell
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claymagistrate@claycountyga.net

Hon. Robin Altman
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Hon. Brenda McNease
millerprobate@gmail.com

Hon. Matt Self
quitcojudge@eufaula.rr.com

Hon. Tony Thompson
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Hon. Sara Torbert
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Hon. Michael J. Rogerson
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Sheriff William Price
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Sheriff Scott Worsley
scott.worsley800a@gmail.com

Sheriff B.J. Foster
bjfoster@quitmansheriff.com

Sheriff Eddie Fairbanks
sheriff@randolphgasheriff.org

Sheriff Heath Elliott
sheriff@seminoleso.org

Sheriff John Bowens
jbowens135@yahoo.com


Scott Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Walter.taylor@dcs.ga.gov

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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rcdistrict3boc@gmail.com
randolphgaclerk@gmail.com
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wtg@colliergamble.com

Southern Tribune	cuthbertsoutherntribune@gmail.com
Early County News	dsmithecnews@gmail.com
Miller County Liberal	millercountyliberal@gmail.com
The Citizens Times	legal.tct@gmail.com
Donalsonville News	rhonda@donalsonvillenews.com
Dawson News	news@thedawsonnews.com

This 17th day of March, 2020


Sharon Williams, Judicial Administrative
Assistant to Chief Judge T. Craig Earnest