

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF TALBOT COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: *
DECLARATION OF *
JUDICIAL EMERGENCY *
*

**TEMPORARY DESIGNATION OF AN ALTERNATIVE FACILITY FOR THE
CONDUCT OF JUDICIAL BUSINESS**

WHEREAS, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED that a Judicial Emergency exists in Talbot County, Georgia affecting all courts such that there is a serious health emergency pursuant to O.C.G.A §38-3-60(2)(D).

Effective March 14, 2020, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia determined that a statewide judicial emergency existed and such order has been continued by Third Order Extending Declaration of Statewide Judicial Emergency on June 12, 2020.

As an “authorized judicial official” as defined in O.C.G.A. §38-3-60 and acting in accordance with provisions of O.C.G.A. §38-3-61, the undersigned hereby declares that this Court is confronted with a judicial emergency. Therefore, pursuant to O.C.G.A. §38-3-61, the Honorable Chief Judge Bemon G. McBride, III of the Superior Court of Talbot County, Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit DOES HEREBY REAFFIRM the existence of a Judicial Emergency in the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit in Talbot County, Georgia. The nature of this emergency is the continued transmission of Coronavirus/COVID-19 throughout Talbot County, Georgia and the potential for infection of those who are required to appear in our courts, who may be required to interact with large groups and those who work in court facilities. Moreover, the Court is apprised that at least one courthouse employee has tested positive for COVID-19; such courthouse employee works directly with the public in close proximity to other employees; and the close and confined conditions of the work areas within such courthouse necessitate this order.

WHEREFORE, pursuant to O.C.G.A §38-3-61(c) the court finds that the circumstances underlying the judicial emergency makes access to the Talbot County Courthouse temporarily impossible, unsafe or impractical. The Court hereby designates the following facility, which is reasonably accessible and appropriate, for the conduct of court business, **STRAUS-LEVERT MEMORIAL HALL, 184 COLLEGE AVENUE, TALBOTTON, GEORGIA.**

The alternate facility shall be accessible to the public, as needed for sessions of court, during the hours required by O.C.G.A. §15-6-93.

Unless otherwise ordered, this Order shall remain in effect from **five o'clock (5:00) p.m. Monday, June 15, 2020 until five o'clock (5:00) p.m., Friday, June 26, 2020**, following which time the Talbot County courthouse and court offices located therein shall reopen for public business on the next business day thereafter.

This Order shall not serve to alter, amend or in any way modify the earlier declarations and determinations referenced above.

IT IS ORDERED that the Sheriff of Talbot County shall post this Order in a public manner in the affected courthouse location and at each entry point of the courthouse.

There shall be no interruption of normal electronic filing services and electronic or digital search capabilities in the affected courts to the extent they are otherwise normally available. Moreover, all offices shall remain open for public access by email and telephone during regular business hours eight o'clock (8:00) a.m. until five o'clock (5:00) p.m. Monday thru Friday, less and except legal holidays.


IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this Order shall be immediately served upon Chief Justice Harold D. Melton of the Supreme Court, 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 a copy of this Order shall be served upon the judges and clerks of all courts sitting within the jurisdictions affected and on the clerks of the Georgia Court of Appeals and Georgia Supreme Court, such service to be accomplished through reasonable means to assure expeditious receipt: and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that notice of this Order shall be disseminated to the affected parties, counsel for the affected parties and the public.

SO ORDERED this 20th day of June, 2020 nunc pro tunc June 15, 2020.

@ 5:24 pm



Bemon G. McBride, III
Chief Judge,
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit