

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF FLOYD COUNTY
ROME JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**TO THE JUDGES AND CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT
TO THE JUDGE(S) AND CLERK OF MAGISTRATE COURT
TO THE JUDGE(S) AND CLERK OF PROBATE COURT
TO THE JUDGE(S) AND CLERK OF JUVENILE COURT**

ORDER-DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, it has been determined that a judicial emergency exists in this county having been so declared by the Governor and the Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court;

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the undersigned that persons working regularly in the Floyd County Courthouse have tested positive for COVID-19 and some personnel have had close contact with them.

WHEREAS, despite the implementation of and adherence to designated public health and safety guidelines, a significant number of Courthouse employees have tested positive and/or required treatment. Pursuant to the CDC and Department of Public Health rules and after consultation with the DPH it has been determined that those who have had "close contact" as defined by the CDC and DPH should self-quarantine for 14 days from the last close contact with an infected person. This requirement has resulted in all of the Judges and Staff of the Probate Court being in self-quarantine. In addition, the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court has most, if not all, of its employees in self-quarantine. Also a number of Sheriff Deputies that work at the Courthouse have also been placed on self-quarantine and are not available to handle Courthouse security and other matters. Two of the four Superior Court Judges and some of their staff have also self-quarantined.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-61, the Courthouse of Floyd County, Georgia shall be closed beginning Monday, June 8, 2020, through and including Sunday, June 21, 2020, or until further order of the court. Provided this order is not extended or otherwise modified, the courthouse will re-open for normal operations on Monday, June 22, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. The presiding Judge will be available at the Forum for temporary protective orders/family violence petitions. Forms may be picked up at the Forum Greenside front door and temporary hearings will be at that location at 3:00 p.m. each day. The Magistrate Court will continue to conduct first appearance hearings remotely with the jail. All other Magistrate Court matters deemed non-essential pursuant to the Order of the Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court shall be held in abeyance. The Juvenile Court of Floyd County has been handling all of its matters and hearing remotely and will continue to do so. Essential matters to be handled in Superior Court will be handled by the presiding judge and done remotely or on a case by case basis in the designated Courthouse Annex on the First Floor of the Forum. Should any other essential matters that have not been previously scheduled occur contact the presiding judge.

IT IS FURTHER ORDRED that upon the reopening of the Courthouse social distancing will be strictly enforced; a mask required; and the use of appropriate sanitizers by all occupants of the building or the general public on entering the building.

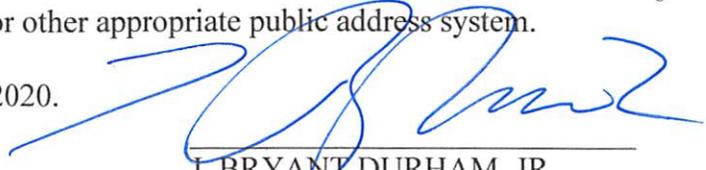
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-62, all court deadlines, time schedules or filing requirements are hereby suspended, tolled, or extended for the duration of the judicial emergency as noted above; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Sheriff or his/her designee shall post a copy of this notice on the courthouse doors; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Superior Court, or her designee, shall immediately notify the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Clerks of the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court by sending them a copy of this notice; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, the County Manager, or his designee, shall post a copy of this notice and any subsequent modification or extension in accordance with O.C.G.A § 38-3-63 by posting it on the county website or other appropriate public address system.

SO ORDERED this 8th day of June 2020.



J. BRYANT DURHAM, JR.
Chief Judge
Superior Court of Floyd County