

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR  
THE LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

**STATE OF GEORGIA**

**SECOND ORDER DECLARING A JUDICIAL EMERGENCY IN THE  
LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

On July 12, 2020, the Honorable Chief Justice Harold D. Melton of the Supreme Court of Georgia issued the Forth Order Extending Declaration of Statewide Judicial Emergency. Paragraph V of that Order specifically acknowledges the authority of the Chief Judge of a Superior Court Judicial Circuit to add restrictions to the statewide Order when necessitated by local conditions pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-61 and § 38-6-32.

Currently there is a substantial surge in Covid-19 cases , illnesses, and hospitalizations in the four counties of the Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit (Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, and Walker Counties). These cases include judges, attorneys, court personnel, as well as citizens of our counties.

Since June 12, 2020, our courts have increased in person court proceedings to attempt to appropriately address the needs of our citizens and to address our case backlog. Our courts have followed our Order Establishing Guidelines for In-Person Proceedings of May 18, 2020. However, at this time this increase in in-person proceedings is no longer feasible or safe.

Therefore, this Court hereby declares a Second Order of Judicial Emergency in the Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit for a 30 day period, beginning Monday, July 27, 2020. Each court of the circuit shall only hold in-person hearings on those matters deemed essential by the presiding judge. All other matters shall be conducted remotely by Zoom, WebEx, or other format selected by the presiding judge. Judge Graham presides in Chattooga County, Judge Van

Pelt in Catoosa County, Judge House in Dade County, and Judge Thompson in Walker County in Superior Court cases. Furthermore, all attorneys, staff, and court personnel, are encouraged to work remotely whenever possible.

By entering this Order, the Court provides an opportunity for proper cleaning and sanitization of courthouse facilities as well as an opportunity to reduce the spread of Covid-19 within our communities. Our Courts shall remain open and available to our citizens in compliance with public health guidelines.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 24 DAY OF July, 2020.

  
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KRISTINA COOK GRAHAM  
CHIEF JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT  
LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT