

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATTAHOOCHEE COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: *
DECLARATION OF *
JUDICIAL EMERGENCY *
*
*

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

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

WHEREAS effective March 14, 2020 the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia has also determined that a statewide judicial emergency exists. That order issued by the Chief Justice is also hereby incorporated herein.

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, it is hereby declared 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 Chattahoochee County, Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit DOES HEREBY REAFFIRM the existence of a Judicial Emergency in the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit in Chattahoochee County, Georgia. The nature of this emergency is the continued transmission of Coronavirus/COVID-19 throughout Chattahoochee County 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 a Courthouse worker has tested positive or is symptomatic for COVID-19.

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 Chattahoochee County Courthouse temporarily impossible or impractical. The Court hereby designates the following facilities, which are reasonable accessible and appropriate, for the conduct of court business: **CHATTAHOOCHEE RECREATION CENTER, 127 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD, CUSSETA, GEORGIA 31805** and **OLD CITY HALL, 327 BROAD STREET, CUSSETA, GEORGIA 31805.**

The alternate facilities shall be accessible to the public pursuant to Section XXVII of the Superior Court's Standing Administrative Order and 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. Tuesday, July 21, 2020 until eight o'clock (8:00) a.m., Wednesday August 5, 2020** at which time the Chattahoochee County Courthouse and court offices located therein shall reopen for public business.

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 Chattahoochee County shall post this Order in a public manner in the affected courthouse location and at each public entry point of the courthouse.

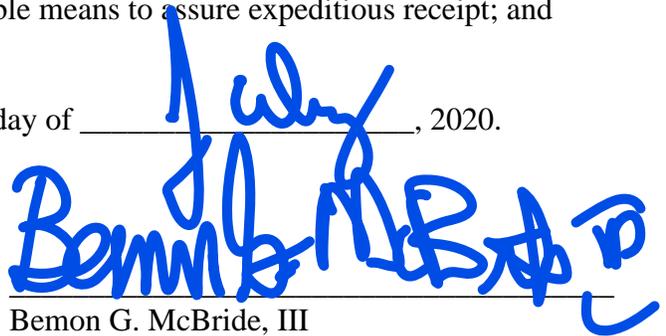
There shall be no interruption of normal electronic filing services and electronic or digital search capabilities in the affected courts to the extent they are otherwise normally available. Moreover, all offices shall remain open for public access by email and telephone during regular business hours 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 the Clerk of this Court 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 Superior Court of Georgia at barnest@gasupreme.us;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of this Court shall immediately notify and serve a copy of the order on 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

SO ORDERED this 21st day of July, 2020.

4:21 pm



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