

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WARE COUNTY
WAYCROSS 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**

**AMENDMENT TO THE SECOND ORDER OF AUGUST 9, 2020
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, and this Court in two successive Emergency Orders, the last of which is dated August 5, 2020.

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the undersigned that persons working regularly in the Ware County Magistrate Court have or may have been exposed to COVID-19 and are experiencing symptoms and some personnel have had close contact with them.

WHEREAS, despite the implementation of and adherence to designated public health and safety guidelines, the Assistant Magistrate Judge of Ware County is ill and certain family members have tested positive for Covid-19. 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 fourteen (14) days from the last close contact with an infected person. This requirement has resulted in the Judges and Staff of the Magistrate Court being in self-quarantine. The Magistrate Judge and his staff are quarantined for fourteen (14) days, pending Covid-19 testing. The judge and his staff have worked extremely closely with the Assistant Magistrate Judge and the chance of exposure is high. Based upon the foregoing, the Ware County Magistrate Judge made the decision to close the Ware County Magistrate Court as of 12:00 (noon) on August 13, 2020. On August 13, 2020 the Ware County Magistrate Judge advised the Court of his decision and requested a Declaration of Judicial Emergency for the Ware County Magistrate Court. This Court finds that said request is reasonable and prudent and is in the best interest of the public and all courthouse personnel.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-61, the Magistrate Court of Ware County, Georgia shall be closed beginning Thursday, August 13, 2020 at noon through and including Thursday, August 27, 2020 or until further order of the court. Provided this order is not extended or otherwise modified, the Probate Court will re-open for normal operations on Friday, August 28, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that upon the reopening of the Magistrate Court, social distancing will be strictly enforced; and the use of appropriate sanitizers by all occupants of the building or the general public on entering the building.

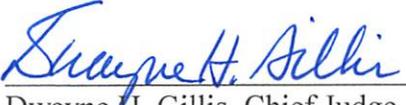
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-62, all court deadlines, time schedules or filing requirements are hereby suspended, tolled, or extended for the duration of the judicial emergency as noted above; and

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 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 13th day of August, 2020.



Dwayne H. Gillis, Chief Judge
Superior Court of Ware County