

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURTS
MOUNTAIN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN RE:

**AMENDMENT TO
STANDING ORDER**

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Standing Order of the Courts

**AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDER FOR ONLINE AND IN-PERSON PROCEEDINGS
DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Whereas, the Covid-19 Pandemic continues to create challenges to the operations of the Judicial System as recognized by the continued extension of declarations of emergency by the Governor and Chief Justice of the State of Georgia.

Whereas, the Judges of the Superior Court on August 20, 2020 entered an Order Declaring Judicial Emergency which was thereafter twice extended.

Whereas, it is now apparent that the Covid-19 Pandemic will likely extend beyond the time limit for which such an order may be extended pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-60. et. seq., however, the Judges of the Superior Court believe that the terms provided are appropriate and necessary to the safety and protection of the litigants, attorneys, court personnel and the public who are served by or participate in the operations of the judicial system.

Therefore, it is hereby ORDERED, that the terms of Court's Standing Order for Online and In-Person Proceedings are hereby amended to incorporate all provisions of the Declaration of Judicial Emergency dated August 20, 2020, including, specifically the requirement that all persons entering any court facility must wear a

face covering, requiring the increased use of virtual proceedings, and those specific provisions applicable to court personnel.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the undersigned shall immediately notify and serve Chief Justice Harold D. Melton of the Supreme Court of Georgia with a copy of this Order, such service to be accomplished via email to Tee Barnes, the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Georgia, at barnest@gasupreme.us and to the Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts at the email address specified in the June 12, 2020 Order of the Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court;

Because this Order modifies some of the provisions of the prior Standing Order containing the Court's Operating Guidelines, a copy hereof shall be submitted to the Administrative Office of the Courts for posting with the Circuit's Covid-19 Operating Guidelines.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the undersigned 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 the Georgia Supreme Court, such service to be accomplished through reasonable means to assure expeditious receipt; and

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

IT IS SO ORDERED this 2nd day of November, 2020 at 3:36 p.m. in
Toccoa, Stephens County, Georgia.



Russell W. Smith, Chief Judge
Superior Courts
Mountain Judicial Circuit



B. Chan Caudell, Judge
Superior Courts
Mountain Judicial Circuit