

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF RICHMOND COUNTY

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT
AND JUDICIAL BRANCH
RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA

STATE OF GEORGIA

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

HARTIE HELMER SULLIVAN
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT, GA

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

WHEREAS, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED that a Judicial Emergency exists in Richmond 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 Carl C. Brown Jr. of the Superior Court of Richmond County, Augusta Judicial Circuit DOES HEREBY REAFFIRM the existence of a Judicial Emergency in the Augusta Judicial Circuit in Richmond County, Georgia. The nature of this emergency is the continued transmission of Coronavirus/COVID-19 throughout Richmond 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 Courthouse workers have tested positive or are symptomatic for COVID-19 as confirmed by the East Central District of the Georgia Department of Public Health.

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 Augusta-Richmond County Judicial Center John H. Ruffin, Jr. Courthouse temporarily impossible or impractical for jury selection. The Court hereby designates the following facility, which is reasonably accessible and appropriate. for the conduct of court business: JAMES BROWN ARENA, 601 Seventh Street, Augusta, Georgia, 30901.

The alternate facility shall be accessible to the public pursuant to 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., Wednesday, November 4, 2020 until eight o'clock (8:00) a.m., Thursday, November 4, 2021.

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 Richmond 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.

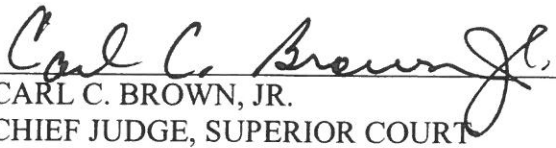
Moreover, all offices shall remain open for public access by email and telephone during regular business hours eight o'clock (8:00) am. until five o'clock (5:00) p.m. Monday thru Friday, less and except legal holidays.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the undersigned 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 Supreme Court of Georgia at barnest@gasupreme.us;

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 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 the order to the affected parties, counsel for the affected parties and the public.

SO ORDERED this 4th day of NOVEMBER, 2020.


CARL C. BROWN, JR.
CHIEF JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT
AUGUSTA JUDICIAL CIRCUIT