



FILED IN OFFICE

July 7, 2021

Therese A. Barnes

SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

Fayette County Justice Center
One Center Drive
Fayetteville, GA 30214
770-716-4282
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W. Fletcher Sams, Judge
Superior Courts
Griffin Judicial Circuit
fletcher@fayettecountyga.gov

Fayette County
Pike County
Spalding County
Upson County

July 2, 2021

Supreme Court Clerk Therese "Tee" Barnes
Nathan Deal Judicial Center
330 Capitol Avenue, S.E., 1st Floor
Suite 1100
Atlanta, GA 30334

Re: Local Judicial Emergency Order – Spalding County

Dear Ms. Barnes:

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §38-3-63, I attach a copy of my local Judicial Emergency Order concerning the Spalding County Courthouse.

Respectfully,

W. Fletcher Sams, Chief Judge
Superior Courts, Griffin Circuit

WFS:mn
Enclosure

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF SPALDING COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

FILED & RECORDED
CLERK, SUPERIOR COURT
SPALDING COUNTY, GA

2021 JUL -1 P 4: 50

EMERGENCY JUDICIAL ORDER

DEBBIE L. BROOKS, CLERK

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §38-3-60, the undersigned hereby declares the issuance of a Judicial Emergency for the Spalding County Courthouse located in Griffin, Spalding County, Georgia. The nature of this emergency is the ongoing threat of Covid-19. The undersigned has met with epidemiologists from District 4 of the Georgia Department of Health and finds that as of June 28, 2021, Spalding County has 44 positive cases per 100,000 over the last 14 day period. In addition, the Department of Public Health is predicting a surge in Covid cases following the July 4th holiday. The Department of Public Health is also concerned with the transmission of the Delta variant of the Covid virus. This Court notes that the Courts must commence a higher volume of jury trials to address backlogs and the Spalding County Courthouse also houses the Tax Commissioner's Office which generates additional traffic through the Courthouse entry. Spalding County also has a current positivity rate of 5.7% which is the highest in our circuit.


As a result of this declaration the following protocols are mandated:

- 1) COVID 19 screening shall continue at the public entrance. Those with COVID symptoms or recent exposure shall be denied entry by the Sheriff's office.
- 2) Masks shall be required of everyone entering the Courthouse, except for those volunteering proof of vaccination. Masks will be provided to those in need thereof.
- 3) Six (6) feet of social distancing shall be maintained, with the exception of those volunteering proof of vaccination.
- 4) Hand sanitizer stations shall be maintained through the Courthouse.

Proof of vaccination may be a doctor's letter, or vaccination card, or photo thereof.

This Judicial Emergency shall terminate at 4:00 p.m. on July 31, 2021, unless rescinded earlier by the undersigned.

SO ORDERED THIS 1st DAY OF July, 2021, in
Fayetteville, Fayette County, Georgia at 4:00 p.m.



Honorable W. Fletcher Sams, Chief Judge
Spalding County Superior Court