

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PULASKI COUNTY  
OCONEE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

**ORDER DECLARING JUDICIAL EMERGENCY**

**IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED** by the undersigned Chief Judge of the Superior Court, after consultation with the county government and local health officials, that a Judicial Emergency exists in Pulaski County, Georgia, affecting the courts such that there is a serious emergency affecting the Court's ability to conduct jury trials and other business, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-60. The nature of this emergency is due to high levels of community transmission of the virus known as Coronavirus/COVID-19 and an outbreak in the Pulaski County Clerk of Court's Office. A positive test was reported after the close of business on August 12, 2021 and the Clerk of Court's Office did not reopen the morning of August 13, 2021.

**WHEREAS**, staff member(s) in the Clerk of Court's Office have/has tested positive for COVID-19 and health and safety guidance recommends that the Clerk of Court and his staff quarantine for a period of time.

**WHEREAS, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED** that the Judicial Emergency substantially endangers or infringes upon the normal functioning of the judicial system as it relates to the function of the Pulaski County Clerk of Court's Office as said office has been instructed to close and whose staff has been directed to quarantine or self-isolate. Continued public operation of said office is no longer feasible and would constitute a public health hazard and risk exposing the public and Court staff to the COVID-19 virus. To the extent possible, the Pulaski County Clerk of Court shall continue to utilize video or telephone conference for emergency and critical functions.

Therefore, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-61, the Honorable Chief Judge Sarah F. Wall of the Superior Court of the Oconee Judicial Circuit Circuit **DOES HEREBY ORDER AND DECLARE** the existence of a Judicial Emergency in Pulaski County. The nature of this emergency is the potential exposure and transmission of Coronavirus/COVID-19 in the Pulaski Court Clerk of Court and the potential infection of those who wish to conduct business with said office. The earliest that the Clerk of Court's Office may safely resume operations in Monday, August 16, 2021.

**This local Judicial Emergency shall terminate on August 15, 2021 at 11:59 p.m., unless otherwise extended.**

Accordingly, **IT IS THE ORDER** of the Court that the Pulaski County Clerk of Court be closed to the public immediately and until August 16, 2021. Individuals having come into contact with the infected individual shall be notified by county officials and encouraged to quarantine and be tested.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-62, during the period of this Order, the Court hereby suspends, tolls, extends, and otherwise grants relief from any deadlines or other time schedules or filing requirements imposed by otherwise applicable statutes, rules, regulations, or court orders, whether in civil or criminal cases or administrative matters in the Pulaski County Superior and Juvenile Courts.

Should the state of emergency extend beyond the period indicated above or should the nature of the emergency otherwise require modification by the Court, the Court will make a determination of available alternative remedies for the conduct of court business, as necessary, and a corresponding Order will be entered and distributed in accordance with Georgia law.


**IT IS ORDERED** that the Sheriff of Pulaski County shall post this Order on the Pulaski County Courthouse doors. The Pulaski County Sheriff shall ensure that the doors to the Clerk of Court's Office are secured.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the undersigned shall immediately notify and serve Chief Justice David E. Nahmias 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](mailto: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 of Pulaski County 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 public shall be notified of this Order via the posting of this Order in writing at the various courthouses of the Oconee Circuit and that this Order shall be provided to the local Bar Association. Affected parties shall also be notified.

**SO ORDERED** this 13<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021.

  
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Sarah F. Wall, Chief Judge  
Oconee Judicial Circuit