

FILED IN OFFICE

April 6, 2022

*Theresa A. Bane*

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF BRYAN COUNTY**

SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

**STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE: DECLARATION OF  
JUDICIAL EMERGENCY**

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**FIRST AMENDED EMERGENCY ORDER**

On April 5, 2022, a tornado struck the City of Pembroke, Georgia, the county seat for Bryan County. As a result, many buildings were damaged, including the Bryan County Courthouse. The Court’s business cannot be conducted in the Bryan County Courthouse in its current state. There are reasonably accessible and appropriate locations for such business to be conducted in Bryan County. However, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 15-6-18, the governing authority for the County must first provide such facilities for the conduction of the Court’s business.

As an “authorized judicial official” as defined in O.C.G.A. § 38-3-60, and acting in accordance with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 38-3-60, *et seq.*, and U.S.C.R. 45, it is hereby declared that this Court is confronted with a judicial emergency. Therefore, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-61, the undersigned, Chief Judge of the Superior Courts of the Atlantic Judicial Circuit, **DOES HEREBY DECLARE** the existence of a Judicial Emergency in Bryan County, Georgia.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-61(c) the Court finds that the circumstances underlying the judicial emergency makes access to the Bryan County Courthouse temporarily impossible. Accordingly, **IT IS ORDERED** that the **Bryan County Courthouse shall be closed effective immediately.** This closure will make

access to the Bryan County Courthouse, and the various levels of courts housed within the Courthouse, impossible for the duration of said closure; thus, it is **FURTHER ORDERED** that notices shall be posted on the outside of the Bryan County Courthouse directing any interested person to the appropriate authority or county officer for any emergency or any need which would otherwise be handled by the Courthouse. There shall be no interruption of normal electronic filing services and electronic digital search capabilities in the affected courts to the extent they are otherwise normally available, including real estate filings which the Clerk of Superior Court will continue to accept to the extent it is able to do so.

As the offices that were formerly in the Bryan County Courthouse will be closed, and so as to provide a contact who may be able to provide assistance/direction to any interested party, attached hereto is a list of phone numbers to individuals that may be reached for assistance and direction relating to any matter that would otherwise be handled by the officials working out of the Bryan County Courthouse.

Moreover, the Bryan County Administration Building, located at 66 Captain Matthew Freeman Drive, Richmond Hill, Georgia 31324, which was used as a satellite office for the Clerk of Superior, State, Juvenile and Magistrate Courts of Bryan County and by the Probate Court of Bryan County, shall remain open for public access during regular business hours 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, less and except legal holidays.

Upon information and belief, the governing authority of Bryan County, Georgia, is scheduled to meet on April 12, 2022, at which time the governing authority will consider the issue of an alternate location for the Court to conduct its business. Until such determination is made, an alternate location cannot be designated pursuant to O.C.G.A.

§ 15-6-18. Therefore, a second amended emergency order will be entered once a determination of an alternate location is made by the Board of Commissioners of Bryan County, Georgia.

**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 from 8:00 a.m. on April 6, 2022 until 5:00 p.m. on May 5, 2022.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the undersigned shall immediately notify and serve Chief Justice David E. Nahmias of the Supreme Court of Georgia with a copy of this Order, such service to be accomplished via e-mail 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 sitting within the jurisdiction 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.

**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 to the public.

**SO ORDERED**, this 6th day of April, 2022.

DocuSigned by:  
  
ROBERT L. RUSSELL, III  
Chief Judge, Superior Courts  
Atlantic Judicial Circuit

**Contact Numbers for Bryan County Officials**

Judge Billy Tomlinson State Court of Bryan County	912-596-5965
Donald Montgomery Solicitor General for Bryan County	912-313-9271
Judge Christy Balbo Juvenile Court of Bryan County	912-844-3156
Rebecca Crowe Clerk of Superior, State, and Juvenile Courts	912-667-5214
Judge Carolyn Shervette Magistrate Court of Bryan County	912-433-0119
Judge Billy Reynolds Probate Court of Bryan County	912-713-5989
Ben Taylor Bryan County Administrator	912-655-9638
Mark Crowe Sheriff, Bryan County	912-312-4021