

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF GWINNETT COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

FILED IN OFFICE
CLERK SUPERIOR COURT
GWINNETT COUNTY, GA

20 MAR 19 AM 4:19

RICHARD ALEXANDER, CLERK

20-B-01097-1 Q

IN RE: :
DECLARATION OF :
JUDICIAL EMERGENCY :
:
March 18, 2020 :

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

WHEREAS, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED that a Judicial Emergency exists in Gwinnett County, Georgia affecting all courts such that there is a serious health emergency pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-60(2)(D).¹ That order issued by this Court on March 13, 2020 is hereby incorporated herein.

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 on 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 George F. Hutchinson, III of the Superior Court of Gwinnett County, Gwinnett Judicial Circuit DOES HEREBY REAFFIRM the existence of a Judicial Emergency in the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit. The nature of this emergency is the continued transmission of

¹ See O.C.G.A. § 38-3-60(2)(D) (providing that “Judicial Emergency” means “[s]uch other serious emergency”).

Georgia, Gwinnett County
This is to certify this is a true and correct copy
of order as the same appears of record
in Gwinnett County Superior/State Court.
Given under my official signature and seal of
the Court this 18 day of March 2020
Cathy Farmer
Deputy Clerk Superior/State Court, Gwinnett County, Georgia

Coronavirus/COVID-19 throughout Gwinnett 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. The Court is aware of at least one incident where person(s) with access to a judicial building may have been exposed to the virus.

Finally, the County Administrator has determined that all county buildings, including the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center as well as the Gwinnett Juvenile and Recorder's Court building, should be temporarily closed on March 19, 2020 for the purpose of thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting those buildings to better ensure the health and safety of all who might have need to enter. Thus, the undersigned hereby again makes this declaration of a judicial emergency affecting all courts and clerk's offices in Gwinnett County.

WHEREFORE, pursuant to O.C.G.A. §38-3-61(c) the Court finds that the circumstances underlying the judicial emergency make access to the office of a Clerk of Court or a courthouse temporarily impossible or impractical. The Court hereby designates another facility, which is reasonably accessible and appropriate, for the conduct of court business. I hereby temporarily designate as that alternate facility for the conduct of judicial business to be:

**COURT FACILITY AT THE GWINNETT PRETRIAL DETENTION CENTER
2900 HIGHWAY 316
LAWRENCEVILLE, GEORGIA 30043**

The alternate facility shall be accessible to the public pursuant to Section XXVII of the Superior Court's Standing Administrative Order and during the hours required by O.C.G.A. §15-6-93.

This temporary order shall be effective from March 19, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. to March 23, 2020 at 5:00 P.M. ONLY and shall terminate effective March 24, 2020 when normal operations

may resume that morning.

This temporary three (3) day designation of an alternate facility does not serve to alter, amend, or in any way modify the earlier declarations referenced above.

IT IS ORDERED that the Sheriff of Gwinnett County shall post this Order publically in the affected courthouse locations and at each public entry point of each location.

There shall be no interruption of normal E-Filing services in the effected courts to the extent they are otherwise normally available.

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 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.

SO ORDERED this 18th day of March, 2020 at 4:00 P.M..



GEORGE F. HUTCHINSON, III
Chief Judge, Superior Court of Gwinnett County

Copies to:

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
Clerk of the Supreme Court
Clerk of the Court of Appeals
Judges of the Gwinnett Superior Court
Judges of the Gwinnett State Court
Chief Magistrate of Gwinnett County
Clerk of Superior, State & Magistrate Courts
Chief Probate Court Judge
Judges of the Juvenile Court of Gwinnett County
Recorders Court Judges of Gwinnett County
District Attorney
State Court Solicitor General
Sheriff of Gwinnett County .