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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGLAS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

NOV 12 2020

Tammy M. Howard, Clerk
Superior & State Court
Douglas County, GA

IN RE: Declaration of Judicial Emergency

November 12, 2020

ORDER DECLARING JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

Whereas, it has been determined that a Judicial Emergency exists in Douglas County, Georgia affecting the Superior and State Court such that there is a serious health emergency pursuant to Ga. Code § 38-3-60(2)(D). See Ga. Code § 38-3-60(2)(D) (providing that "Judicial Emergency" means "[s]uch other serious emergency").

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 functioning of the Superior and State Court Clerk's Offices in Douglas County.

Therefore, pursuant to Ga. Code § 38-3-61, the Honorable Chief Judge David Emerson of the Superior Court of Douglas County, Douglas Judicial Circuit and the Honorable Chief Judge Eddie Barker of the State Court of Douglas County, do declare the existence of a Judicial Emergency in the Douglas Judicial Circuit. The nature of this emergency is the risk of transmission of Coronavirus/COVID-19 into the Douglas County Superior and State Court Clerk's Offices due to an outbreak of the virus and the potential infection of those who are required to work with or appear in the Superior or State Court Clerk's Offices.

Thus, the undersigned hereby make this declaration of a judicial emergency affecting the Superior and State Court Clerk's Offices in Douglas County as it relates to the functioning of those offices.

Accordingly, the Superior and State Court Clerk's Offices in Douglas County shall be closed on November 13, 2020.

During this period, access to the Superior and State Court Clerk's Offices in Douglas County is impossible and impractical and represents a risk to the public health due to a COVID-19 outbreak and there is no

reasonably accessible or appropriate facility for the in-person conduct of the Clerk's business. The e-filing system remains available.

For the period of the judicial emergency defined above to the appropriate county, the undersigned hereby suspends, tolls, extends or otherwise grants relief from deadlines, other time schedules, or filing requirements enumerated in O.C.G.A. § 38-3-62.

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.

Pursuant to Ga. Code § 38-3-63:

It is ordered that the Sheriff of Douglas County shall post this Order on his public notification site and in the courthouses;

It is ordered that Douglas County shall post this notice on the Clerk's website;

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.

It is so ordered this 12th day of November 2020 at 1:25 p.m.



David Emerson
Chief Judge
Superior Court
Douglas Judicial Circuit



Eddie Barker
Chief Judge
State Court
Douglas Judicial Circuit