



## SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA



April 6, 2020

### ORDER EXTENDING DECLARATION OF STATEWIDE JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

Pursuant to OCGA § 38-3-61, and due to the continuing statewide emergency involving the transmission of Coronavirus/COVID-19, the Honorable Harold D. Melton, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, does hereby extend the March 14, 2020 (amended) Order Declaring Statewide Judicial Emergency, which would have expired on April 13, 2020 at 11:59 p.m., until Wednesday, May 13, 2020, at 11:59 p.m., unless otherwise further modified or extended. The Chief Justice will provide notice as to the expected termination of the Order at least one week in advance to allow courts to plan the transition to fuller operations.


With regard to matters not deemed essential functions under the Statewide Judicial Emergency Order, courts and litigants are encouraged to proceed to the extent feasible and consistent with public health guidance, for example through the use of teleconferences and videoconferences, to reduce backlogs when the judicial emergency ends.

With regard to all matters in this challenging time, all lawyers are reminded of their obligations of professionalism.

It is ordered, pursuant to OCGA § 38-3-63, that notice and service of a copy of this Order shall immediately be sent to the judges and clerks of all courts in this State and to the clerk of the Georgia Court of Appeals, such service to be accomplished through means to assure expeditious receipt, which include electronic means; and

It is further ordered that notice shall also be sent to the media, the State Bar of Georgia, and the officials and entities listed below and shall constitute sufficient notice of the issuance of this Order to the affected parties, counsel for the affected parties, and the public.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.

  
Chief Justice Harold D. Melton  
Supreme Court of Georgia

cc:

Governor Brian P. Kemp  
Lt. Governor Geoff Duncan  
Speaker David Ralston  
State Bar of Georgia  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
Judicial Council of Georgia  
Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia  
Department of Juvenile Justice  
Criminal Justice Coordinating Council  
Council of Accountability Court Judges  
Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution  
Institute of Continuing Judicial Education of Georgia  
Georgia Council of Court Administrators  
Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism  
Judicial Qualifications Commission  
Association County Commissioners of Georgia  
Georgia Municipal Association  
Georgia Sheriffs' Association  
Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police  
Georgia Public Defender Council  
Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia  
Department of Corrections  
Department of Community Supervision  
Georgia Court Reporters Association  
Board of Court Reporting  
State Board of Pardons and Paroles  
Constitutional Officers Association of Georgia  
Council of Magistrate Court Clerks  
Council of Municipal Court Clerks

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA  
Clerk's Office, Atlanta

I certify that the above is a true extract from the minutes of the Supreme Court of Georgia.  
Witness my signature and the seal of said court hereto affixed the day and year last above written.

, Clerk