

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURTS OF THE OCMULGEE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA**

NOTICE OF EXPECTED EXPIRATION OF LOCAL ORDERS RELATING TO THE STATEWIDE JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

On March 14, 2020, the Supreme Court of Georgia declared a Statewide Judicial Emergency for 30 days due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Supreme Court subsequently issued fifteen orders extending the declaration of Statewide Judicial Emergency in 30-day increments.¹

Pursuant to those Statewide Judicial Emergency Orders, this Circuit filed the following three documents with the Administrative Office of the Courts to provide information and instructions on how the Superior Courts of this Circuit would conduct court proceedings during the Statewide Judicial Emergency:

1. Order Establishing Guidelines to Conduct In-Person Proceedings During Statewide Judicial Emergency;
2. Standing Order on Videoconference Proceedings During Statewide Judicial Emergency; and
3. Plan for the Safe Resumption of Jury Trials.

In anticipation of the expiration of the Public Health State of Emergency on June 30, 2021, the Honorable Harold D. Melton, Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, filed a Notice of Expected Termination of Statewide Judicial Emergency announcing that the Statewide Judicial Emergency will likewise expire on June 30, 2021.² Additionally, Chief Justice Melton filed In Re: Extending and Clarifying Temporary Amendments to Video Conferencing Rules for the Superior, Juvenile, Magistrate, Municipal, and Probate Courts in June 22, 2021, which extends the temporary amendments to the video conferencing rules through June 30, 2022.

Accordingly, the three documents shown above, along with any other communications that provided information or instruction on the Statewide Judicial Emergency from the Superior Court Judges of this Circuit, shall also expire at 11:59 p.m. on June 30, 2021.³

Consequently, beginning July 1, 2021, Superior Court operations throughout the Circuit shall return to what they were prior to the start of the Statewide Judicial Emergency with the following exceptions:

1. Superior Court proceedings may continue to be held by video conference in accordance with the rules; and

¹ For more information, visit <https://www.gasupreme.us/>.

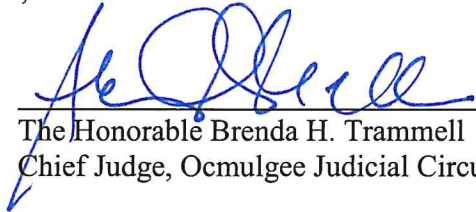
² The Notice may be found at <https://www.gasupreme.us/>.

³ Unless the Statewide Judicial Emergency is extended, in which case the local orders and communications shall expire coincident with the Statewide Judicial Emergency.

2. Sheriffs shall have the option to continue to allow inmates to participate in video conference proceedings.⁴

Based on local conditions, the Superior Courts of this Circuit may issue guidance relating to the conduct of court proceedings or issue a local Judicial Emergency pursuant to the powers granted it by the Georgia Legislature and the Supreme Court of Georgia.

SO ORDERED this 24 day of June, 2021.


The Honorable Brenda H. Trammell
Chief Judge, Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit

⁴ Consistent with all other constitutional, statutory, and Supreme Court rules and amendments.