

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

STANDING ORDER OF THE COURT

IN RE: Declaration of Judicial Emergency *
Date: April 8, 2020 *
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**ORDER EXTENDING DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY
UNTIL MAY 13, 2020**

On March 14, 2020, the Honorable Harold D. Melton, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, entered an ORDER DECLARING STATEWIDE EMERGENCY for the State of Georgia due to the threat of transmission of Coronavirus/COVID-19. On April 6, 2020, Justice Melton entered an ORDER EXTENDING DECLARATION OF STATEWIDE JUDICIAL EMERGENCY, which lengthened the statewide judicial emergency until 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, **May 13, 2020**.

On March 13, 2020, the Honorable Brenda S. Weaver, Chief Superior Court Judge of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit, entered an ORDER DECLARING JUDICIAL EMERGENCY for Pickens, Gilmer, and Fannin Counties, due to the threat of transmission of Coronavirus/COVID-19. Pursuant to OCGA § 38-3-61, and due to the continuing statewide emergency involving the transmission of Coronavirus/COVID-19, Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver hereby extends the ORDER DECLARING JUDICIAL EMERGENCY for Pickens, Gilmer and Fannin Counties, until 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, **May 13, 2020**.

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.

AMENDED COURT CALENDAR

IT IS THE ORDER of the Court that jury trials are CONTINUED, and no jurors or grand jurors shall report, and no jury trials shall be held until after May 13, 2020.

All parties and attorneys in specially-set hearings that are scheduled to occur during this time period shall contact the assigned judge for direction.

The following is the Amended 2020 Superior Court Calendar of the Appalachian Circuit for the time period between April 13, 2020, to May 13, 2020:

- Gilmer Grand Jury to begin the week of **April 13, 2020**, is CONTINUED.
- Gilmer Civil Nonjury Hearings on **April 14, 2020**, shall include only those cases in which an emergency hearing involving stalking, family violence, or minor children are requested, or any hearing deemed essential; all other cases are CONTINUED;
- Pickens Civil Nonjury Hearings on **April 15, 2020**, shall include only those cases in which an emergency hearing involving stalking, family violence, or minor children is requested or any hearing deemed essential; all others are CONTINUED;
- Fannin Civil Nonjury Hearings on **April 20, 2020**, shall include only those cases in which an emergency hearing involving stalking, family violence, or minor children is requested or any hearing deemed essential; all other cases are CONTINUED;

- Gilmer Civil Nonjury Hearings on **April 21, 2020**, shall include only those cases in which an emergency hearing involving stalking, family violence, or minor children is requested or any hearing deemed essential; all other cases are CONTINUED.
- Gilmer Criminal Nonjury Hearings on **April 21, 2020**, shall include only bond hearings or pleas in which the Defendant is incarcerated or any hearing deemed essential; all other cases are CONTINUED;
- Pickens Civil Nonjury Hearings on **April 22, 2020**, shall include only those cases in which an emergency hearing involving stalking, family violence, or minor children is requested or any hearing deemed essential; all other cases are CONTINUED.
- Pickens Criminal Nonjury Hearings on **April 22, 2020**, shall include only bond hearings or pleas in which the Defendant is incarcerated or any hearing deemed essential; all other cases are CONTINUED;
- Fannin Civil Nonjury Hearings on **April 23, 2020**, shall include only those cases in which an emergency hearing involving stalking, family violence, or minor children is requested or any hearing deemed essential; all other cases are CONTINUED.
- Fannin Criminal Nonjury Hearings on **April 23, 2020**, shall include only bond hearings or pleas in which the Defendant is incarcerated or any hearing deemed essential; all other cases are CONTINUED;
- Fannin Motions and Pleas on **April 24, 2020**, are CONTINUED; all jail matters and essential hearings shall be heard on **April 23, 2020**.
- Pickens Motions and Pleas on **April 24, 2020**, are CONTINUED; all jail matters and essential hearings shall be heard on **April 22, 2020**.

- Fannin Criminal Jury Trials to begin the week of **April 27, 2020**, are CONTINUED;
- Pickens Criminal Jury Trials to begin the week of **April 27, 2020**, are CONTINUED;
- Gilmer Civil Nonjury Hearings on **April 28, 2020**, shall include only those cases in which an emergency hearing involving stalking, family violence, or minor children is requested or any hearing deemed essential; all other cases are CONTINUED.
- Gilmer Criminal Nonjury Hearings on **April 28, 2020**, shall include only bond hearings or pleas in which the Defendant is incarcerated or any hearing deemed essential; all other cases are CONTINUED;
- Pickens Civil Nonjury Hearings on **April 29, 2020**, shall include only those cases in which an emergency hearing involving stalking, family violence, or minor children is requested or any hearing deemed essential; all other cases are CONTINUED.
- Fannin Civil Nonjury Hearings on **April 30, 2020**, shall include only those cases in which an emergency hearing involving stalking, family violence, or minor children is requested or any hearing deemed essential; all other cases are CONTINUED.
- Gilmer Civil Jury Trials to begin the week of **May 4, 2020**, are CONTINUED.
- Gilmer Criminal Nonjury Hearings on **May 5, 2020**, shall include only bond hearings or pleas in which the Defendant is incarcerated or any hearing deemed essential; all other cases are CONTINUED;
- Gilmer Civil Nonjury Hearings on **May 5, 2020**, shall include only those cases in which an emergency hearing involving stalking, family violence, or minor children is requested or any hearing deemed essential; all other cases are CONTINUED.

- Pickens Criminal Nonjury Hearings on **May 6, 2020**, shall include only bond hearings or pleas in which the Defendant is incarcerated or any hearing deemed essential; all other cases are CONTINUED;
- Pickens Civil Nonjury Hearings on **May 6, 2020**, shall include only those cases in which an emergency hearing involving stalking, family violence, or minor children is requested or any hearing deemed essential; all other cases are CONTINUED.
- Fannin Criminal Nonjury Hearings on **May 7, 2020**, shall include only bond hearings or pleas in which the Defendant is incarcerated or any hearing deemed essential; all other cases are CONTINUED;
- Fannin Civil Nonjury Hearings on **May 7, 2020**, shall include only those cases in which an emergency hearing involving stalking, family violence, or minor children is requested or any hearing deemed essential; all other cases are CONTINUED.
- Fannin Civil Nonjury Hearings on **May 8, 2020**, shall include only those cases in which an emergency hearing involving stalking, family violence, or minor children is requested or any hearing deemed essential; all other cases are CONTINUED.
- Fannin Grand Jury on **May 11, 2020**, is CONTINUED.
- Gilmer Civil Nonjury Hearings on **May 11, 2020**, shall include only those cases in which an emergency hearing involving stalking, family violence, or minor children is requested or any hearing deemed essential; all other cases are CONTINUED.
- Pickens Civil Nonjury Hearings on **May 12, 2020**, shall include only those cases in which an emergency hearing involving stalking, family violence, or minor children is requested or any hearing deemed essential; all other cases are CONTINUED.

- Fannin Civil Nonjury Hearings on **May 13, 2020**, shall include only those cases in which an emergency hearing involving stalking, family violence, or minor children is requested or any hearing deemed essential; all other cases are CONTINUED.
- All **Juvenile Court** hearings are continued for the duration of this order, until after May 13, 2020, with the exception of matters deemed an emergency or any hearing deemed essential by the Juvenile Judge.
- All **Magistrate Court** hearings are continued for the duration of this order, until after May 13, 2020, with the exception of matters deemed an emergency or jail cases (i.e., first appearance hearings or bond hearings) or any hearing deemed essential by the Magistrate Judge.
- All **Probate Court** hearings are continued for the duration of this order, until after May 13, 2020, with the exception of matters deemed an emergency or any hearings deemed essential by the Probate Judge.

The Clerk's office is instructed not to accept Rule Nisis for court dates between now and and May 13, 2020, without first presenting the same to the assigned judge. If a party requests that a hearing proceed that would have been cancelled by this order, the party shall contact the assigned judge, stating the reason therein.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-63:

IT IS ORDERED that the Sheriffs of Pickens County, Gilmer County, and Fannin County, shall post this Order on his public notification site and in the courthouses;

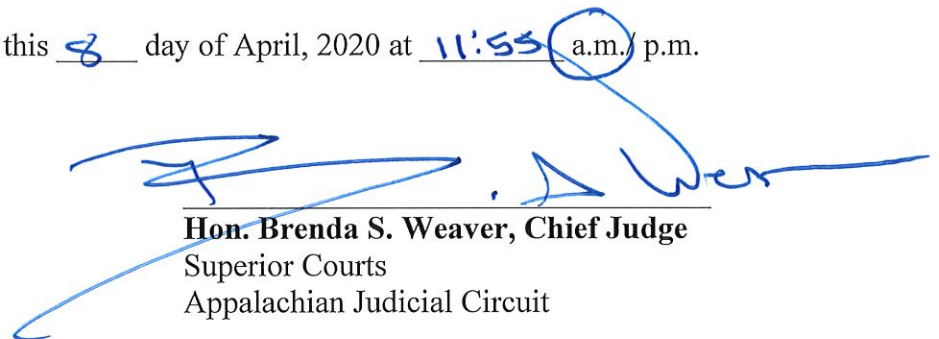
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the undersigned shall immediately notify and serve Chief Justice Harold D. Melton of the Supreme Court with a copy of this Order, such service to be

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 8 day of April, 2020 at 11:55 a.m./ p.m.



Hon. Brenda S. Weaver, Chief Judge
Superior Courts
Appalachian Judicial Circuit