

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WHITFIELD COUNTY
CONASAUGA JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA

FILED & RECORDED
WHITFIELD COUNTY, GA.
2021 MAR - 2 PM 4: 44

Bobby Bailey
CLERK OF
SUPERIOR COURT

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21CT00277-M

ORDER DECLARING JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Governor of Georgia on March 13, 2020 declared a Public Health State of Emergency pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-51 and the Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court on February 7, 2021 issued an Eleventh Order Extending Declaration of Statewide Judicial Emergency pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-61;

WHEREAS, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED that a Judicial Emergency exists in Whitfield County, Georgia, affecting the Whitfield County Superior Court such that there is a serious health emergency pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-60(2)(D). See O.C.G.A. § 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 jury service;

WHEREAS, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED that the Whitfield County Courthouse will not be able to provide a space during jury selection that will permit potential jurors and court staff to adequately maintain social distancing of at least six feet, and it is necessary, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-61(c), to designate another facility which is reasonably accessible and appropriate for the conduct of court business, and to adequately social distance for the selection of traverse juries;

WHEREAS, the Rock Bridge Community Church Congregation has agreed to lease the Rock Bridge Community Church Sanctuary to the governing authority of Whitfield County for the exclusive use of the Whitfield County Superior Court for the selection of grand jurors on March 5;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the selection of grand jurors shall occur on the aforementioned date at Rock Bridge Community Church, Stage 123, 123 W. Gordon Street, Dalton, Georgia, 30720. The Church shall be sanitized in a manner adhering to Centers for Disease Control guidelines before individuals are permitted to enter the building on the day of jury proceedings.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that jury proceedings shall be held in a space within the Church that allows individuals to maintain social distancing of at least six feet. All persons will be required to wear a mask or face covering over their noses and mouths throughout the proceedings, and a mask will be provided for those who arrive without a mask. All persons entering the building shall have their temperature checked and will be asked appropriate questions regarding potential exposure to COVID-19. Hand sanitizer will be provided.

PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. § 38-3-63:

IT IS ORDERED that the Sheriff of Whitfield County shall post this Order in the courthouse and on the entrance door at Rock Bridge Community Church.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the undersigned shall immediately notify and serve Chief Justice Harold D. Melton of the Supreme Court of Georgia with a copy of this Order, such service to be accomplished via email to Therese S. 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 this Order on the Whitfield County Clerk of Superior Court 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.

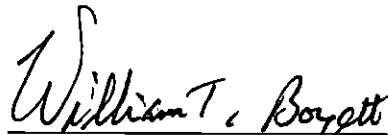
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Whitfield County Clerk of Superior Court shall give necessary notice to potential jurors that the jury selection will take place in the Rock Bridge Community Church, such notice to include but not be limited to providing information of the location change in juror summonses and

posting the location change on the official Whitfield County Clerk of Court webpage.

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 22nd day of March, 2021, in Whitfield County, Georgia.

This Judicial Emergency Order shall terminate on April 1, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. unless otherwise extended.



HON. WILLIAM T. BOYETT
Chief Judge, Superior Court
Conasauga Judicial Circuit