

2020 JUL -8 P 7:37

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

*Dannie Mosley*  
CLERK, SUPERIOR CT  
CHATHAM COUNTY, GA

IN RE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF J. TOM COLEMAN JUDICIAL BUILDING DUE TO JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

ORDER DECLARING JUDICIAL EMERGENCY  
AND TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF J. TOM COLEMAN JUDICIAL BUILDING

Whereas, a judicial emergency has been declared at the J. Tom Coleman Judicial Building by the undersigned Chief Judge of the Superior Court of Chatham County, Georgia; and

Whereas, due to the failure of the air handlers on two floors of the courthouse creating an increased risk of spread of infection due to the lack of air circulation, high temperatures, and the concerns raised by documented community spread of COVID-19 in the area; and

Whereas, Dr. Lawton C. Davis, Coastal Health District Director, after consultation, had concerns about the potential health risks for courthouse employees and members of the public due to lack of circulation and heat in the building, and agreed a prudent course of action is to declare an emergency and to order the temporary closure of the Courthouse; and

Therefore, in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 38-3-60 et seq., IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, that

The J. Tom Coleman Judicial Building shall be closed to all entry for the time period July 9, 2020, to July 13 at 7:00 a.m. or until further order of the Court, to allow for repair of the HVAC system and restoration of safe environmental conditions inside the building; and

It is further ordered pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-62, all court deadlines, times, schedules or filing requirements are hereby suspended, tolled, or extended for the duration of the judicial emergency as noted above, including initial appearances in Recorder's Court, all Magistrate Court dockets scheduled July 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and any other court dockets and proceedings scheduled during that time period; and

It is further ordered that the Sheriff or his designee shall post a copy of this notice on the courthouse doors; and

It is further ordered that the Clerk of Superior Court or her designee, shall immediately notify the Chief Justice for the Supreme Court and the Clerks of the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court by sending them a copy of this notice; and

It is further ordered that the County Manager, or his designee, shall post a copy of this notice and any subsequent modification or extension in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 38-3-63 by posting it on the county website or other appropriate public address system.

Parties with vacated hearings should call the office of the appropriate clerk of court on Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>.

SO ORDERED this 8<sup>th</sup> of July, 2020.

  
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Chief Judge Penny Haas Freesemann  
Chatham County Superior Court