

Patty Baker, Clerk of Superior Court - Cherokee County, GA

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHEROKEE COUNTY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: STATE OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY
ORDER ON PUBLIC ACCESS

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By Order of March 14, 2020, Chief Justice Harold Melton of the Supreme Court of Georgia declared a state-wide judicial emergency. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-61, during the time period set forth in the said Order, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

Security personnel of the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office shall be required to take the temperature of all people seeking entry to the Frank C. Mills, III Justice Center, including individuals who work in the building and attorneys appearing before the Courts. If a person currently has a fever, as defined as a temperature in excess of 99.0 degrees, said person shall be denied entry.

The person denied entry into the Justice Center shall be instructed by security personnel to call the Justice Center main telephone number (678-493-6100) from outside the courthouse. If said person is seeking to file a pleading or other document, the Clerk of Court shall determine whether such filing can be accomplished through the electronic filing system. If the individual does not have access to the e-filing system, then the Clerk shall accept paper filing. The person filing the pleading shall remain outside the Justice Center while the pleading is being filed; delivery of the paper filing shall be made by a deputy sheriff to the Clerk.

If the person denied entry into the Justice Center is there to attend a hearing as either a litigant, witness, or public spectator, such person shall remain outside the Justice Center while the appropriate judicial chambers is notified by the security staff. The assigned judge is authorized to consider all relevant facts and circumstances and make a determination as to whether to admit such person.

The Clerk of Court shall remain open to the public for filing of pleadings by self-represented litigants and in criminal cases. All self-represented litigants, including individuals seeking to file a Petition for Temporary Protective Order under the Family Violence Act, should contact the Clerk of Court at clerk.cherokee.ga.com or call 678-493-6511 to schedule an appointment for assistance. While attorneys and self-represented litigants are encouraged to use the temporary criminal e-filing system, the Clerk shall accept and file paper pleadings in all criminal cases.

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This Order shall be filed upon the minutes of the Superior Court, posted at the entrances to the Justice Center, and published on the website of the Court Administrator (<https://www.cherokeega.com/Court-Administrators-Office/>). It shall remain in effect throughout emergency period as set forth by the Order of the Chief Justice, and for any extension of said Order.

SO ORDERED, THIS 25TH DAY OF MARCH, 2020.

/s/ Ellen McElyea

Chief Judge Ellen McElyea
Superior Court of Cherokee County
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit