

JUL 01 2021

Grant Walraven
Clerk

**SECOND AMENDED
PLAN TO RESUME JURY TRIALS
CHEROKEE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BARTOW AND GORDON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT**

Under the Declaration of State Judicial Emergency issued by the Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court on March 12, 2020 as well as the Six Extension Orders Extending that Declaration, jury trials were suspended. Under the Sixth Extension Order, the Chief Judge of each Superior Court circuit was directed to convene for each county in the circuit a local committee to develop a plan for safely resuming jury trials. The Judicial COVID-19 Task Force has issued "Guidance for Resuming Jury Trials" (together the "Guidance Documents") to guide and assist the local committees in formulating a plan.

Pursuant to the Sixth Extension Order and the Guidance Documents, a local committee of judicial system participants (the "Committee") was convened to develop a detailed and locally tailored plan to resume jury trials in the Cherokee Judicial Circuit to ensure the health, safety, and constitutional protections of all who participate in the judicial system, including jurors and potential jurors, litigants, witnesses, lawyers, judges, court personnel, and the public (the "Plan").

Pursuant to the Ninth Order Extending the Declaration of State Judicial Emergency, the Cherokee Judicial Circuit may resume jury trials provided a Plan has been proposed by the Committee, approved and entered by the Chief Judge, and filed with the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Chief Judge D. Scott Smith serves as chair to the Committee. Chief Judge Smith was joined in the Committee by representatives from sources recommended by the Guidance Documents, to wit:

Suzanne Smith, Superior Court Judge
Jeffrey A. Watkins, Superior Court Judge
Rosemary Greene, Superior Court Judge
Samir Patel, District Attorney
Christopher Paul, Chief Public Defender
Melba Scoggins, Clerk of Superior Court (Bartow)
Grant Walraven, Clerk of Superior Court (Gordon)
Tara Zapp, Deputy Clerk of Superior Court (Gordon)
Lt. Mike Pressley, Bartow County Sheriff's Office
Cpl. Lon Harbin, Bartow County Sheriff's Office
Mj. Pat Bedford, Gordon County Sheriff's Office
Peter Olson, Bartow County Administrator
Jim Ledbetter, Gordon County Administrator
Keith King, Gordon County Asst. to Administrator
Lisa Crowder, Gordon County Health Department
Cyndi Carter, Bartow County Health Department
Melinda Goble, Legal Assistant to Chief Judge
Maurice Jones, Bailiff Gordon County

Pursuant to recent changes in public health notifications and recommendations made by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and in light of the expiration of the Declaration of State Judicial Emergency issued by the Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, the previously filed plan is hereby dissolved and terminated.

Bartow and Gordon County Superior Courts will resume "normal" operations beginning July 1, 2021. The presiding judge may provide necessary measures to ensure the health and safety of court participants including jurors. This may include use of video hearings, the wearing of masks for unvaccinated persons, social distancing and other accommodations that are necessary and prudent under the given circumstances.

The Court would like to thank all of those who cooperated and assisted the operation of the courts during this very difficult time. The Court would especially like to thank the local county governments for the supplies and man hours spent to ensure the safety of our citizens.

SO ORDERED, this 15th day of July 2021.



D. SCOTT SMITH, CHIEF JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURTS
CHEROKEE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT