

IN THE STATE AND MAGISTRATE COURTS OF GWINNETT COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

FILED IN OFFICE
CLERK STATE COURT

20 JUN 23 PM 2: 42

Standing Order No.:

20-CC-0008

RICHARD ALEXANDER, CLERK

**GARNISHMENT E-FILING IN STATE AND MAGISTRATE COURTS
PERMITTED DURING THIRD EXTENSION OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY**

This Circuit suspended new garnishment case filings pursuant to the Order Declaring Judicial Emergency entered on March 13, 2020. This Circuit's Order follows the period of Judicial Emergency designated by the Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court. The Chief Justice entered a Third Order Extending Declaration of Statewide Judicial Emergency on June 12, 2020 ("Statewide Order No. 3"); that Order is not set to expire until July 13, 2020. The Statewide Order No. 3 continues to toll and stay all deadlines imposed on litigants by statutes, rules, regulations or court orders. Paragraph II of Statewide Order No. 3 further provides that deadlines *will not be reimposed until July 14, 2020.*

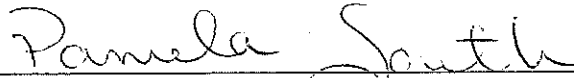
Given the tolling provisions of the Judicial Emergency Orders, as well as the fact that Courts were expressly limited to conducting only essential business, this Circuit's Order prohibited the filing of new garnishment cases during the period of Judicial Emergency. This Court is currently planning for resumption of "normal" functions once the Judicial Emergency expires; this includes management of any backlog of garnishment filings created by the Judicial Emergency Orders in effect since March 13, 2020. As part of this plan, effective immediately, new garnishment cases may be filed under the following conditions:

1. The Clerk of Court may process those garnishment cases that have been submitted electronically (and are waiting in the filing queue) or otherwise mailed to the Court during the period of Judicial Emergency; and

2. The Clerk of Court may accept for filing new garnishment cases that have been e-filed or mailed pursuant to the Clerk of Court's Socially Distant Service Delivery Protocol (*i.e.* e-filed or mailed).

While new garnishment cases will be accepted for filing as a means to manage any backlog, the parties are reminded that all garnishment deadlines are tolled and stayed until July 14, 2020, pursuant to Statewide Order No. 3. Therefore, while the cases may be processed, ***any and all service, answer or other deadlines do not begin run until the expiration of the Chief Justice's Statewide Order No. 3, Para. II(A)(4). This means that collection efforts by plaintiffs or garnishees cannot begin until July 14, 2020.***

SO ORDERED, this 23 day of June, 2020.



HON. PAMELA D. SOUTH, Chief State Court Judge
Signed by Kristina Blum with express permission



HON. KRISTINA HAMMER BLUM, Chief Magistrate