

Clerk Superior Court, County, Ga.

Ek 02025 Pg 1308-1311

Athens-Clarke County Courthouse  
325 East Washington Street  
Athens, Georgia 30601



FILED IN OFFICE  
ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

2025 MAR 17 PM 4:53

Oconee County Courthouse

23 N Main Street  
Watkinsville, Georgia 30677

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

DOCKET INITIALS

**WESTERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**  
Athens-Clarke and Oconee Counties  
Superior Courts

**AMENDED ORDER DESIGNATING AN ALTERNATIVE COURTHOUSE LOCATION  
and PLAN FOR THE SAFETY OF JURY TRIAL PROCEEDINGS**

**DUE TO THE LACK** of operational elevators in the Athens-Clarke County Courthouse, the Western Judicial Circuit, comprised of officials from Athens-Clarke and Oconee Counties, including members of the Judiciary, Sheriff's Department, Clerks of Superior Court, and Court Administrators, met to collaboratively discuss the best approach to safely hold court proceedings and jury trials for Athens-Clarke County cases.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this Order is to outline the Western Judicial Circuit's Plan on how to safely conduct Athens-Clarke County court proceedings, jury selection and jury trial proceedings during this time in which there are may be no operable elevators of the three total in the Athens-Clarke County Courthouse. The Plan provides guidelines for managing courthouse operations at three alternative locations.

**Alternative locations:** On November 8, 2024, the Committee found that the Athens-Clarke County Courthouse provided some safety challenges for court proceedings, jury selection and jury trials to safely occur. Under OCGA §§ 38-3-61, the Chief Judge may designate another facility which is reasonably accessible and appropriate for conducting court business, in the event the circumstances underlying the judicial emergency make access to the courthouse impractical.

In order to safely provide court proceedings, jury selection and jury trials occurring at the Athens-Clarke County Courthouse, the Chief Judge, with the support of stakeholders from both counties, selected City Hall, located at 301 College Avenue, Athens, Georgia 30601; the Classic Center, located at 300 North Thomas Street, Athens, Georgia 30601; and the Oconee County Courthouse, located at 23 N. Main Street, Watkinsville, Georgia, 30677, as alternate locations for court proceedings, jury selection and jury trial proceedings during the time when all of the elevators are inoperable in the Athens-Clarke County Courthouse. Some court proceedings, jury selection and jury trial proceedings may occur at City Hall, the Classic Center and some court proceedings and jury trial proceedings may occur at the Oconee County Courthouse when the Athens-Clarke County Courthouse is not able to accommodate due to inoperable elevators. Jury selection for all Athens-Clarke County trials will remain in Athens-Clarke County, either at City Hall, the Classic Center or at the Athens-Clarke County Courthouse.