

CHIEF JUDGE REUBEN M. GREEN

SUPERIOR COURT OF COBB COUNTY

COBB JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



SUPERIOR COURT OF COBB COUNTY
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Notice of Clarification: In Person Judicial Proceedings in Municipal Court During the Judicial Emergency Orders

Questions have arisen with respect to whether Municipal Courts in Cobb County can hold in person judicial proceedings during the Judicial Emergency necessitated by the Coronavirus / COVID-19. In accordance with the Chief Justice's Second Order Extending Declaration of Statewide Judicial Emergency, the Chief Judge of the Cobb Superior Court entered a Second Order Declaring Judicial Emergency on May 12, 2020. This Order "affects all courts and clerk's offices in Cobb County." It provides that non-essential matters may be heard "via video or teleconferencing or in person" provided the hearings are "in compliance with public health guidance and with the requirements of the United States and Georgia constitutions and applicable statutes and court rules." The Second Order Declaring Judicial Emergency provides a list of fifteen "General Safety Guidelines for all Courts in Cobb County" in the attached Memorandum that are to be followed for the safety of all who enter Cobb County Courthouses.

In an effort to clarify the matter, Municipal Courts in Cobb County may conduct in person judicial proceedings so long as they are in compliance with public health guidance, including the General Safety Guidelines contained in the May 12, 2020 Memorandum, and with the requirements of the United States and the Georgia constitutions and applicable statutes and court rules, including the public's right of access to judicial proceedings and a criminal defendant's right to confrontation and open courtrooms.

This the 14th day of May, 2020.

Reuben M. Green
Chief Judge, Superior Court
Cobb Judicial Circuit