

IN THE STATE COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

OPERATING GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THE
SUPREME COURT'S ORDER DATED JUNE 12, 2020

FILED
CLERK STATE COURT
CARROLL COUNTY
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On June 12, 2020, Honorable Harold D. Melton, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, issued a third emergency order extending the present judicial emergency through July 12, 2020. The Chief Judge of the Superior Courts of this circuit has issued a similar order.

In order to carry out the Order of the Supreme Court and in accordance with the Superior Courts' order, the following operating guidelines shall apply in this Court:

There will be a preference for conducting matters online whenever possible. Anyone objecting to a hearing going forward by video conference shall make the objection known to the judge prior to or at the start of the hearing and the judge shall rule upon the objection.

The Clerk of the State Court shall create and post calendars on the Clerk's website. The public shall be given instructions by the Clerk on viewing hearings using online platforms.

Unless otherwise ordered by an appropriate judge, all individuals entering the courthouse will follow the recommendations issued by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) regarding social

distancing, including wearing a mask or cloth face covering over the nose and mouth at all times while on Courthouse property, frequent handwashing, and maintaining a minimum of six feet of space between people or individuals not of the same household. Additionally, no more than 12 persons shall sit in the public areas of each courtroom at one time, and standing in the public areas of the courtroom will not be allowed. As many as can sit in the hall, appropriately distanced, may do so. Others may be directed to an overflow area by court personal or the Sheriff.

If a person is symptomatic or has within the proceeding 14 days been exposed to a Covid-19 patient, they should not come to the Courthouse on a case but should notify the Clerk's office as soon as possible pending further instructions from the Court.

Criminal Guilty Pleas:

Criminal pleas, bond matters, and probation revocation hearings, shall be conducted by video conferencing unless otherwise ordered. The following must occur prior to a plea hearing:

1. The accusation or uniform traffic citation shall be signed in cases of a plea of guilty or of nolo contendere. The waiver of rights form shall also be signed.


2. A plea of not guilty need not be signed. If the defendant is represented by counsel, a written plea of not guilty and waiver of arraignment signed by the attorney will suffice in lieu of a personal appearance.

Civil Cases:

Civil cases may be heard by video conferencing (an objection may be lodged if desired), or in-person as ordered by the Court. All video conference hearings will be conducted in accordance with USCR 9.1.

In all cases, guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH), and the local health department shall be followed.

This 19 day of June, 2020



Robert H. Sullivan
Judge, State Court of Carroll County