

TROUP COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

SAFETY ORDER in re: COVID-19

Pursuant to OCGA § 38-3-61 a State of Judicial Emergency was declared by Harold D. Melton, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia on March 14, 2020, extended April 6, 2020 and May 13, 2020 (set to expire on June 12, 2020, at 11:59pm).

The Superior Court of Troup County has remained OPEN using limited in-person courtroom contact, teleconferencing and video conferencing technologies to manage cases remotely.

All guidelines and best practices provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Georgia Department of Public Health and our local health department shall be followed.

More specifically, all persons entering the building will be screened at the front information desk by a Sheriff's deputy or county personnel in a manner consistent with the recommendations of Federal, State and local health agencies, including asking pertinent health-related questions and taking temperatures. Anyone with a cough or fever or otherwise experiencing symptoms of sickness or anyone who has been around someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 has an affirmative duty to disclose the information at the screening desk. You may be denied entry to the building based on your response to the questions or your temperature.

If you are feeling unwell, are over the age of 65, have a pre-existing health condition or have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19, immediately contact the Judge's office at 706-298-3626 to ask to be excused. Please be sure you leave a return phone number and your name as it appears in court records if you do not reach someone. In some cases, documentation may be required.

All persons will be required to wear protective face masks upon entering the building. Masks shall cover the mouth and nose, not the eyes or other parts of the head, and shall be worn by all persons in the courtroom with the exception of the court reporter and Judge. You are encouraged not to bring any non-essential persons with you as courtroom space may be limited.

Hand sanitizer shall be available and situated on every floor of the courthouse by the elevators. Persons are required to clean their hands upon entering and exiting each floor of the courthouse. All persons shall strictly maintain social distancing of no less than six (6) feet. Attorneys, court staff and any other parties shall arrange their interaction areas of the courthouse so as to ensure the minimum distancing kept. When possible, two courtrooms on the 3rd floor shall be open to accommodate attorneys and other court staff.

Parties are encouraged to speak before the court date in an effort to resolve any issues prior to in person appearances.

In criminal cases, if you do not have an attorney and want to apply for a Public Defender, please call 706-298-3740 for further instructions.

Any person who willfully fails to abide by this Order may be held in contempt of court.

SO ORDERED, this the 14 day of May, 2020.



Hon. Nina Markette Baker
Superior Court Judge
Coweta Judicial Circuit