

IN THE STATE COURT OF BULLOCH COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

FILED
BULLOCH COUNTY
CLERK'S OFFICE
2020 JUN -1 A 9:19

In Re:)
)
Safe Resumption of In-Court Proceedings)
)

Heather Francis McNeal
CLERK OF COURT

**ORDER FOR THE SAFE RESUMPTION OF IN-COURT PROCEEDINGS DURING THE
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH the Second Order Extending Declaration of Statewide Judicial Emergency entered on May 11, 2020, by the Hon. Harold D. Melton, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, the State Court of Bulloch County hereby adopts the following guidelines for in-court proceedings. This order shall remain in effect for the State Court of Bulloch County until otherwise modified or removed:

1. **All persons entering the courthouse shall abide by Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidelines as promulgated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC").**
2. **Directions for those who have, have been exposed to, or are especially vulnerable to, COVID-19.**
 - a. No individual actively infected with Coronavirus (COVID-19), as determined by diagnosis or positive test, will be allowed to enter the courthouse.
 - b. No person who knows that they have had contact, within the previous 14 days, with an individual who has tested positive for Coronavirus (Covid-19) shall be allowed to enter the courthouse.
 - c. Persons with other health limitations which make them especially vulnerable to COVID-19 are invited to call the telephone number provided with your court notice, or at the door, to speak with someone from the Court.
3. **Admission to the Bulloch County Courthouse.** All persons entering the courthouse SHALL:
 - a. Be subject to a health screening by security personnel which may include the use of equipment to obtain no-contact body temperature readings.
 - b. WEAR A FACE MASK AT ALL TIMES while in the courthouse. Face mask means a covering of the mouth and nose but not the rest of the face.
 - c. Comply with directives of court and security personnel regarding appropriate distancing.
 - d. All persons entering the courthouse are admonished to refrain from any physical contact with other individuals, including handshakes, elbow bumps, or any other such physical greeting or gesture. Additionally, to the extent possible all individuals are strongly encouraged to limit physical contact with doors or other surfaces.

- e. All persons with business before the court are *strongly encouraged* not to bring any nonessential persons with them.
 - f. All persons with business before the court are *strongly encouraged* to bring their own pen to sign any paperwork that may be necessary.
4. **Special court procedures.** Due to the ongoing judicial emergency, the Court is employing special procedures to minimize the risk to everyone's health. To this end, we are scheduling more court sessions, with fewer cases summoned per session; seating in the courtroom will be limited to designated seats, designed to require distancing; and distancing will be enforced in conferences with staff. Handling of paperwork will be kept to a minimum. Court personnel will sanitize areas of the courtroom between court sessions. Video conferencing will be used as much as reasonably possible.
5. **Contempt of court.** The procedures outlined in this Order are necessary for the safe, efficient operation of the Court. Persons failing to observe these procedures may be attached for contempt of Court.

SO ORDERED, this 1st day of June, 2020.



Joseph L. Cushner, Judge
State Court of Bulloch County