

**IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF FLOWERY BRANCH
STATE OF GEORGIA**

CITY OF FLOWERY BRANCH

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V.

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ALL CRIMINAL DEFENDANTS

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ANY CHARGE IN WHICH THE
MUNICIPAL COURT OF FLOWERY
BRANCH HAS JURISDICTION

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Defendant

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JUDICIAL EMERGENCY ORDER

The Court having been informed of the Judicial Emergency Orders having been entered by the Supreme Court of Georgia and the Superior Court of Hall County regarding the safety measures that are required during the current COVID-19 pandemic, and the Court having been informed by the officials at North Georgia Health Systems that Hall County, Georgia is currently identified as a “hotspot” for the pandemic, it is necessary for the Court to make adjustments to how Court hearings will be conducted to secure the safety of all Flowery Branch employees, all Defendants scheduled to appear before the Court, the attorneys scheduled to appear before the Court, and the general public. Therefore, it is ORDERED that no “in-person” hearings will take place in Flowery Branch Municipal Court until June 23, 2020, unless extended by further order of the Court. All hearings scheduled prior to June 23, 2020 are hereby continued by the Court. The public is notified that the Court may elect to conduct hearings by video, with appropriate notice to all parties, and an opportunity to be viewed by the public.

Any Defendant wishing to close their case prior to the expiration of the Judicial Emergency Order may either close their case by paying the payable bond amount online, if the fine is listed by Court order as payable, by visiting <http://www.ezcourtpay.com>. Each fine paid will result in a bond forfeiture being entered on the Defendant’s criminal history driving history on any reportable moving violation, as applicable. Alternately, if the Defendant wishes to negotiate an alternate charge to which they wish to plead guilty or nolo contendere, the Defendant may contact the Clerk of Court, BY TELEPHONE, at 770-967-6336, to schedule an opportunity

to negotiate their case with the Solicitor, if desired. The Solicitor will determine what method she will use in negotiating cases with Defendants or their attorneys. No trials will be conducted by video during this current Judicial Emergency Order.

Any member of the public that wishes to observe any video hearings that are conducted by the Court is asked to contact the Clerk of Court at 770-967-6336 in order to be provided the information on how to view the hearings because it is the intention of the Court to keep the Court and its proceedings open to the public, but must make alternate arrangements for such observation during the current emergency.

Beginning June 23, 2020, the Court will resume conducting in-person hearings. Pursuant to the recommendations of Governor Brian Kemp and the Centers for Disease Control, certain safety measures will be put into place in order to protect the health and safety of the courtroom personnel, the Defendants, and the general public. The following precautions will be strictly followed as an Order of the Court.

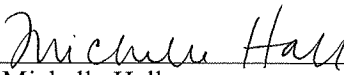
1. All individuals entering the building will be required to wear a mask, or face covering to cover the nose and mouth, while in the building where the courtroom is located. In the event that the person entering the building does not have their own mask or face covering, one will be provided for them. All individuals will be allowed to remove their mask only while addressing the Court or at the direction of the Court.
2. All individuals entering the building will be subjected to a screen of their body temperature to verify that they do not have a fever. Anyone with a fever will not be allowed access to the building and their hearing will be continued for no less than fourteen days.
3. All individuals entering the building will be asked screening questions regarding COVID-19 exposure. All individuals are ORDERED to answer the questions honestly.

4. Anyone who has tested positive for, or is experiencing symptoms of, COVID-19 within the fourteen days prior to their hearing date should contact the clerk of court to get a continuance on their hearing. In the event that the case has been continued before, the clerk of court has the authority to require supporting documentation of their illness in order to have their case continued.
5. All individuals entering the building will be required to maintain social distancing requirements. This will include, but not be limited to, remaining six feet from any other individual in the building, following all directions from Court personnel regarding safety concerns, and comply with all markings in the building to achieve safety guidelines.
6. The courtroom will be disinfected no less than two hours before each Court session, and areas that are shared by individuals will be disinfected between each person's contact with that area.
7. The Court will provide supplies, such as pens, for all Defendants that will be sufficient such that the supplies do not have to be shared between individuals, subject to the availability of those supplies. Each individual is allowed to use their own pen or supplies.
8. Based upon the size of the courtroom, no more than 30 people will be allowed to enter the courtroom at a time. The seating will be arranged by courtroom personnel to maintain social distancing requirements. No one is allowed to modify the seating arrangements or move the seating without prior Court permission.
9. Courtroom staff, or Flowery Branch Police Department employees, will direct how many people are allowed to enter the building at a time. In the event that there are more people waiting to enter the building than can be allowed in at those moment, those individuals will be required to remain six feet apart while waiting to enter the building, or they may wait in their vehicle until such time as they are allowed to enter

the building.

10. Individuals entering the building are encouraged to bring their own hand-sanitizer, but the Court will provide hand-sanitizer to the extent that supplies are available.

SO ORDERED this 11th day of June, 2020, nunc pro tunc to March 24, 2020.



Judge Michelle Hall,
Flowery Branch Municipal Court

cc: Flowery Branch Police Department, via email
Anne Bishop, Solicitor for Flowery Branch Municipal court, via email