

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF HENRY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

FILED

2020 JUN 12 P 4: 51

IN RE:

**STANDING ORDER FOR HENRY JUVENILE COURT PROCEDURES
DURING CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

CLERK'S OFFICE
JUVENILE COURT
HENRY COUNTY, GA

IN ACCORDANCE WITH the Second Order Extending Declaration of Statewide Judicial Emergency entered on May 11, 2020, by the Honorable Harold D. Melton, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, and the operating guidelines promulgated by the Henry County Board of Commissioners and staff pertaining to affording protection to the public and county employees accessing county buildings, including the county's Judicial Center, during the pendency of the coronavirus/Covid-19 Pandemic, the Juvenile Court of Henry County, Georgia, in consultation with the Georgia Department of Public Health, hereby adopts the following guidelines for in-court proceedings and for otherwise conducting business with Henry Juvenile Court. The following guidelines are herewith made the Order of this Court.

1. **Purpose.** The purpose of these guidelines is to provide for safe and orderly access (including public access to those proceedings where public access is allowed) to conduct business with the Juvenile Court and to attend and participate in all judicial proceedings conducted in Juvenile Court, while making reasonable provision for the health and safety of all persons attending court or working in the Henry County Judicial Center and the Henry County Juvenile Probation Office.
2. **Definitions.**
 - a. "Facemask" means a covering of the mouth and nose but not the rest of the face.
 - b. "Judicial Center" means the Henry County Judicial Center, 44 John Frank Ward Boulevard, McDonough, Georgia. The mask and social distancing provisions in this Order are also applicable to the Henry Juvenile Court's Probation Office that is located across John Frank Ward Boulevard from the Judicial Center.
 - c. "Public area" means all parts of the Judicial Center (and Probation Office) not reserved for staff.
3. **Directions for those who have, have been exposed to, or are especially vulnerable to, COVID-19.**
 - a. Persons who have been diagnosed with COVID-19; who have been exposed to the Coronavirus or to COVID-19 within 14 days; or who are experiencing fever or cough, should **NOT** attempt to enter the Judicial Center, our Juvenile Court Clerk's office, Probation office, or any courtroom, waiting room or conference room therein, but should call the telephone number provided with your court notice, or at the door, to speak with someone from the Court.
 - b. Persons with other health limitations that make them especially vulnerable to coronavirus/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.
4. **Admission to the Judicial Center.** All persons entering the Judicial Center **SHALL:**
 - a. Be screened for cough, fever and recent exposure to coronavirus/COVID-19.
 - b. Wear a facemask at all times while in the public areas of the Judicial Center (provided at the door if needed).

c. Comply with directives of court and security personnel regarding appropriate distancing and compliance with this Standing Order.

5. **Movement within the Judicial Center.** Persons within the Judicial Center, both inside and outside of courtrooms, **SHALL:**

- a. Stay at least six feet from all other persons (except those with whom they are related or with whom they traveled to court), to the extent practicable, and
- b. Not board elevators with other persons except those with whom they are related or with whom they traveled to court, and
- c. Wear a face mask at all times while in the public areas of the Judicial Center, including the courtrooms, and
- d. Not congregate or loiter in the hallways in a way which obstructs other persons' access to elevators, offices or courtrooms, or otherwise obstructs persons from maintaining appropriate social distancing, and
- e. Comply with directives of court and security personnel regarding appropriate distancing and compliance with this Standing Order.

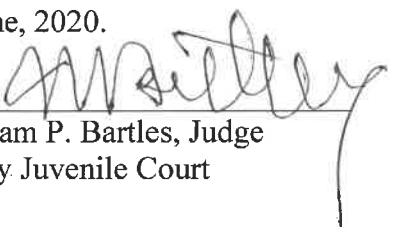
6. **Admission to courtrooms and/or waiting areas.** Persons entering Juvenile Court courtrooms or waiting areas **SHALL:**

- a. Sit in one and only one designated area per room or area, and
- b. When notified that a room or area is full, follow instructions for seating elsewhere, and
- c. Wear a facemask at all times while in the courtroom, any waiting room/area or any conference room, and any other public space in the courthouse, and
- d. Comply with directives of court and security personnel regarding appropriate distancing and other compliance mandates with this Standing Order.
- e. Due to the limited seating, persons with business before the Court are encouraged not to bring nonessential persons with them, especially children.
- f. Anyone using a pen supplied by the Court must return it upon request for cleaning.
- g. To allow for seating that maintains social distancing, each person shall sit in a seat, which has been pre-placed by court staff. No one shall sit in a seat not designated for occupancy. **CHAIRS SHALL NOT BE MOVED FROM THEIR DESIGNATED LOCATION, EXCEPT BY AUTHORIZED COURT PERSONNEL.** Technology, when available, may allow viewing of any court proceedings prescribed by law as open to the public (many hearings held in Juvenile Court are not open to the public). Parties and witnesses summoned to appear for a court hearing shall be afforded priority for seating in the courtrooms and in the court's waiting area. Those not entitled to such priority may be required to move to other locations.
- i. Persons in the waiting area shall maintain order and quiet at all times so as not to disturb court proceedings and any televised access to any court proceeding.

7. **Special court procedures.** Due to the ongoing judicial emergency and pandemic, 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 waiting areas and in conference rooms, as well as in the Clerk's office. Handling of paperwork will be kept to a minimum. Court personnel will sanitize areas of the courtroom between users.

- 8. Hand sanitation.** Hand sanitation supplies are located in the common areas of the Judicial Center. Those with business before the Court are encouraged to utilize those supplies and to vigorously clean and sanitize their hands before, during and after accessing the Judicial Center.
- 9.** Staff, even when in non-public areas of the courthouse, shall continue to utilize facemasks and social distancing when that area is being accessed by other employees.
- 10. 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.
- 11.** The Clerk shall post a copy of this Order prominently at the entrance to the Judicial Building, at the entrance to the Clerk's office, and at the entrance to the waiting area shared by the Courts two courtrooms. Further, the Clerk shall distribute copies of this Order to all employees of the Court and to all attorneys regularly practicing before the Court.
- 12. Duration of Order.** This Order shall expire August 31, 2020, unless terminated earlier or extended for good cause.

SO ORDERED, this 11 day of June, 2020.



William P. Bartles, Judge
Henry Juvenile Court