

**IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE CITY OF SOCIAL CIRCLE  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN RE: Declaration of Judicial Emergency      \*  
and Resumption of Court Proceedings       \*  
Date: June 16, 2020.                               \*  
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**ORDER CONCERNING PRIOR DECLARATION OF  
JUDICIAL EMERGENCY**

On March 14, 2020, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court issued an order declaring a Judicial Emergency triggering the provisions of O.C.G.A. §30-3-60 et seq., and subsequently the declaration has been extended through July 12, 2020. The most recent orders extending the emergency, entered May 11 and June 12, 2020, provide for an orderly process for the reopening of Court proceeding

Consistent with said orders and the guidance provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. **COURT PROCEEDINGS SHALL RESUME EFFECTIVE JUNE 17, 2020**
2. All matters shall be scheduled at different set times, with no more than 3 defendants set every 20 or 30 minutes and in such number that the parties, their counsel and possibly family members, friends, or supporters, may attend the court proceedings.
3. There shall be no more than 16 persons in the Courtroom at a given time including court personnel.
4. All parties entering the Courtroom shall be screened for exposure to individuals with CoVid-19, symptoms of CoVid-19, and shall pass a temperature check. Any individual with symptoms, exposure within the past 14 days or a temperature at or above 99.5 degrees shall be denied entry and, if a party, shall be provided a new court date.



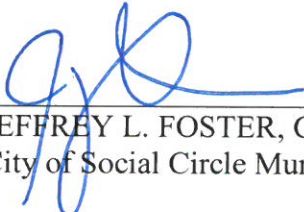
5. All parties entering the Courtroom shall wear a mask and shall remain at least 6 feet from any other persons, with the exception of individuals with whom they have previously sheltered in place or with whom they have travelled to Court, assuming space restrictions allow additional non-party, non-staff individuals into the Courtroom, the Courtroom shall be appropriately marked to demonstrate where parties may sit, where they are to stand and the flow of foot traffic.
6. All parties shall check-in upon arrival and then return to their vehicle or remain outside, observing social distancing restrictions, until their case is called. All parties shall provide a cell phone or remain within an area visible to court staff and within which they can hear the call of their case.
7. Hand sanitizer shall be available to parties and court staff.
8. Court personnel shall insure that disposable pens, or pens that are sanitized before court and after each use, are available to all parties.
9. Parties expressing concern or reservations with respect to their susceptibility to, or potential exposure to, CoVid-19 shall be granted a continuance and provided a new court date.
10. All matters in which individuals are incarcerated shall be handled on a case by case basis and Court staff and transport officers shall insure that themselves and detainees, are appropriately protected from potential exposure to CoVid-19, including the parameters set forth above, with minimal deviation except as is necessary for security reasons.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** as follows:



1. That the Clerk of Court and the City Clerk shall post this Order on any City-owned websites, social media sites, at City Hall, at the Police Department, and at the Municipal Courtroom.
2. That the Clerk of Court shall post notice of this order to all effected parties, attorneys, and members of the public; and,
3. That the Clerk of Court shall immediately notify and serve Chief Justice Harold D. Melton of the Supreme Court with a copy of this Order, such service to be accomplished via email to Tee Barnes, the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Georgia, at barnest@gasupreme.us, and by uploading this order to the Administrative Office of the Courts at <https://georgiacourts.gov/judicial-council/aoc/>.

**IT IS SO ORDERED** this 16 day of June 2020 at 3:58 ~~a.m.~~/p.m.

  
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JEFFREY L. FOSTER, Chief Judge  
City of Social Circle Municipal Court