

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF TIFT COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIASTANDING ORDER FOR COURT PROCEDURES
DURING JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

In accordance with the directives of Chief Justice's Second Order Extending Declaration of Statewide Judicial Emergency, and in order to reasonably and safely expand our efforts to accommodate and serve the judicial needs of the citizens of our state, the Superior Courts of the Tifton Judicial Circuit hereby declare the following guidelines to apply for all in-person court proceedings in this Circuit. These guidelines comply with current CDC and Georgia Department of Public Health recommendations to promote and ensure public safety during this Covid-19 pandemic. When appropriate, we strongly recommend hearings be held via telephonic or video conferencing. For all matters that require in-person hearings, the following guidelines are implemented:

Accordingly, **IT IS SO ORDERED:**

1. **Specific Hearing Times:** To control the number of persons in courtrooms and hearing rooms at any one time, each hearing will be scheduled to commence, and end, at specific times exclusive of any other scheduled hearings. All persons shall remain outside the court facility until fifteen (15) minutes prior to the appointed time for the commencement of their hearing.
2. **Prior Screening:** Before entry to any courtroom, all persons, including security and court staff, must have their temperatures taken and answer screening questions. Any person presenting a fever of 100.4 or higher, showing symptoms of a respiratory infection, or whose responses to screening questions exhibit potential exposure to Covid-19 will not be permitted entry.
3. **Personal Protective Equipment:** All persons admitted into the courtroom will be required to have with them and wear protective masks and gloves at all times. Any person unable to provide their own masks and gloves shall so inform the office that scheduled the hearing to see if ones may be provided by the court.
4. **Social Distancing:** Upon entrance to court facilities, a minimum distance of six (6) feet between persons who do not live in the same household is required. The number of persons allowed in a courtroom at any one time will be limited in accordance with current CDC and public health guidelines. Persons will be required to sit in designated areas. All witnesses must remain outside the court facility until instructed by a court official.
5. **Sanitation:** All persons are encouraged to use sanitizer upon entering and leaving any court facility. Court staff will make every effort to clean all hard contact surfaces between hearings.



NOTICE

Those who consider themselves high-risk or who have been diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19:

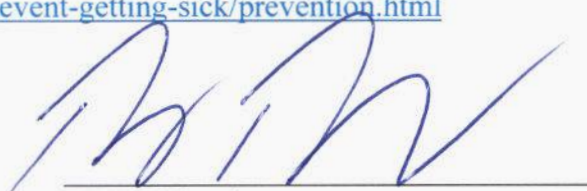
Persons who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, or exposed to COVID-19 within the past 14 days, or meeting the criteria of a high-risk individual, should not attempt to appear in court, but should contact the court prior to your hearing to work out alternative accommodations. To find out if you are considered "high-risk" please visit the following website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>


For more information on COVID-19 we encourage you to visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

SO ORDERED, this 18th day of May, 2020.



Bill Reinhardt
Judge of Superior Courts
Tifton Judicial Circuit



Melanie B. Cross
Judge of Superior Courts
Tifton Judicial Circuit