

Cochran Police Department



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July 10, 2020

Municipal Court

Special Notice.... (Updated 07/10/2020)

Update on Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Cochran Municipal Court

I, Cochran's Municipal Court's regularly scheduled court sessions will resume on Friday, July 10, 2020, with special procedures (see below) to protect the health and safety of those appearing in court. The Court is currently rescheduling cases that were cancelled in March, April, May, and early June. If you are a defendant, witness, or attorney in a case that has been scheduled for court and you fall into any of the following categories, prior to our court date contact the Court by phone (478)934-4282, or email (lkight@cochranpd.com) to have the case reset to a future date:

1. You currently have, or someone staying with you currently has, symptoms of COVID-19, including but not limited to fever, chills, cough, or breathing difficulties (<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2029-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>);
2. During the past 14 days, you, or someone staying with you, had symptoms of COVID-19, including but not limited to fever, chills, cough, or breathing difficulties (<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2029-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>);
3. You are, or someone staying with you is, subject to voluntary or mandatory quarantine or isolation (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine-isoation.html>);
4. During the past 14 days, you have, or have, or someone staying with you has, traveled to any of the countries where travel has been restricted by the federal government (<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/fter-travel-precautions.html>);
5. You are a senior (65 years or older) or live in a nursing home or long-term care facility according to the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-risk.html>);
6. You have a significant underlying condition (such as heart, lung, or kidney disease, diabetes, or a condition that suppresses your immune system) according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>);

7. You do not have available childcare or eldercare; or
8. You are a healthcare worker and appearing in court at this time would be create a hardship on you or your practice.

If you do not fall into any of the above categories, but would like to have your case reset to a future date out of concern for COVID-19, please contact the Court by phone by phone (478)934-4282 or email (lkight@cochranpd.com).

For those citations that are payable on-line, that option remains available should you wish to do so (<https://www.cochranpay.com>) or (844)317-8349.

Covid-19 Procedures: Until further notice, all in-person Court sessions will be conducted using the following procedures.

1. Prior to entry into the building, individuals, including court personnel, will be required to:
 - a. Have their temperature taken with non-contact thermometer (cleaned and disinfected according to manufacturers instructions) and will be refused admittance if the temperature reading is 100.4 F (38.0 C) or above.
 - b. Respond to the following screening and be refused admittance with any affirmative answer to:
 - i. Are you feeling ill?
 - ii. Have you recently had chills or a fever?
 - iii. Have you recently had a cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing?
 - iv. Have you recently had a sore throat?
 - v. Have you or anyone you've been in close contact with suspected of having COVID-19 within the last 14 Days?
 - c. Wear a face mask covering the nose and mouth at all times while inside the Cochran Police Department Complex. You must provide your own mask.
 - d. Use hand sanitizer provided by the court when entering the court room.
 - e. Anyone who refuses a,b,c,or d, above, will not be admitted into the building except to obtain a reset notice at the clerks window after all other defendants have left the building.
 - f. Anyone who violates these rules after entering the building may be held in direct contempt of Court and be subject to fines and incarceration.
2. No one under the age of 17 will be admitted to the building unless that individual is a victim or witness on a case. If a defendant does not have available childcare, their case will be reset to a future date.
3. Family and friends will be discouraged from entering the building except in cases where a parent or guardian is accompanying a defendant who is 17 to 21 years of age or a victim or witness under the age of 17.
4. The general public will not be allowed to wait in the lobby except for one person at the clerk's window and one person undergoing security screening.

5. The number of individuals in the courtroom shall be limited to 6, including court personnel.
6. Every individual shall maintain a minimum of six feet of space between themselves and other individuals except when consulting with counsel or a family member or exchanging required paperwork.
7. Chairs in the courtroom shall be spaced to maintain six feet of distance between individuals. The floor will be marked where chairs should be placed. Extra chairs and tables will be removed from the courtroom.
8. Defendants and their attorney's will be given the opportunity to meet with the solicitor in the courtroom prior to or during the playing of the court's audio recording, and again after playing the audio recording.
9. Hand sanitizer will be available to individuals leaving the building.
10. Pens used to sign requisite documents should be discarded.
11. Individuals will be asked to avoid touching surfaces such as the podium, tables, etc. except when necessary to sign document.
12. The courtroom will be cleaned and sanitized between court sessions.

For further information on COVID-19 you should consult guidance from the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>), and your federal, state, and local health departments.

Please check back for additional updates.