

IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE CITY OF CORNELIA

STATE OF GEORGIA

STANDING ORDER OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE CITY OF CORNELIA

DURING COVID-19

This Court recognizes the gravity of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), and it is this Court's intent to best serve and safeguard the community from the spread of said virus during its re-opening;

THEREFORE, the Municipal Court of the City of Cornelia hereby ADOPTS as its own the Mountain Judicial Circuit Superior Courts' Standing Order for Online and In-Person Proceedings During the COVID-19 Pandemic entered June 16, 2020 including, but not limited to, requirements for facial coverings, sanitation, courtroom capacity, and social distancing;

FURTHERMORE, in recognition of this Court's voluminous dockets, additional safety precautions have been instituted as follows:

- (a.) Notices to parties are adapted to address COVID-19 concerns including face mask mandate and an option for certain individuals to be placed on a calendar designated for those who are medically high-risk. Sample notices are attached hereto as Exhibit "A";
- (b.) In-person proceedings will be handled by hearing cases in a staggered manner to limit the number of attorneys and parties in the courtroom at any given time. Parties waiting to be called must remain outside the building until permitted to enter. These guidelines are included in the attached Exhibit "A".

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that all parties to cases in this Court comply with this Order and the Mountain Judicial Circuit's Order incorporated herein and that the Clerk shall post and broadcast this notice to publicly announce the Court's change in procedure to the local community and affected parties.

SO ORDERED this 20 day of JULY, 2020.



Honorable Winslow H. Verdery, Jr.

Municipal Judge

City of Cornelia

CORNELIA MUNICIPAL COURT
COURT PROCEDURES IN RESPONSE TO COVID – 19

You are receiving this letter as a reminder of your upcoming court date, scheduled Tuesday, _____, 2020, at 1:30 P. M. at the Cornelia Community House. The address is 601 Wyly Street, Cornelia, Georgia 30531.

If you have already paid your citation and if your appearance is not mandatory, you do not need to come to court. If you wish to dispute the violation, it is your right to appear in court and that is why you are receiving this notice. For many traffic violations, appearance is not required.

Examples of violations that **are a mandatory appearance** include:

DUI	Suspended Registration
Possession of Alcohol Under 21	No Insurance
Driving While License Suspended	Hit and Run
Driving While Unlicensed	Reckless Driving
Possession of Marijuana	Speeding 30 + Over Limit
Theft by Shoplifting	Permitting Unlicensed Person to Drive

If you are not sure whether you must appear for court, please contact the clerk's office: (706) 778-4314 option 2.

In response to the threat posed by the COVID – 19 virus, Cornelia Municipal Court has implemented changes to court hearing procedures. Please be advised of the following:

- When you arrive for your court hearing, you will check in outside of the Municipal Court building with Cornelia Municipal Court staff. You will be asked to provide your name and cell phone number, then asked to return to your car and wait in the parking lot. You will be contacted by phone when it is your time to meet with the Prosecutor and Judge.
- Individuals under 21 years of age may be accompanied by one parent/guardian.

- **DUE TO COVID 19**

ALL PERSONS ENTERING THE COURTROOM WILL BE REQUIRED TO WEAR FACE MASK

You are not required to report if you have contracted the Coronavirus or are considered medically "High Risk" as defined by the CDC as including:

- People 65 years and older
- People living in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People with serious heart conditions
- People who are immunocompromised
- People with severe obesity (body mass index of 40 or higher)
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease

If you wish to be placed on a "High Risk" calendar, contact the Clerk of Court at (706) 778-4314 or Email pdclerk@corneliageorgia.org.

- **Any Defendant who is ill will not be permitted to enter the court.** If you do not feel well, please stay at home and call the clerk's office. If necessary, leave a message with your phone number so that you can be contacted. Continuances will be granted.
- **Defendants must wear a face covering (mask or cloth) the entire time while inside of the Municipal Court building.**
- All Defendants and staff must observe **at least six (6) feet of social distance at all times.**
- This Court recognizes that the courtroom of the Municipal Court of Cornelia must and should remain open to the public, to all defendants, and attorneys, and to all interested parties. Recognizing the gravity of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) in view of the open courtroom requirement, the following shall apply:
 1. The defendant shall be able to have his attorney present at all times.
 2. Any defendant desiring to have any other individuals present during his or her proceeding shall immediately notify the clerk upon arriving for court so that arrangements can be made for the safe attendance of such individuals in the courtroom.
 3. A designated area will be set aside in the courtroom for members of the public or other interested parties, subject to the guidelines and social distancing.