

IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF ZEBULON
STATE OF GEORGIA

In Re: Courtroom Guidelines

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ORDER FOR COURTROOM GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are hereby developed by this Court pursuant to Section 4 of the Supreme Court of Georgia’s Extended Judicial Emergency Orders filed May 11, 2020 and June 12, 2020 in application to “In-Person Proceedings”:

1.

All notices and signage conforming to the requirements set for in the Extended Judicial Emergency Orders of the Georgia Supreme Court shall be issued and posted. Any posted signage shall state the requirement that all persons seeking entry must respond to minimal, but necessary, questions concerning whether they currently have COVID-19 or certain recognizable symptoms of the disease. Law enforcement officials will make those inquiries of those who seek to enter the courtroom for the Zebulon Municipal Court. Entry to the courtroom shall be denied according to CDC guidelines, which will include anyone with fever, having been exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 30 days, having traveled outside of the United States within the last 30 days, or has other symptoms such as shortness of breath, cough, chills, or respiratory problems.

2.

Law enforcement officials or the Judge presiding over court shall instruct all courtroom attendees to be respectful to others and observe all social distancing recommendations by the CDC, including maintaining a distance of at least six (6) feet from others who do not reside within the same household. To assist with compliance, attendees entering the courtroom, and any other

rooms within the facility, may be staggered or limited to certain numbers so that the social distancing may be maintained. Sanitizing of the courtroom shall be performed; and, masks and other personal protective equipment shall be allowed and encouraged but will not be required. The presiding Judge may, in the Court's sole discretion, require stricter protocols such as greater social distancing, mandatory masks/personal protective equipment or other protocols deemed necessary by the Court.

3.

Every reasonable accommodation shall be made for individuals 65 and over, and those with pre-existing conditions recognized by the CDC as rendering an individual at an increased risk of COVID-19. Such accommodations may include, but are not limited to, excusing the person from attendance, isolating the person from others, permitting that person to participate via videoconference or other accommodations deemed necessary by the Court.

4.

Whenever possible or deemed necessary by the Court, the entry into the courtroom may be staggered in order to reduce the number of persons present in the courtroom. The Judge and Court officials may confer prior to finalizing calendars or before allowing entry to the courtroom to determine the best protocols to achieve social distancing and adherence to safety guidelines. Should the number of persons present in any portion of the courtroom and related facilities exceed that number necessary to maintain safe social distancing, law enforcement officials may direct those who are not essential to the proceedings to remove themselves to an area outside of the courtroom and related facilities. In determining who is essential to the proceedings, the Judge may consult with law enforcement and court personnel. Priority shall be given to parties and their attorneys, necessary court personnel and law enforcement, members of the press, supporters to a

party and then the general public, in that order. Attendees shall maintain social distancing while waiting outside of the courtroom and related facilities.

5.

These guidelines/protocols shall be recorded in the minutes of the Municipal Court of Zebulon and made available to the attendees and public, including being visibly posted at the courtroom and related facilities. These guidelines/protocols shall be effective upon execution by the Judge below.

So ordered this the 22nd day of June 2020 by:



Robert L. Morton
Municipal Judge
City of Zebulon