

**IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF EVANS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

Evans County, Georgia
Magistrate Court
Date Filed: 7/13/2020
Time: 9:50am
Initials: lhm

GUIDELINES FOR IN PERSON COURT PROCEEDING

The following courtroom procedures and guidelines are implemented for the Evans County Magistrate Court as recommended by the Supreme Court of Georgia, the Superior Courts of the Atlantic Judicial Circuit, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Georgia Department of Public Health:

The court cannot guarantee, nor does it attempt to guarantee, that strict adherence to the guidelines will prevent the contraction or spreading of any infectious disease, including but not limited to COVID-19.

1. ALL COURT PERSONNEL, PARTIES AND ATTENDEES SHALL EXERCISE SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES.
2. **ANYONE WHO WISHES TO ENTER THE COURTROOM WILL BE PERMITTED TO ENTER AFTER A HEALTH SCREENING IS COMPLETE AND UPON APPROVAL BY COURT PERSONNEL.**

NO ONE WHO ANSWERS IN THE AFFIRMATIVE TO ANY OF THE SCREENING QUESTIONS, IS COUGHING, FEVERISH, OR ILL MAY ENTER THE COURTROOM AND THE COURT SHALL IMMEDIATELY BE NOTIFIED.

(If anyone has any questions or concerns about his or her health or potential COVID-19 exposure, then such person should contact his or her personal physician, Georgia Department of Public Health, or other qualified medical professionals)

3. ALL PARTIES AND ATTENDEES ARE TO REMAIN OUTSIDE THE COURTROOM UNTIL COURTROOM PERSONNEL CALLS AND INSTRUCTS THE INDIVIDUAL WHERE TO SIT IN THE COURTROOM.
4. This courtroom is open to the public at all times, but members of the public who are not participants in the ongoing judicial proceedings are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to remain outside the courtroom for health reasons and will only be admitted to the courtroom as social distancing capacity limits allow.
5. A PARTY OR ATTENDEE IS TO WEAR A MASK OR FACE COVERING.
6. Hand sanitizer will be available for use in the courtroom.
7. Writing instruments shall be personal, disposable, or sanitized after each use and before use by another person in the courtroom.
8. The only place to observe in the courtroom is from the gallery and a party or attendee must sit in a marked seat or where instructed to sit by court personnel.
9. DO NOT APPROACH THE BENCH WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE COURT.
10. DO NOT APPROACH THE PARTY / COUNSEL TABLES WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE COURT.
11. Witnesses should remain outside the courtroom until called. When called, the witness will go to the designated witness seat.
12. All parties must leave the courtroom once a hearing has concluded.
13. Hearings will be scheduled an hour apart and the courtroom shall be cleaned and disinfected after each hearing in accordance with public health guidelines.

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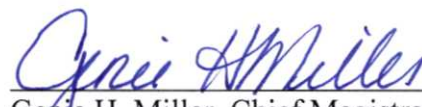
14. ACCOMMODATIONS FOR HIGH RISK INDIVIDUALS

The following persons are defined as high risk individuals:

- a. Those persons who are 65 years of age or older
- b. Those persons who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility, including inpatient hospice, assisted living communities, personal care homes, intermediate care homes, community living arrangements, and community integration homes
- c. Those persons who have chronic lung disease
- d. Those persons who have moderate or severe asthma
- e. Those persons who have severe heart disease
- f. Those persons who are immunocompromised (Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medication.)
- g. Those persons, of any age, with class III or severe obesity
- h. Those persons diagnosed with the following underlying medical conditions: diabetes, liver disease, and persons with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis

If any person, including a person defined as a high risk individual, has an objection to attendance or participation in an in person court proceeding, then such objection shall be made known to the court at least **three days** prior to the scheduled court proceeding, or as soon as is practicable, and shall accompany such objection with a proposed reasonable accommodation to such attendance. Reasonable accommodations may include remote or hybrid hearings. The court will consider the request, and in its discretion will rule as to which accommodation, if any, is appropriate. Admittance to the Courtroom shall be governed by public health guidelines, specifically but not by way of limitation, social distancing guidelines.

SO ORDERED this 13th day of July, 2020.



Genie H. Miller, Chief Magistrate
Evans County Magistrate Court