

# SUMTER COUNTY STATE COURT

## ARRAIGNMENT INFORMATION

PLEASE READ THIS LETTER IN ITS **ENTIRETY** AS WE HAVE NEW GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF COURT PERSONNEL AND THE PUBLIC.

- The attached notice of appearance indicates the required day to which you are to appear for an Arraignment. **THIS IS NOT A TRIAL DATE.** On this day, you will be asked to enter a plea of guilty or not guilty to the charges listed on the attached notice.
- **PROMPT** attendance on the time and date of your arraignment is **MANDATORY**, unless you have been excused. Failure to appear in court at the required time and date may result in a bench warrant for your arrest, a suspension of your license and/or a forfeiture of your issued bond.
- **PLEASE CONTACT AN ATTORNEY UPON RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE**, if you wish to be represented, which is strongly encouraged. In many instances, your attorney can waive your presence for that day and enter a plea of not guilty on your behalf or appear with you and resolve your case.
- If you are unable to afford a private attorney, you may apply for a public defender by contacting one of the following public defenders according to your last name (alphabetically):
  - **A-H:** Wesley Beamon at (229) 942-9059 or at wesbeamon104@gmail.com
  - **I-Q:** Levi Lyman Barner at (229) 939-0886 or at leviatlaw@gmail.com
  - **R-Z:** Emory Greene at (229) 924-8412 or at emglaw@bellsouth.net
- If you have a traffic ticket and would like to pay it, you should contact the Sheriff's Business Office at (229) 928-4623 the day before the court date, and you may be able to avoid having to appear in Court.
- If you would like to speak directly to the District Attorney's office regarding your traffic ticket, you may email the office at swjccitations@pacga.org.
- For any further questions, please call the State Court Clerk office at (229) 928-4537.
- **WHILE IN COURT, THESE GUIDELINES SHALL BE FOLLOWED :**
  - Upon entering the courthouse, each individual's temperature will be screened by the Sheriff's Department using a non-contact forehead thermometer.
  - Masks should be worn, covering the nose and mouth only.
  - ALL persons in the courtroom will be required to maintain a minimum distance of six-foot apart from those who do not reside in the same household.
  - DO NOT gather and socialize with anyone other than your attorney.
  - Court proceedings are open to the public; however, it is **HIGHLY** suggested that you not bring anyone with you other than those who are necessary.
  - It is **HIGHLY** suggested that you bring your own pen as you will be filling out paperwork.
  - **If you have/had a cough or fever (body temperature exceeding 99°) or have been in contact with anyone having COVID-19 fourteen (14) days before your scheduled arraignment date, please call the State Court Clerk at (229) 928-4537 as soon as possible to reschedule your court date.**