

Sylvania, Hiltonia, Rocky Ford Municipal Courts

COURT ORDER ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Chief Justice Harold D. Melton entered an Order Declaring Statewide Judicial Emergency on March 14, 2020 said Order having been amended by further orders and extended through June 12, 2020. The Supreme Court encouraged all classes of courts to formulate and implement plans that allow for the safe, gradual resumption of some in-court proceedings.

Ogeechee Judicial Circuit Chief Judge, F. Gates Peed entered an order on May 12, 2020 implementing protective measures for the resumption of courts in the Circuit.

It is hereby ordered that the order signed by F. Gates Peed is adopted in its entirety in this Municipal Court. A copy of the order is attached hereto.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT:

- While this Court remains open to the public, it is **STRONGLY** encouraged that ONLY the defendant listed on the citation enter the courtroom, with their attorney if applicable. We ask that all others remain outside the courtroom.
- **ANY** defendants who are not comfortable coming to court due to increased risk may have their court date reset to a later date.
- All persons entering the courtroom shall be subject to screening by security personnel.
- Any person who is ill will not be permitted to enter the courtroom.
- Any person who has knowingly come in contact with any person having or suspected to have COVID-19 in the past 14 days, will not be permitted to enter the courtroom.

- All persons are encouraged to wear a face covering (mask or cloth) the entire time while inside the courtroom.
- All persons are strongly encouraged to limit contact with all doors and surfaces.
- To the greatest extent possible, there shall be no person-to-person contact including handshakes, elbow bumps, etc....
- All persons and staff must observe at least six feet or social distance at all times.
- No more than 10 people (court and court staff included) will be allowed in the Courtroom at one time. Court times may be staggered to limit the number of cases at one time.
- The Court will allow cases/pleas to be heard via video conferencing technology. Any defendant wishing to appear via video needs to contact the clerk 48 hours prior to his/her court date to request such.

SO ORDERED, this 14th day of July, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald O. Sheppard", written in a cursive style.

Donald O. Sheppard, Judge

Sylvania, Hiltonia, Rocky Ford Municipal Courts