

**TOOMBS COUNTY MAGISTRATE COURT  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

In following the Supreme Court of Georgia's Fourth Declaration of an Extension of a Statewide Judicial Emergency, the Magistrate Court will make the following accommodations in line with that Order to resume court operations and protect public health. The Court will follow all public health guidance and with the requirements of the United States and Georgia constitutions and applicable statutes and court rules. The Court also follows any order of the same signed by Chief Judge Robert S. Reeves of the Middle Judicial Circuit.

In cases which necessitate a hearing, the Court will provide litigants two options:

- 1) The hearing to be held remotely through the Zoom platform; or
- 2) An in-court proceeding following certain guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and also in this most recent judicial order from Chief Justice Harold Melton of the Georgia Supreme Court.

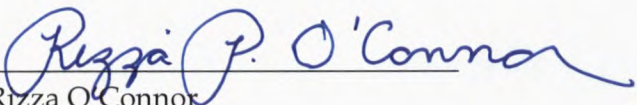
Further, the Court will accommodate hybrid hearings in which a party or witness may be in the courtroom physically and others through a remote platform. Any litigant or party who does not want to physically appear in court, the Court will facilitate for their testimony and presence to be made available remotely through Zoom at the time of the hearing. Those that have COVID-19, exposed to COVID-19, and those who are considered a vulnerable person may have their case continued.

ADMISSION to MAGISTRATE COURTROOMS:

- a. The number of individuals allowed in the Magistrate Court courtroom C will be limited to no more than 10 persons at a time, including litigants and court personnel.
- b. All litigants and court personnel will be required to wear a face mask or covering at all times in the courtroom and courthouse.
- c. In the courtroom, litigants and witnesses must sit in seats that are directed only by Court personnel.
- d. Seating in the courtroom will be limited and those with official business will be given priority.
- e. There will only be one case scheduled at every hour so to allow for social distancing and the opportunity to sanitize and clean between each hearing.
- f. The use of hand sanitizer will be required by each individual before handling and paperwork.
- g. After the hearing concludes, parties and witnesses must immediately vacate the courtroom.

The Toombs Count Magistrate Court will continue to amend these guidelines according to public health recommendations and requirements.

It is hereby ORDERED this 14<sup>th</sup> day of July 2020.

  
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Rizza O'Connor  
Chief Magistrate

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TOOMBS COUNTY  
MAGISTRATE COURT