



WHITE COUNTY PROBATE COURT

White County Courthouse
59 S. Main St., Suite H
Cleveland GA 30528

Garrison Baker, Judge

706-865-4141

NOTICE OF PROBATE TRAFFIC COURT RE-OPENING PROCEDURES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Note: If you have already paid your citation and if your appearance is not mandatory, you do not need to come to court. If you wish to dispute the violation, it is your right to appear in court and that is why you are receiving this notice. For many traffic violations, appearance is not required. Examples of violations that are a mandatory appearance include (This is not a full list):

DUI

Furnishing to, Purchase of, or Possession of Alcohol Under 21 Driving While License Suspended
Driving While Unlicensed
Suspended/Cancelled/Revoked Registration
No Insurance
Hit and Run
Leaving the Scene of an Accident Reckless Driving
Obstructing Law Enforcement Officer(s)

If you are not sure whether you must appear for court, please contact the Clerk's Office: 706-865-4141
In response to the threat posed by the COVID-19 virus, the White County Probate Court has implemented changes to court hearing procedures.

Please be advised of the following:

- ☐ When you arrive for your court hearing, you will check-in in the lobby of White County Courthouse with Probate Court staff located in the courthouse lobby. You will be instructed to either enter the courtroom or be instructed to wait outside for the second half calendar call.
 - ☐ Only the Defendant listed on the citation will be allowed to enter the courtroom, with their attorney if applicable.
 - ☐ One parent/guardian may accompany individuals 17-21 years of age.
 - ☐ No friends, family members, or children may enter the courtroom. If you encounter a childcare issue, please contact the clerk's office.
prior to 3pm on your court date.
 - ☐ Defendants who are 60 years of age or older and are not comfortable coming to court due to increased risk may contact the clerk's office
prior to your court date.
 - ☐ Defendants who are a member of an immune-compromised population (or living in a household with someone who is immune-compromised) and are not comfortable coming to court due to increased risk may contact the clerk's office prior to your court date.
 - ☐ Any Defendant who is ill will not be permitted to enter the court. If you do not feel well, please stay at home and call the clerk's office.
- If necessary, leave a message with your phone number so that you can be contacted.
- ☐ Defendants who require an interpreter for court proceedings please contact the clerk's office prior to your court date.

☐ All Defendants and staff must observe at least six feet of social distance at all times.

If you do not have an attorney and would like information about resolving your case that is not a must appear case without a court appearance, contact the White County Probate Court at (706) 865-4141.

Arraignment calendars will be limited to 30 defendants per calendar call.

The first 15 people to arrive may enter the courtroom only if they are on the calendar. Anyone other than the first 15 people to arrive listed on the calendar must put their name on the list with a contact cellphone number and return back to their vehicle or wait outside of the courthouse until they are texted that they are now allowed in the courtroom.

NOTICE OF RE-OPENING PROCEDURES FOR ESTATES, GUARDIANSHIPS AND MENTAL HEALTH CASES

The Probate Court of White County will resume in-person proceedings on Estate, Guardianship and Mental Health cases beginning Monday, August 3, 2020. While resuming in-person proceedings, the Court seeks to balance the needs of public safety, the rights and health of individual litigants, and the health and safety of lawyers and Court staff.

After consultation with local officials and the White County Emergency Management Director and in compliance with their recommendations and the CDC's guidelines, the Court has implemented numerous measures to protect all who appear in Court. These measures include screening all individuals attending Court and requiring all individuals to wear facial coverings and to maintain six (6) feet of separation from others while in the courtroom or hallway.

The courtroom will have assigned seating to maintain social distancing standards. The courtrooms are open to the public; however, litigants are strongly encouraged to attend alone, so that distances can be more easily maintained. Court hearings will be live-streamed in the event that courtroom capacity has been exceeded.

The Court will continue to conduct most uncontested matters by video conferencing or teleconferencing procedures.

Any litigant who is in a high-risk category (including over the age of 65) or has a COVID-19 related basis to be excused from Court should contact the Probate Court (706) 865-4141, at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the scheduled Court date. Leaving a voice mail does not relieve a litigant of the requirement to appear on the scheduled Court date.

Failure to appear for a scheduled Court date may result in dismissal of pleadings or contempt proceedings as appropriate.

Please note the following requirements:

Courthouse COVID-19 Screening Protocol

Screening Instructions: Upon entering the courthouse, all visitors must attest to or acknowledge to no known illness by responding to the following Screening Statements:

☐ I attest that I have not experienced any of the following in the last 14 days:

☐ I have not exhibited a fever of 100° F degrees or higher.

☐ I have not had a cough (excluding chronic cough due to known medical reason other than COVID-19).

☐ I have not had shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (due to known medical reason other than COVID-19).

☐ I have not had a sore throat due to known medical reason other than COVID-19). ☐ I have not had diarrhea (excluding diarrhea due to known medical reason other than COVID-19).

☐ I have not exhibited any cold or flu-like symptoms.

☐ To the best of my knowledge, I have not had contact with a person confirmed or presumed to have coronavirus (COVID-19) within the last 14 days.

☐ To the best of my knowledge, I am not currently experiencing any upper respiratory illnesses accompanied by a fever.

☐ I attest I have not traveled internationally in the last 14 days.

☐ I attest that I have not traveled to a high-risk area or location identified as a “hot spot” of confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) cases within the last 14 days.

If anyone gives an affirmative response to any of the questions or presents a fever of 100°F or higher, they will be asked to leave the courthouse. Tell them to call the court to verify their contact information and notify them they will be given a continuance.

Access to the courthouse and courtroom is limited.

☐ No friends, family members, or children may enter the courtroom.

☐ Only the Defendant listed on the citation will be allowed to enter the courtroom, with their attorney if applicable.

☐ Individuals 17-21 years of age may be accompanied by one parent/guardian.