

MUNICIPAL COURT FOR THE CITY OF WEST POINT, GEORGIA
COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDELINES ORDER

A State of Judicial Emergency was declared by Chief Justice Harold D. Melton of the Supreme Court of Georgia, on March 14, 2020, and was extended by further orders of April 6, May 13, June 12, and July 10, 2020 (set to expire on August 11, 2020, at 11:59 p.m.), under the authority and pursuant to Official Code of Georgia Annotated § 38-3-61.

To the extent possible and reasonable, the Municipal Court for the City of West Point has refrained from conducting activities requiring the personal appearance of litigants, parties, or court personnel, during the State of Judicial Emergency, but finds it necessary and appropriate to be "open" in order to conduct proceedings in compliance with public health guidance and applicable statutes and court rules. All guidelines and best practices provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Georgia Department of Public Health and our local health departments along with guidelines established as best practices by the city's governing authority, shall be followed.

If you are feeling unwell, are over the age of 65, have a pre-existing health condition, are immune-compromised or medically fragile, reside with someone who is immune-compromised or medically fragile, if you have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19, or if you have childcare issues related to COVID-19, immediately contact the Municipal Court's office at 706-645-3512 to inform the clerk of court and to ask to be excused or to have your case rescheduled. Documentation may be requested. If you are not able to speak to a member of the staff, please be sure you leave your name as it appears in court records and return phone number.

Those awaiting entry to the building or courtroom are discouraged from congregating in groups, aside from those with whom they reside. All persons entering the building will be screened at the front information desk by a bailiff, officer, or city employee in a manner consistent with the recommendations of Federal, State and local

health agencies. Those seeking entry will be asked pertinent health-related questions, including:

- a. Have you tested positive for COVID-19, within the last 30 days?
- b. Within the last 14 days, have you been in contact with someone known to have COVID-19?
- c. Within the last 10 days, have you experienced a cough, difficulty of breathing, fever, chills, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, diarrhea, muscle pain, or headache?

Anyone with a cough, fever, or otherwise experiencing symptoms of sickness or anyone who has had recent contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 has an affirmative duty to disclose the information at the screening desk. All persons entering the building will submit to taking of temperatures in a non-invasive manner. You may be denied entry to the courtroom, based on your response to the questions or your temperature.

All persons will be required to wear protective masks upon entering the building. Masks shall cover the mouth and nose, not the eyes or other parts of the head, and shall be worn by all persons in the courtroom with the exception of the Judge.

While the Municipal Court is a public and open courtroom, you are encouraged not to bring any non-essential persons with you as courtroom space will be limited. Social distancing guidelines of at least six feet between persons in the courtroom will be maintained and enforced. Attorneys, court staff and any other parties shall arrange their interaction so as to ensure that minimum distancing is kept. Parties are encouraged to communicate before the court date in an effort to resolve any issues prior to in person appearances.

Any person who willfully fails to abide by this Order may be held in contempt of court.

SO ORDERED, this the 13th day of July, 2020.

City of West Point, Georgia

MUNICIPAL COURT

14152

Date received:

7.14.2020

Clerk

Wesley Leonard
Judge, Municipal Court
City of West Point