

MAGISTRATE COURT OF BEN HILL COUNTY, STATE OF GEORGIA

ORDER FOR IN PERSON PROCEEDINGS DURING PANDEMIC

IN ACCORDANCE with the Orders Extending Declaration of Statewide Judicial Emergency issued July 10, 2020, by the Hon. Harold D. Melton, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, the Magistrate Court of Ben Hill County hereby adopts the following guidelines for in-person proceedings and lobby activities in the Magistrate Court of Ben Hill County. This order shall remain in effect until otherwise modified or removed.

IN-PERSON PROCEEDINGS

1. A mask or face covering is REQUIRED for all litigants.
2. There shall be no more than eight (8) persons in the courtroom and no more than eight (8) in the courtroom waiting area.
3. Areas for seating will be marked with blue tape.
4. Before entering the courtroom, all individuals will be screened for temperature and by completing a survey of the following questions:
 - A. I have not traveled to a high risk area or location identified as a "hot spot" of confirmed COVID-19 cases within the last 14 days
 - B. I have not tested positive for COVID-19 or been instructed to isolate or quarantine by a healthcare provider in the last 14 days
 - C. To the best of my knowledge, I have not had contact with a person confirmed or presumed to have coronavirus within the last 14 days
 - D. I have not, within the past 14 days, experienced any symptoms as described by the CDC of COVID-19, including, but not limited to cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, headache or new loss of taste or smell, or fever greater than 100
 - E. I have not exhibited a fever of 100 or greater in the last 72 hours

Anyone denied access shall contact the Clerk of the Magistrate Court for further instruction.

5. Hand sanitizer will be provided at the screening station and each person shall sanitize their hands before entry.
6. Social distancing requirements of 6 foot will be enforced outside the entrance, lobby and inside the courtroom.
7. All proceedings are open to the public, but we ask that only those with an interest in the case attend.
8. Court times will be staggered to allow cleaning and sanitizing of the area between each case.
9. Persons with health limitations that make them vulnerable to COVID-19 are urged to contact the Magistrate Court in advance of any pending proceedings.


COURT OFFICE/LOBBY TRANSACTIONS

1. A face mask or face covering must always be worn inside the lobby.
2. Appointments are encouraged.
3. ONLY one (1) person shall occupy the lobby at one time.
4. The lobby and any shared utensils will be sanitized throughout the day.

SO ORDERED this 15 day of July, 2020




Clerk/Deputy Clerk, Magistrate Court
Ben Hill County, Georgia


Lisa Hudson McCard, Chief Magistrate
Ben Hill County, State of Georgia