

2020 JUL 17 AM 10:02

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PIKE COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

BY: 
PAM THOMPSON, CLERK

FIRST AMENDMENT TO PIKE COURTHOUSE GUIDELINES FILED JUNE 8, 2020

The Pike Order for Courtrooms(s) Guidelines regarding COVID-19 filed on June 8, 2020 are hereby amended as follows:

1.

All Courthouse employees and the public shall wear a mask or face covering when entering the court facility. Masks shall be provided to those seeking entry who do not have one. Face masks or coverings shall be worn at all times, unless waived by a Judge for specific reasons. Anyone allowed to not wear a mask shall be required to maintain increased social distance of ten (10) feet or more or be located behind protective glass or acrylic barriers or shields.

2.

Any Courthouse employee testing positive for COVID-19 shall be isolated, in accordance with the Department of Public Health (DPH) Seventh Amended Administrative Order for Public Health control measures. Anyone with COVID-19 exposure likely to result in infection shall be quarantined in accordance with the aforesaid Order.

3.

When there is reason to believe that anyone who works in or has visited a court facility has been exposed to COVID-19, the local Health Department and the Chief Judge of this Court shall be notified. All resulting protocols mandated by the local Department of Health or DPH, in response to notification, shall be followed.

4.

Shared areas of the courtrooms shall be disinfected prior to court, and between court sessions.

5.

All requirements of the original Order filed June 8, 2020, not modified by this Order shall remain in effect.

SO ORDERED this 16 day of July, 2020, with the majority of the Judges consenting.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Christopher C. Edwards". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

CHRISTOPHER C. EDWARDS, CHIEF JUDGE
PIKE SUPERIOR COURT
GRIFFIN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PIKE COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

FILED & RECORDED/CLERK
SUPERIOR/JUVENILE CT
PIKE COUNTY, GA 30295

2020 JUN -8 AM 8:30

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In re: Courtroom(s) Guidelines

BY: PT
PAM THOMPSON, CLERK

ORDER FOR COURTROOM(S) GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are hereby developed by this Court pursuant to Section 4 of the Supreme Court of Georgia's Judicial Emergency Order, filed May 11, 2020 in application to in-court proceedings:

1.

At the courthouse entrance, a sign conforming to the requirements set forth in the "Second Order Extending Declaration Of Statewide Judicial Emergency" filed May 11, 2020, referenced above, which said signage shall state the requirement that all persons seeking entry must respond to minimal, but necessary, questions concerning whether they currently have COVID-19 or certain recognizable symptoms of the disease. The Sheriff shall make those inquiries of those who seek to enter the courtroom(s) located at the Pike County courthouse. Entry shall be denied according to CDC guidelines, which will include anyone with a fever, having been exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 30 days, having traveled outside the United States within the last 30 days, or has other symptoms such as shortness of breath, cough, chills, or respiratory problems.

2.

The Sheriff and Judge presiding over court shall instruct all courtroom attendees to be respectful to other and observe all social distancing recommendations by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), including maintaining a distance of at least six feet from others who do not reside within the same household. To assist with compliance, the courtroom and all other rooms within the courthouse where courtroom attendees may be sequestered

shall be marked. A letter from the Clerk requesting compliance shall accompany all hearing notices. Hand sanitizer shall be available for all courtroom attendees. The microphones, desktops, and other commonly touched items within the courtroom shall be sanitized before and after each hearing. Masks and other personal protective equipment (hereafter "PPE") shall be available for those within the courtroom and their use encouraged, but not required. Within the Courtrooms, any Judge may at his or her discretion require stricter protocols such as greater social distancing, mandatory wearing of masks, etc.

3.

Every reasonable accommodation shall be made for individuals 65 and over, and those with pre-existing conditions recognized by the CDC as rendering an individual at an increased risk of COVID-19. Such accommodations may include, among others, excusing the person from attendance, isolating the person from others, permitting that person to participate via videoconference, etc.

4.

Whenever possible, the time for hearings shall be staggered as to reduce the number of persons present in the courtroom who are involved in matters other than the ongoing hearing. The Judge and Clerk shall preview proposed calendars prior to finalization to assure the best "staggering" of cases to achieve social distancing. Should the number of persons present in any portion of the courthouse exceed that number who may remain safely distant from others in that room, the Sheriff shall ask those who are not essential to the hearing to remove to an area outside the courthouse. In determining who is essential to the hearing, the Sheriff may consult with the Judge; in any event, priority seating shall exist for all parties to the ongoing hearing and their lawyers, necessary court personnel, members of the press, supporters of a party, and the general public in that order. The sidewalks and entry into the courthouse shall be marked with tape at six-foot intervals and those waiting to enter must maintain the separation.

5.

The protocol shall be recorded on the minutes of the Court and made available in notices of court calendars, on the website of the Clerk of Superior Court, and shall be posted in

