

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF IRWIN COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

**STANDING ORDER FOR COURT PROCEDURES  
DURING JUDICIAL EMERGENCY**

In accordance with the directives of Chief Justice's *ORDER DECLARING STATEWIDE JUDICIAL EMERGENCY*, as extended or modified, including the second and third orders extending said order, and most recently the *FOURTH ORDER EXTENDING DECLARATION OF STATEWIDE JUDICIAL EMERGENCY* in its current form or as latter extended or modified, and in order to reasonably and safely expand our efforts to accommodate and serve the judicial needs of the citizens of our state, the Juvenile Courts of the Tifton Judicial Circuit hereby declare the following guidelines to apply for all in-person court proceedings in the juvenile courts of this Circuit. These guidelines comply with current CDC and Georgia Department of Public Health recommendations to promote and ensure public safety during this COVID-19 pandemic. When appropriate, the court strongly recommends and will make every effort to hold hearings via telephonic or video conferencing. For all matters that require in-person hearings, the following guidelines are implemented:

Accordingly, **IT IS SO ORDERED:**

1. **Specific Hearing Times:** To control the number of persons in courtrooms and hearing rooms at any one time, each hearing will be scheduled to commence, and end, at specific times exclusive of any other scheduled hearings. All persons are encouraged to remain outside the court facility until fifteen (15) minutes prior to the appointed time for the commencement of their hearing.
2. **Prior Screening:** Before entry to any courtroom, all persons, including security and court staff, must have their temperatures taken and answer screening questions. Any person presenting a fever of 100.4 or higher, showing symptoms of a respiratory infection, or whose responses to screening questions exhibit potential exposure to COVID-19 will not be permitted entry.
3. **Personal Protective Equipment:** All persons admitted into the courtroom will be required to have with them and wear protective masks at all times. Any person unable to provide their own masks shall so inform the court not less than 24 hours prior to their scheduled hearing to determine if arrangements can be made to have a mask provided to them.
4. **Social Distancing:** Upon entrance to court facilities, a minimum distance of six (6) feet between persons who do not live in the same household is required. The number of persons allowed in a courtroom at any one time will be limited in accordance with current CDC and public health guidelines. Persons will be required to sit in designated areas. Should the number of persons who desire to be present for a hearing otherwise open to the public exceed the number of people who may safely be present in courtroom at any given time, the court will make alternate arrangements so that the public has appropriate access to any open proceedings. All witnesses must remain outside the court facility until instructed to enter by a court official.
5. **Sanitation:** All persons are encouraged to use sanitizer upon entering and leaving any court facility. Court staff will make every effort to clean all hard contact surfaces in the courtroom between hearings and the areas around the witness stand between use by different witnesses.
6. **Additional Requirements:** The court may, by the issuance of case specific orders, add additional requirements/procedures in individual cases when the court determines said requirements/procedures to be necessary to ensure the safety of the parties, court personnel, and/or the public.
7. **Good Cause Shown:** Should any hearings need to be continued as a result of the court or a party's inability to comply with these guidelines, said continuance shall be considered to be for good cause shown.

MB 76 Pg 261-262

Filed in Office  
This 7<sup>th</sup> day of August, 20  
Time 9:30 A.M.  
Deputy Sherry Pope  
Clerk Superior Court, Irwin County

**NOTICE**

**Those who consider themselves high-risk or who have been diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19:**

Persons who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, or exposed to COVID-19 within the past 14 days, or meeting the criteria of a high-risk individual, should not attempt to appear in court, but should contact the court prior to your hearing to work out alternative accommodations. To find out if you are considered "high-risk" please visit the following website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>

For more information on COVID-19 we encourage you to visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

SO ORDERED, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020.



**RENDER M. HEARD, JR.  
JUDGE OF JUVENILE COURTS  
TIFTON JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**