

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF WAYNE COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

**ORDER FOR THE SAFE RESUMPTION OF IN-COURT PROCEEDINGS DURING THE
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH the Orders Extending Declaration of Statewide Judicial Emergency entered on May, 11, 2020, June 12, 2020 and July 10, 2020, by the Hon. Harold D. Melton, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, the Magistrate Court of Wayne County hereby adopts the following guidelines for in-court proceedings. This order shall remain in effect until otherwise modified or removed.

1. **All persons entering the courthouse shall abide by Coronavirus guidelines as promulgated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.**
2. **Directions for those who have been diagnosed with, have been exposed to, or are especially vulnerable to, COVID-19.**
 - a. No person actively infected with COVID-19, as determined by diagnosis or positive test results will be allowed in the courthouse.
 - b. No person with knowledge that they have had contact with an individual in the past 14 days who has tested positive for COVID-19 shall be allowed in the courthouse.
 - c. Persons with other health limitations which make them especially vulnerable to COVID-19 are requested to call the Magistrate Court Clerk at 912-427-5960 to speak with someone about a legitimate concern that they may have about attending an in-person hearing.
3. **Admission to the Magistrate Court Courtroom/Office.** All persons entering the Magistrate Court SHALL:
 - a. Be subject to a health screening which may include the use of a no contact body temperature device.
 - b. WEAR A FACE MASK AT ALL TIMES while in the courtroom.
 - c. Comply with directives of court personnel regarding social distancing.
 - d. All persons are encouraged to refrain from any physical contact with other individuals.
 - e. All persons with business before the court are strongly encouraged not to bring any nonessential persons with them.
 - f. Bring your own pen to sign papers with, as this reduces possible exposure.
4. **Special court procedures.** Due to the ongoing Judicial Emergency, the court is employing special procedures to minimize the risk to everyone's health. We are scheduling cases on a staggered schedule, which allows for reduced traffic and allows the courtroom to be cleaned and sanitized between hearings. Seating will be limited to essential parties/witnesses.

SO ORDERED, this 14th day of July, 2020

Gary D. Browning, Chief Magistrate