

**IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT
CITY OF CLARKSTON
STATE OF GEORGIA**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER GOVERNING COURT REOPENING PROCEDURES

WHEREAS, the Governor has determined that a Public Health State of Emergency exists in the State of Georgia due to the spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court has determined that a Statewide Judicial Emergency exists, and has entered multiple orders, that have been amended and revised; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the Orders entered by the Chief Justice, courts may reopen under guidelines designed to ensure the safety of all individuals appearing in such courts with due regard for the Constitutional rights of the parties; and

WHEREAS, under the guidelines set out below, the Municipal Court of Clarkston is to resume in-person proceedings September 9, 2020;

NOW THEREFORE, it is ordered as follows:

- 1) The Statewide Judicial Orders entered by the Chief Justice, and any further such orders are adopted by reference. In the event of a conflict, the Chief Justice's Orders shall control.
- 2) The following procedures shall be followed:
 - a) The Clerk shall schedule arraignments so that no more than ten (10) defendants are scheduled to be heard per hour;
 - b) Continuances shall be freely given to all defendants and attorneys;
 - c) The Courtroom shall be marked so as to allow a minimum of six (6) feet of distance between individuals. An attorney, interpreter, probation officer, or family member accompanying a defendant may request to sit or stand close as necessary;
 - d) Prior to entering the courtroom, all persons shall wait outside the building and shall not congregate in the lobby. In the event of inclement weather, after checking in with the Clerk and providing a cell phone number, a defendant may wait in a motor vehicle until their case is called.
 - e) Only one person may stand at the Clerk's window at one time.
 - f) Only one defendant may meet with the Probation Officer at one time. On request, a defendant may be accompanied by an attorney, interpreter, or both, so long as social distancing is followed.

g) All persons (defendants, attorneys and interpreters) shall maintain a distance of six feet while meeting with the Solicitor, Public Defender, court staff and Judge.

h) No more than 20 persons (including court personnel) shall be in the courtroom at any one time.

i) No one under the age of 17 will be admitted into the building unless the individual is a victim or witness in a case. If a defendant has children with them, but does not have childcare available, their case will be continued.

j) All persons, including court personnel, are required to wear masks while inside the courtroom and public space of the building. Masks shall be provided to anyone who does not have one. Persons refusing to wear a mask will not be admitted and may be cited for contempt.

k) Before entering the courtroom, all persons will have their temperature checked. Any person with a reading of 100.4° or higher will not be admitted.

l) All persons will also be screened with the following questions:

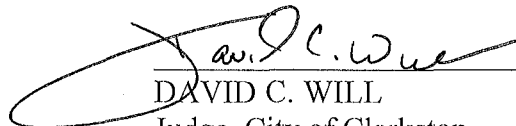
- i. Have you been tested for and were positive or are awaiting results of a COVID-19 test?
- ii. In the last 14 days, have you traveled outside the US, been in contact with anyone who has COVID-19, or who has tested positive for COVID-19?
- iii. In the last 14 days, have you experienced any of the following symptoms of COVID-19 -- Fever, headaches, cough, shortness of breath, muscle aches?

Persons who refuse to answer, or who answer in the affirmative, will be denied entry.

m) Hand sanitizer will be available and provided to any person requesting it.

n) Any members of the public desiring to observe proceedings shall notify the Court so that appropriate arrangements can be made, subject to the foregoing.

SO ORDERED, this 4th day of September, 2020.



DAVID C. WILL
Judge, City of Clarkston