

**IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT FOR THE CITY OF VALDOSTA
STATE OF GEORGIA**

RE: COVID-19 COURT PROCEDURES

DATE: APRIL 23, 2021

COVID-19 COURT PROCEDURES

WHEREAS the continued spread of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) has created a serious health emergency in the City of Valdosta; and


WHEREAS due to the ongoing pandemic and in furtherance of our efforts toward the safety of parties, attorneys, and Court Staff; and

WHEREAS consistent with guidance on limiting the spread of Covid-19, this court believes that just cause exists to implement certain Court Procedures.

- Accordingly, before entry into courtroom defendants will be required to have their temperature checked by Court Personnel. Anyone with a temperature higher than the CDC guidelines is not allowed in the courtroom and will be provided with a rescheduled court appearance date.
- If you are sick or experiencing coughs or related issues, please do not come to court. Please make contact with the clerk's office 229-293-3171; for a one (1) time courtesy continuance of your case.
- As you approach the security check point, you will be required to maintain the social distancing requirements.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be located outside of the courtroom near the security check point and inside the courtroom for individuals to sanitize their hands.
- All individuals entering the building are encouraged to wear his/her own face covering or mask to cover nose and mouth upon entering court facility.
- If you are a non-English speaker, please contact the court office at least three (3) days before your court date so that adequate time is allowed to have an interpreter present. All individuals entering the building will be required to maintain social distancing requirements.
- Based on the size of the courtroom no more than 30 individuals will be allowed to enter the courtroom at a time.

- The seating has been arranged by Court Personnel to maintain social distancing amongst defendants. No one will be allowed to modify the seating arrangements or to move the seating arrangements at any time.
- Defendants 21 and under may have one (1) parent or guardian attend the court hearing with them. Spouses, friends or other family members will not be permitted into the courtroom, unless there are plans for those individuals to be called as witnesses.
- As a safety precaution, please do not bring infants or children to court. If childcare is an issue please contact the clerk's office for a one (1) time courtesy continuance of your case.
- Defendants who are 60 years of age or older and or suffer from one or more health related concerns and are not comfortable with appearing in court, are encouraged to make contact with the court for a one (1) time continuance of his/her case
- Defendants will be asked to wear a face covering (mask will be provided at the door if needed) the entire time while inside the Municipal Court building.

ALL INDIVIDUALS VISITING THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF VALDOSTA SHOULD FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.


JEREMY K. BAKER, JUDGE
Municipal Court of Valdosta