

Perry Municipal Court
COURT PROCEDURES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

You are receiving this letter as a reminder of your upcoming court date. **Court hearings will take place at the Perry Arts Center located at 1121 Macon Rd., Perry, GA.**

If you have already paid your citation and if your appearance is not mandatory, you do not need to come to court. If you wish to dispute the violation, it is your right to appear in court and that is why you are receiving this notice. For many traffic violations, appearance is not required.

Examples of violations that **are a mandatory appearance** include:

DUI	Suspended Registration
Occupy Motor Vehicle While Intoxicated	No Insurance
Possession of Alcohol Under 21	Hit and Run
Driving While License Suspended	Reckless Driving
Driving While Unlicensed	Speeding 30+ Over Limit
Resisting/Interfering with Officer	Shoplifting
Possession of Marijuana	Tampering with Utilities
Possession of Drug Related Objects	Permitting Unlicensed Person to Drive

If you are not sure whether you must appear for court, please contact the **clerk's office: (478) 988-2814**

In response to the threat posed by the COVID-19 virus, Perry Municipal Court has implemented changes to court hearing procedures. Please be advised of the following:

- When you arrive for your court hearing, you will check in outside of the building with Perry Municipal Court staff. Security and Health Screening (temperature check and questions regarding COVID-19) will take place prior to entering the courtroom. If we reach max capacity, you may be asked to wait in your vehicle until you are notified by court staff to proceed to the courtroom.
- Only the Defendant listed on the citation will be allowed to enter the court, with their attorney if applicable. Individuals under 21 years of age may be accompanied by one parent/guardian.
- **No friends, family members, or children may enter the building.** If you encounter a childcare issue, please contact the clerk's office prior to your hearing. Continuances will be granted.
- Defendants who are 60 years of age or older and are not comfortable coming to court due to increased risk may contact the clerk's office prior to the hearing date. Continuances will be granted.
- **Any Defendant who is ill will not be permitted to enter the court.** If you do not feel well, please stay at home and call the clerk's office. If necessary, leave a message with your phone number so that you can be contacted. Continuances will be granted.
- **Face masks are no longer required if you have been vaccinated. No proof of vaccination is required. Anyone who has not been vaccinated is strongly encouraged to wear a face covering the entire time while inside of the building.**
- Defendants who require an interpreter for court proceedings please contact the clerk's office prior to your court date. (**Los acusados que requieran un intérprete, comuníquense de inmediato al teléfono 478-988-2814 para obtener más información.**)
- All Defendants and staff must observe **at least six feet of social distance at all times.**

If you do not have an attorney and would like information about resolving your case without a court appearance, contact the Solicitor for City of Perry, Joseph Prine: (478) 257-6333 or e-mail perry.solicitor@gmail.com. There is no cost to you for contacting the City Solicitor and you may be able to accept a plea recommendation to resolve your case without appearing in court.



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PERRY MUNICIPAL COURT

James M. Freeman, Chief Judge

Mirian Arrington, Chief Court Clerk

Ashley Deadwyler-Heuman, Associate Judge

Sara Young, Court Clerk

Perry Municipal Court COVID-19 Operating Guidelines

Beginning June 17, 2020, the court will resume conducting in-person hearings. Pursuant to the orders of the Supreme Court of Georgia and recommendations of Governor Brian Kemp and the Centers for Disease Control, certain safety measures will be put in place to protect the health and safety of the defendants, court personnel, and the public. The following precautions will be strictly followed as an order of the court.

Procedures

1. To assist those defendants with court cases scheduled for 06/03/2020, 07/01/2020 and future court dates if necessary, who wish to resolve their case without appearing in court, a Plea in Absentia from the Prosecutor's office will be mailed along with the Perry Municipal COURT PROCEDURES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 at least 30 days in advance from their court date.
2. Court scheduled notices with assigned court time have been, and will be, mailed to individuals with future court dates, until necessary, along with a copy of Perry Municipal Court, COURT PROCEDURES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19.
3. Individuals taken into custody by the Perry PD and Georgia State Patrol charged with violations that fall under the jurisdiction of the Perry Municipal Court shall be given OR bonds, released, and advised to appear on the court date on their citation. Individuals arrested as the result of warrants due to probation violation or contempt of court will be released on an OR bond, provided with a court date of and advised to contact their Probation Officer or the clerk's office immediately after their release.

Day of Court:

1. Individuals will proceed to a health screening with a staff member from the Fire Department. Signs will be posted that a security and health screening will be taking place on the courtroom doors. The health screening questions will be printed on signs for the defendant to read. If the defendant is unable to read, assistance will be provided by the court staff.



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2. The Individuals will be asked before entering the courtroom if they have answered 'YES' to any of the COVID-19 health screening questions. If they have answered 'YES' to any of the COVID-19 health screening questions, the individual will be given a continuance.
3. All individuals entering the building will be subjected to a temperature check to verify they do not have a fever. Anyone with a temperature higher than 100.4 degrees will not be allowed access to the building and their hearing will be continued to the next available court date. The contact information for the Prosecutor's office will be provided and they may contact the Prosecutor to try to resolve their case without appearing in court on their next scheduled court date.
4. All individuals entering the building who have been vaccinated are no longer required to wear a face covering or mask to cover nose and mouth. No proof of vaccination will be required. It is strongly advised that all individuals who have not been vaccinated continue to wear a mask. If any individual does not have their own mask or face covering and wishes to wear one, one will be provided.
5. All individuals entering the building will be asked to maintain reasonable social distancing. This will include, but will not be limited to, remaining a reasonable distance from any other individual in the building, following all directions from the court personnel, and complying with all markings in the building.
6. Handwashing and or sanitizing stations will be available.
7. The courtroom will be disinfected prior to each court session and areas that are shared by individuals will be disinfected between each person's contact with that area.
8. The court will provide supplies such as pens for all defendants, subject to the availability of those supplies. Each individual is allowed to use their own pen or supplies.
9. Based on the size of the courtroom no more than 75 individuals will be allowed to enter the courtroom at a time. The seating will be arranged by court personnel to maintain reasonable social distancing. No one can modify the seating arrangements or move the seating without prior court permission.
10. Courtroom personnel will direct how many people can enter the building at one time. If there are more people waiting to enter the building than can be allowed, those individuals will be required to provide their phone number and wait in their vehicle. Once they are allowed to enter the building, the court personnel will notify



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the individual by call or text that they may proceed to the courtroom. Security/Health screenings will take place prior to entering the courtroom.

11. Individuals entering the building are encouraged to bring their own hand-sanitizer, but the courtroom has been equipped with hand-sanitizer throughout the courtroom's walls.
12. In Order to comply with CDC physical distancing guidelines, the Court asks that only defendants and/or their attorney should attend the court hearing. Individuals are asked to contact the court if they are not able to comply with this request. No one other than the Defendant and the attorney will be allowed in the building.
13. Defendants 21 and under may have one parent or guardian attend the court hearing with them.
14. The Court remains open to the public via Court sessions live stream on YouTube.
15. If anyone other than a scheduled Defendant or their attorney wishes to attend Court in person, they should contact the Clerk's Office at least 24 hours in advance regarding possible accommodation due to space constraints.
16. Virtual hearings will be available by request to the Clerk's Office prior to the scheduled court date.
17. Individuals are encouraged to visit the City of Perry's website for more information such as public parking maps, court docket, and to view Chief Judge James Freeman's video of explanation of their rights prior to court.