

THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF TROUP COUNTY

SAFETY ORDER in re: COVID-19

A State of Judicial Emergency was declared by Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia Harold D. Melton, on March 14, 2020, and was extended on April 6, 2020 and May 13, 2020 (set to expire on June 12, 2020, at noon), under the authority and pursuant to OCGA § 38-3-61

Troup County's Magistrate Court of Troup County has remained OPEN using limited in-person courtroom contact and video conferencing technologies to manage essential cases remotely.

All guidelines and best practices provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Georgia Department of Public Health and our local health department along with guidelines established as best practices by the county's governing authority, shall be followed.

More specifically, all persons entering the building will be screened at the front information desk by a Sheriff's deputy or county employee in a manner consistent with the recommendations of Federal, State and local health agencies. All persons will be asked pertinent health-related questions and taking temperatures in a non-invasive manner. Anyone with a cough or fever or otherwise experiencing symptoms of sickness or anyone who has been around someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 has an affirmative duty to disclose the information at the screening desk. You may be denied entry to the building based on your response to the questions or your temperature.

If you are feeling unwell, are over the age of 65, have a pre-existing health condition or have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19, immediately contact the Magistrate Court's office at 706-883-1695 to ask to be excused. If you are not able to speak to a member of the staff, please be sure you leave a return phone number and your name as it appears in court records. In most cases, documentation may be required to be provided.

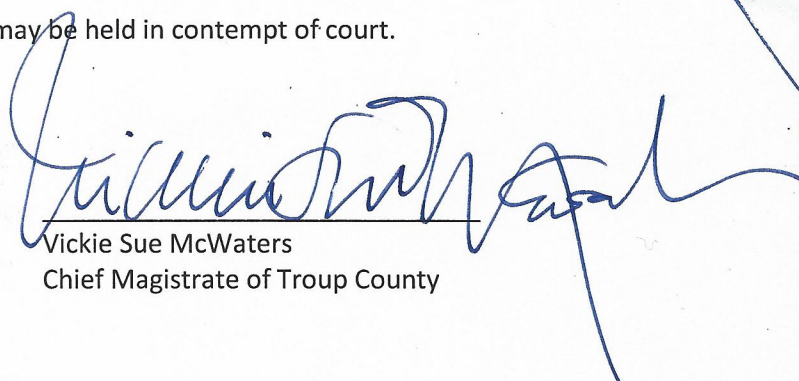
All persons will be required to wear protective face masks upon entering the building. Masks shall cover the mouth and nose, not the eyes or other parts of the head, and shall be worn by all persons in the courtroom with the exception of the Judge. You are encouraged not to bring any non-essential persons with you as courtroom space will be limited as social distancing guidelines of at least six (6) feet between persons in the courtroom will be enforced.

Hand sanitizer shall be available and situated on every floor of the courthouse by the elevators. Persons are required to clean their hands upon entering and exiting each floor of the courthouse. All persons shall strictly maintain social distancing of no less than six (6) feet. Attorneys, court staff and any other parties shall arrange their interaction areas of the courthouse so as to ensure the minimum distancing kept.

Parties are encouraged to speak before the court date in an effort to resolve any issues prior to in person appearances. This is provided for by statute in the Magistrate Courts but is encouraged especially during this period of pandemic so that contact between people is limited.

Any person who willfully fails to abide by this Order may be held in contempt of court.

SO ORDERED, this the 18th day of May, 2020.



Vickie Sue McWaters
Chief Magistrate of Troup County

MAY 18 2020 4:10:18
FILED MAGISTRATE COURT

TROUP COUNTY
BY _____