

**IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF GAINESVILLE
STATE OF GEORGIA**

CITY OF GAINESVILLE	*	
	*	ANY CHARGE IN WHICH THE
CRIMINAL DEFENDANTS	*	MUNICIPAL COURT OF
	*	GAINESVILLE HAS
DEFENDANT	*	JURISDICTION
	*	

JUDICIAL EMERGENCY ORDER

The Court having been informed of the Judicial Emergency Orders having been entered by the Supreme Court of Georgia and the Superior Court of Hall County regarding the safety measures that required the current COVID-19 pandemic, and the Court having received the Supreme Court of Georgia's Judicial Emergency Orders and their extensions, it is necessary for the Court to make adjustments to how Court hearings will be conducted to secure the safety of all Gainesville employees, all Defendants scheduled to appear before the Court, the attorneys scheduled to appear before the Court, and the general public. All Hearings scheduled prior to March 9, 2021, will be conducted pursuant to the Georgia Supreme Court guidelines and any more restrictive guidelines implemented by the Chief Judge of Hall County Superior Court. An individual's appearance will be conducted pursuant to the Georgia Court Reopening Guide promulgated by the Georgia Judicial Council Strategic Planning Committee attached hereto.

Any Defendant wishing to close their case prior to the expiration of the Judicial Emergency Order may close their case by paying the fine using the Court's online system found on the city court website <http://www.gainesville.org>. Each fine paid may result in the reporting of the closure of the case being entered on the Defendant's criminal history, driving history on any reportable moving violation, as applicable. Alternatively, if the Defendant wishes to negotiate or discuss the available options in regard to the charge, the Defendant may contact the Clerk of Court by telephone at 770-531-2668 or email mcourt@gainesville.org.

Any Defendant who provided accurate contact information may receive a call from the Court in an attempt to reach a resolution of their pending matter. No trials will be conducted by video during this current Judicial Emergency Order. Any individual requesting a trial will have a trial conducted in compliance with the current Emergency Order and any modifications to those Orders as well as those guidelines reference above.

Any member of the public that wishes to observe any video hearings conducted by the Court may do so by viewing in the lobby of the Municipal Court Building.

Beginning June 22, 2020, the Court will resume conducting in-person hearings. Pursuant to the recommendations of Governor Brian Kemp and the Centers for Disease Control, certain safety measures will be put into place in order to protect the health and safety of the courtroom personnel, the Defendants, and the general public. The following precautions will be strictly followed as an Order of the Court.

1. All individuals entering the building will be required to wear a mask or face covering to cover nose and mouth, while in the building where the courtroom is located. In the event that the person entering the building does not have their own mask or face covering, one will be provided to them. All individuals will be allowed to remove their mask only while addressing the Court or at the direction of the Court.
2. All Individuals entering the building will be subjected to a screen of their body temperature to verify that they do not have a fever. Anyone with a fever will not be allowed access to the building, and their hearing will be continued for no less than fourteen days.
3. All individuals entering the building will be asked screening questions regarding COVID-19 exposure. All individuals are ORDERED to answer the questions honestly. The questions contained on the guidelines will be utilized by court staff.
4. Anyone who has tested positive for, or is experiencing symptoms of, COVID-19 within the fourteen days prior to their hearing date should contact the Clerk of Court to get a continuance on their hearing. In the event that the case has been continued before, the Clerk of Court has the authority to require supporting documentation of their illness in order to have their case continued.
5. All individuals entering the building will be required to maintain social distancing requirements. This will include, but not be limited to, remaining six feet from any other individual in the building, following all directions from the Court personnel regarding safety concerns, and comply with all markings in the building to achieve safety guidelines.
6. The courtroom will be disinfected no less than two hours before each court session, and areas that are shared by individuals will be disinfected between each person's contact with that area. The public restroom and other common areas will be disinfected in compliance with the guidelines referenced above.
7. The Court will provide supplies, such as pens, for all Defendants that will be sufficient such that the supplies do not have to be shared between individuals, subject to the availability of those supplies. Each individual is allowed to use their own pen or supplies.
8. Based on the courtroom size, no more than 25 people will be allowed to enter the courtroom at a time. The seating will be arranged by courtroom personnel to maintain social distancing

requirements. No one is allowed to modify the seating arrangements or move the seating without the Court's permission.

9. Courtroom staff, or Gainesville Police Department employees, will direct how many people allowed to enter the building at a time. In the event that there are more people waiting to enter the building that can be allowed in at those moments, those individuals will be required to remain six feet apart waiting to enter the building, or they may wait in their vehicle until such time as they are allowed to enter the building.
10. Individuals entering the building are encouraged to bring their hand-sanitizer, but the Court will provide hand-sanitizer to the extent that supplies are available. Before entering the courtroom, the Court has well-marked signage directing the public to restrooms giving extra stations for handwashing and hand sanitizing.
11. All inmates and detainees go through temperature checks and wellness screening by jail staff before being transported to court. The Police Transport team provides masks, hand sanitizer, proper spacing in the transport vehicle, and stagger arrivals and departures to the court if needed. In the Court, if wearing a mask negatively impacts an inmate's right the court will practice social distancing.

SO ORDERED this is 8 day of February, 2021.



Judge Hammond Law,

Gainesville Municipal Court

CC: Gainesville Police Department, via email

Posted: Courthouse Entrance and Cities Website

