

# PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised, as of May 11, 2020, the Magistrate Court of White County, Georgia will be operating in a regulated manner pursuant to the Statewide Judicial Emergency Order and extensions issued by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia on March 14, 2020, April 6, 2020, and May 11, 2020. The regulated manner in which this Court will operate is for the purpose of protecting public health.

Pursuant to the Second Order Extending Declaration of Statewide Judicial Emergency issued by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia on May 11, 2020, this Court will exercise its granted authority to re-impose deadlines set by statutes, rules, regulations, and court orders that have been suspended, tolled, or extended by all previous Statewide Judicial Emergency Order and extensions. Re-imposed deadlines will be established by this Court on a case by case basis after considering the particular circumstances of the case, those involved with the case, and public or individual health concerns. Orders will be issued in each case identifying the deadlines that are being re-imposed or established, and notice will be provided to all parties.

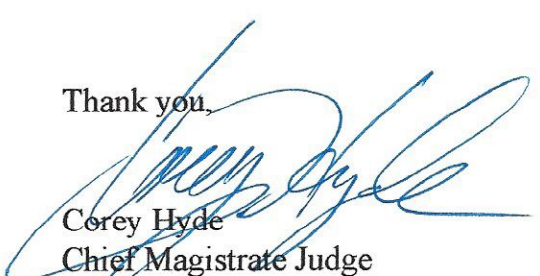
All essential functions of this Court such as law enforcement arrest warrants, search warrants, fugitive warrants, 1<sup>st</sup> appearance hearings, fugitive hearings, and bond reviews will continue as usual and in compliance with the Statewide Judicial Emergency Order.

All non-essential hearings, trials, or services provided by this Court will be conducted either by remote technology or regulated in-court proceedings. Any remote hearings or trials conducted wholly by video conference will have a public notice of the hearings posted on the White County Magistrate Court homepage located at <http://www.whitecounty.net/courts/magistrate-court>. All in-court proceedings will be regulated as described in the attached In-Court Proceeding Guidelines.

We will continue to accept filings from the public, but we encourage everyone to use our online services at [www.whitecounty.net/courts/magistrate-court/magistrate-services](http://www.whitecounty.net/courts/magistrate-court/magistrate-services). If you need copies of documents from our office or a matter researched, please contact us, and we will work diligently to help you fulfill that need through email or mail at no additional cost.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we try to work together to protect the public and our employees from the spread of this virus. Do not hesitate to contact our office during regular business hours at (706) 865-6636, as we are still here to serve you.

Thank you,



Corey Hyde  
Chief Magistrate Judge  
White County, GA

## **In-Court Proceeding Guidelines**

All in-person judicial proceedings held in the White County Magistrate Court shall be in compliance with public health guidance listed by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>) as follows:

- To ensure the availability of 6 feet separation between non-household members, the courtrooms will be accessible up to the maximum capacity of 38 people (including court personnel) in courtroom #1, 8 in courtroom #2, and 6 in the grand jury room.
- When the courtroom reaches capacity, this Court will take appropriate action to stagger cases to a later time or day, and/or any other action will be taken to guarantee the public's safety and right of access to open courtrooms.
- This Court will not require attendance of "people who are at higher risk for severe illness" as described by Center for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>), including those over the age of 65 or have underlying medical conditions such as chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immunocompromised, severely obese, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, liver disease, and any other conditions listed by the CDC. If you or your witnesses are in any of the above categories and have concerns about appearing for your scheduled court date, please contact our office immediately.
- Currently established safety precautions conducted by the Deputies at the public entrance of the courthouse, such as temperature checks and questions regarding health and travel, will continue.
- Parties or their Counsels who do not consent to video conferencing, shall provide their own PPE for all members of their party to include their clients, members of their party and their witnesses of the social distancing guidelines and CDC procedures, and assuring they are complying.
- The Courthouse Maintenance Department will be provided notice of upcoming courtroom use in order to disinfect before and after public hearings.