

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA**

In Re: :
: :
: :
COVID-19 REOPENING ENTRANCE : :
REQUIREMENTS : : STANDING ORDER 2020-09
: :
: :

:

STANDING ORDER

On July 13, 2020 the United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia will resume essential in-person, non-jury court proceedings at the discretion of the presiding judge. The President of the United States, Governor of Georgia, Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other public health authorities continue to advise taking precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and to slow the spread of the disease.

To protect public health, including the health of court staff, parties, court participants, and all other building occupants, the Court hereby orders that:

1. The following persons shall not enter any courthouse or U.S. Probation Office of the Middle District of Georgia without prior permission from the Chief Judge or his designee:
 - a. Persons who have been diagnosed with, or had close contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the previous twenty-one (21) days; or
 - b. Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by any healthcare provider within the previous twenty-one (21) days; or
 - c. Persons who within the previous fourteen (14) days have been on a cruise, traveled outside of the United States, or traveled to any area

that has been declared in quarantine for COVID-19; or

- d. Persons with any symptom of COVID-19 identified by the CDC, including fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.
2. The clerk's office shall remain closed for in-person business. All persons seeking in-person assistance from the clerk's office shall be provided with contact information so alternate arrangements can be made.
 3. In-person attendance at court proceedings shall be limited to all counsel of record, criminal defendants, parties to civil proceedings, and a maximum of six (6) family members attending per criminal defendant. If witnesses are anticipated counsel shall coordinate the number and staggering of witnesses with the court in advance of the hearing.
 4. The following procedures govern the use of masks or other face coverings:
 - a. Masks or other face coverings that cover the mouth and nose must be worn by all persons in all public areas of court unit occupied space in the Middle District of Georgia. Masks will be provided to entrants if necessary.
 - b. Presiding judges shall establish the requirement for wearing masks for court proceedings in their courtrooms.
 - c. Masks or other face coverings must be content neutral and may not express any offensive or inappropriate content. Masks will be provided if necessary.
 - d. Court staff may remove masks when in their individual offices when a

distance of six feet from others can be maintained.

5. Anyone denied entry due to these precautions, or anyone with a documented health condition that prevents the wearing of a mask or other face covering will be provided with contact information to contact the relevant court or other agency with whom they have business.
6. The United States Marshal, his deputies, and court security officers shall deny entry to anyone attempting to enter in violation of this Order, and shall have the authority to remove anyone from a courthouse or United States Probation Office in the Middle District for failure to abide by this Order while in our facilities.
7. Nothing in this order prevents hearings from being conducted remotely pursuant to the CARES Act with the consent of the Defendant and approval of the presiding judge.

SO ORDERED, this 6th day of July, 2020.

s/ Marc T. Treadwell

MARC T. TREADWELL
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE