



Probate Court of Whitfield County

205 N. SELVIDGE ST. SUITE G • DALTON, GEORGIA 30720
TELEPHONE: 706-275-7400
FAX: 706-281-1735

SHERI H. BLEVINS
PROBATE JUDGE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

On March 14, 2020, Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Harold Melton entered an order declaring a judicial emergency, which, among other things, instructed the courts to handle only those matters that were deemed essential. Justice Melton later extended this order through May 13.

In a press release of May 4, Justice Melton further extended the judicial emergency order through June 13. However, this new order has provided leeway for courts to offer more services provided they can do so considering the current recommendations from health officials, especially regarding social distancing.

In the Probate Court, a great number of services were impacted by this Judicial Emergency, including many estate and guardianship proceedings, the issuance of most marriage licenses, and the acceptance of Weapons Carry License applications. With the easing of some of these restrictions provided for during the Judicial Emergency, the Probate Court is now tasked with resuming offering services, but in a manner that protects the interests of the court personnel and the citizens of this county.

Beginning May 14, the Whitfield County Probate Court will begin offering all services with the following restrictions:

Estate and Guardianship/Conservatorship Petitions:

All petitions will be accepted but these will be done on an appointment basis. If you are looking to file a petition, you may mail your petition or you may call the Probate Court office at 706-275-7400 to schedule an appointment. It is recommended that, prior to scheduling an appointment, you have all necessary documents completed and ready for filing. Information on these proceedings can be found at <https://www.whitfieldcountyga.com/pc/estates.htm>

Marriage License Applications:

All marriage license applications will be accepted on an appointment basis. Call the Probate Court office at 706-275-7400 to schedule an appointment. However, applicants who are not getting married in the next sixty (60) days are strongly encouraged to wait and apply for their license closer in time to their actual wedding date. Further,

applicants should make sure they have all documents needed to apply for the license prior to coming to the office. Information on necessary documents can be found at <https://www.whitfieldcountyga.com/pc/marriage.htm>.

Weapons Carry License Applications:

Weapons Carry License applications are expected to present a significant number of people appearing in the office but also require the most person-to-person contact between patron and staff. If you are concerned about this contact, it is recommended that you delay applying for the license until the current Public Health State of Emergency declaration ends on June 14.

While both new and renewal applications will be accepted between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. beginning on May 14, for at least the next ninety (90) days, these will be done by appointment to ensure that proper health precautions can be observed in this office.

If you are interested in applying for a new license or seeking a renewal, you can go to <https://www.whitfieldcountyga.com/pc/weapons.htm> and click on the link "Carry Permit Application." On this page, you can find information on the application packet and print out the documents so you can complete them prior to your arrival.

For RENEWALS, please mail in the application packet with a \$30 money order. You will not need to come to the Court. We will use your prior picture and signature for the renewal permit.

For NEW PERMITS, please prepare the application packet and mail in with a \$76 money order. We will call and schedule a time for you to come have your fingerprints, picture and signature captured.

EXPIRATION DATE: If you have a Weapons Carry License that has an expiration date that falls between February 12, 2020, and May 13, 2020, Governor Brian Kemp has signed an Executive Order that allows a 120-day renewal period. By allowing this additional time, people with those affected licenses will not all have to come to the office immediately to get their renewal.

Traffic:

No arraignments or trials are scheduled during the Judicial Emergency which is currently scheduled to end June 13. A new court date that will be mailed to the address listed on the citation. Please call 706-275-7400 if your address has changed.

If you wish to plead not guilty and have a trial, call and request a plea sheet that you can sign and send back requesting a trial. If you wish to pay your ticket, you may pay online at EZCourtpay.com or we accept MONEY ORDERS by mail to

205 N. Selvidge Street, STE G
Dalton, GA 30720

General Recommendations for All Patrons:

While the Probate Court is essentially re-opening to the public, for the protection of all there are a number of things this office encourages:

First, if you have any symptom associated with the COVID-19 virus, such as a persistent cough or fever, or if you have been in contact with someone who has such symptoms, do not come to the Courthouse until such time as you are symptom-free or have observed the proper quarantine period.

Second, please wear a face mask. While we recognize this may be an inconvenience, it is also necessary to protect both yourself and others from a potentially life-threatening illness.

Third, expect to have your temperature checked with a noncontact thermometer and be asked to use hand sanitizer.

Fourth, do not bring an entourage. The seating area in the Whitfield County Probate Court is limited and there will be a limited number of people allowed in the lobby. The lobby will be solely for people that are actually conducting business in the office. All other friends, family members, or other random observers are asked to remain outside the Courthouse.

Finally, be patient and kind. The staff of the Probate Court are striving to safely serve the public with minimal risk to themselves or patrons.



**FOR APPOINTMENT CALL
706-275-7400**