



## MAGISTRATE COURT OF WHITFIELD COUNTY

P O BOX 386 • DALTON, GEORGIA 30722-0386  
PHONE 706-278-5052 • FAX 706-278-8810

Judge Chris N. Griffin  
Chief Magistrate

Judge Gayle Gazaway  
Judge Rodney B Weaver  
Judge Thomas Phillips  
Magistrates

Judy Castaneda  
Clerk of Court

Bradley S Martin  
Chief Constable

July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

On July 10, 2020 Chief Justice Harold Melton of the Georgia Supreme Court signed an Order extending the Statewide Judicial Emergency based on the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic once more. This Order requires public health guidelines for court operations up to **August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 11:59pm** unless extended. You may view the Supreme Court Judicial Order at <https://www.gasupreme.us/extend-judicial-emergency/>

We will be implementing safety guidelines that coincide with the Order Establishing Guidelines For In Person Court Proceedings as the following:

1. Your temperature will be checked upon entering the courthouse.
2. Limit 6 people in our lobby. If you are accompanying someone to our office, we politely ask you to wait in the hallway.
3. Maintain six feet apart from individuals.
4. If you have a bench trial we ask for you to check in with our front desk clerk and wait out in the hallway until your name is called.
5. **You will be required to wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose when entering the courtroom and the lobby.**
6. Hand sanitizer will be available at the front desk and in courtrooms

The Judicial Order has reimposed civil and criminal cases deadlines effective **July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020**. Please see the Judicial Order section **II Reimposition of Deadlines on Litigants** for detailed information.

There has been some changes when filing a Dispossessory case. You may locate these changes on our website at <http://www.whitfieldcountygga.com/mc/magcourt.htm> under *Landlord-Tenant CARES Act*.

Our court will remain reimposing and/or establishing Dispossessory cases as they are being filed.

We strongly encourage you to file your new civil case by E-filing, N-court or by mail. You may locate our forms and our online filing system thru our county website.

Defendants may mail their answer to our court or may file their answer thru our online filing system.

Please keep in mind that during this time new statement of claims and garnishment filings will be processed, however service will not be attempted until after July 14<sup>th</sup>, per the Judicial Order.

Thank you for your consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris N. Griffin". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "C" and a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

Chris N Griffin  
Chief Magistrate Judge