

CHIEF JUDGE REUBEN M. GREEN

SUPERIOR COURT OF COBB COUNTY

COBB JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



SUPERIOR COURT OF COBB COUNTY

70 HAYNES STREET

MARIETTA, GEORGIA 30090

(770) 528-1860

Notice to the Bar and Public Regarding Safety at the Courthouse

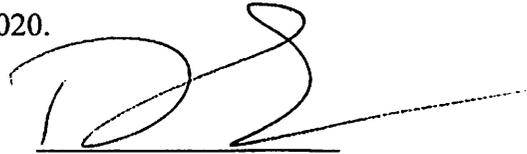
The role of the judicial branch of government in any emergency is to uphold the rule of law and protect our community. There are essential functions in our justice system that effect the fundamental rights of our citizens that must and will continue. Accordingly, the Cobb Judicial Circuit will continue to stay open. To ensure continued operations, the court must consider the safety of our courthouse community and the public. Our citizens must know that when they come to the courthouses that they will be safe. To this end, we believe it is critical to share information about how the courts are dealing with symptoms, positive test results, and the general safety of those who enter our courthouses.

As of today, the Cobb Superior Court has had four employees test positive for COVID-19. The Juvenile Court had two employees test positive. State Court had one employee test positive. The Probate Court had one employee test positive and one presumed positive (before testing was available). Magistrate Court has had one employee test positive. We do not have any information to suggest that any of these employees who tested positive were exposed at the courthouse. When an employee has symptoms or tests positive they are quarantined for fourteen days from the date of exposure and then they must have a negative test result prior to returning to work. In addition, contact tracing has taken place to ensure those who had close contact with the positive employee have been informed of the possible exposure. These potentially exposed employees are then quarantined as above and instructed to not return to work until they have been tested and test negative. All work areas of these employees have or are being deep cleaned by Property Management. This weekend the entire Superior Courthouse will be thoroughly disinfected again, as we have periodically done during this pandemic.

We also continue to require all staff, attorneys, and public to undergo a thermal temperature scan and wear a face mask to enter the Superior Court, Juvenile Court, State Court, Probate Court, and Magistrate Court. Masks are required to remain on while in any of the Cobb Courthouses unless given permission from your assigned judge when your case is being heard. There are signs requiring social distancing throughout the courthouse and additional sanitizing stations have been added on every floor. All courtrooms have been marked off to indicate how many people can safely be in the courtroom and where people are to stand or sit in the courtroom to ensure compliance with public health guidelines. We have also limited the passing of paperwork and exhibits in the courtroom as an additional safety precaution.

Finally, given the increase in positive test results in Cobb County, the Cobb Superior Court and Probate Court will shift back to a general presumption that all cases should be handled virtually via videoconference. If you believe your case needs to be handled in person, then you are to contact the assigned judge's chambers for that judge to decide whether it should be continued, heard virtually or heard in person.

This the 10th day of July, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. M. Green', written over a horizontal line.

Reuben M. Green
Chief Superior Court Judge
Cobb Judicial Circuit