

Presiding Judge
Chief Magistrate Cassandra Kirk

Deputy Chief Judge
John DeFoor, II

Judges
Todd Ashley
Linda B. Borsky



Director of Administration
Timothy W. Ezell II

Judges
Jeffrey W. Frazier
Melynee Leftridge
Debbie-Ann Rickman

Magistrate Court of Fulton County

March 16, 2020

Re: Effect of Judicial Emergency on Magistrate Court

Dear Fulton County residents and Magistrate Court users:

You have heard and seen a whirlwind of activity concerning COVID19 and Court closures. With this letter, I write to share what is occurring in your Magistrate Court.

In light of the Order by Chief Justice Harold Melton of the Georgia Supreme Court and our desire to protect our team and the public during this period of Judicial Emergency, Magistrate Court will continue to provide constitutionally mandated services, specifically applications for search and arrest warrants through electronic interface, as well as First Appearance hearings six days a week.

The Magistrate Judges will only handle criminal cases where people are detained. We are asking individuals **on bond** to contact their attorney and stay home. And, we are also reminding local law enforcement that certain nonviolent cases may be prosecuted through citation, rather than arrest, and further urging them to contact the appropriate prosecuting agency.

The Misdemeanor Mental Health Court (MMC) compliance calendar is suspended until further notice. Our participants will continue to be monitored and supported through our Sprokit app, which allows virtual contact. The Jail MMC calendar will continue to connect citizens to appropriate behavioral health services through successful release.

The Magistrate Court of Fulton County will suspend the hearings and services listed below:

- landlord-tenant (evictions)
- abandoned motor vehicles
- warrant applications
- copy of charges
- personal property foreclosures, trover
- Misdemeanor Mental Health compliance
- small claims
- child abandonment
- environmental
- garnishment
- post-judgment hearings
- weddings

Defendants may continue to e-file answers in any civil matters; however, **answers must be filed within 48 hours of the Judicial Emergency being lifted**. Filers are strongly encouraged to postpone their business with the court until the limited judicial emergency order is lifted. As always, if you are experiencing difficulty with any of the services provided, please call us at 404-613-9071 or utilize our website www.magistratefulton.org and connect with us in our Chabot or the feedback sections.

Responses may be delayed during this Judicial Emergency due to reduced staff. Thank you in advance for your patience.

Sincerely,

Cassandra Kirk

Chief Magistrate Judge and Court Administrator

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