



Where Georgia comes together.

PERRY MUNICIPAL COURT

James M. Freeman, Chief Judge
Ashley Deadwyler-Heuman, Associate Judge

Mirian Arrington, Chief Court Clerk
Regan Scott, Court Clerk

Perry Municipal Court COVID-19 Operating Guidelines

Beginning June 17, 2020, the court will resume conducting in-person hearings. Pursuant to the orders of the Supreme Court of Georgia and recommendations of Governor Brian Kemp and the Centers for Disease Control, certain safety measures will be put in place to protect the health and safety of the defendants, court personnel, and the public. The following precautions will be strictly followed as an order of the court.

Procedures

1. To assist those defendants with court cases scheduled for 06/03/2020, 07/01/2020 and future court dates if necessary, who wish to resolve their case without appearing in court, a Plea in Absentia from the Prosecutor's office will be mailed along with the Perry Municipal COURT PROCEDURES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 at least 30 days in advance from their court date.
2. Court scheduled notices with assigned court time have been, and will be, mailed to individuals with future court dates, until necessary, along with a copy of Perry Municipal Court, COURT PROCEDURES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19.
3. Individuals taken into custody by the Perry PD and Georgia State Patrol charged with violations that fall under the jurisdiction of the Perry Municipal Court shall be given OR bonds, released, and advised to appear on the court date on their citation. Individuals arrested as the result of warrants due to probation violation or contempt of court will be released on an OR bond, provided with a court date of 11/04/2020, and advised to contact their Probation Officer or the clerk's office immediately after their release.

Day of Court:

1. Individuals will proceed to a health screening with a staff member from the Fire Department. Signs will be posted that a security and health screening will be taking place on the courtroom doors. The health screening questions will be printed on signs for the defendant to read. If the defendant is unable to read, assistance will be provided by the court staff.



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2. The Individuals will be asked before entering the courtroom if they have answered 'YES' to any of the COVID-19 health screening questions. If they have answered 'YES' to any of the COVID-19 health screening questions, the individual will be given a continuance.
3. All individuals entering the building will be subjected to a temperature check to verify they do not have a fever. Anyone with a temperature higher than 100.4 degrees will not be allowed access to the building and their hearing will be continued to the next available court date. The contact information for the Prosecutor's office will be provided and they may contact the Prosecutor to try to resolve their case without appearing in court on their next scheduled court date.
4. All individuals entering the building will be required to wear a face covering or mask to cover nose and mouth. If the defendant does not have their own mask or face covering, one will be provided to them.
5. All individuals entering the building will be required to maintain social distancing requirements. This will include, but will not be limited to, remaining six feet from any other individual in the building, following all directions from the court personnel, and complying with all markings in the building.
6. Handwashing and or sanitizing stations will be available
7. The courtroom will be disinfected prior to each court session and areas that are shared by individuals will be disinfected between each person's contact with that area.
8. The court will provide supplies such as pens for all defendants, subject to the availability of those supplies. Each individual is allowed to use their own pen or supplies.
9. Based on the size of the courtroom no more than 25 individuals will be allowed to enter the courtroom at a time. The seating will be arranged by court personnel to maintain social distancing requirements. No one can modify the seating arrangements or to move the seating without prior court permission.
10. Courtroom personnel will direct how many people can enter the building at one time. If there are more people waiting to enter the building than can be allowed, those individuals will be required to provide their phone number and wait in their vehicle. Once they are allowed to enter the building, the court personnel will notify the individual by call or text that they may proceed to the courtroom. Security/Health screenings will take place prior to entering the courtroom.



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11. Individuals entering the building are encouraged to bring their own hand-sanitizer, but the courtroom has been equipped with hand-sanitizer throughout the courtroom's walls.
12. In Order to comply with CDC physical distancing guidelines, the Court asks that only defendants and/or their attorney should attend the court hearing. Individuals are asked to contact the court if they are not able to comply with this request. No one other than the Defendant and the attorney will be allowed in the building.
13. Defendants 21 and under may have one parent or guardian attend the court hearing with them.
14. Individuals are encouraged to visit the City of Perry's website for more information such as public parking maps, court docket, and to view Chief Judge James Freeman's video of explanation of their rights prior to court.
15. Court sessions will be streamed live on YouTube.
16. Virtual hearings will be available by request to the Clerk's Office prior to the scheduled court date.
17. Chief Probation Officer will be taking initial information from the individual and directing them to their main office to continue the individuals' enrollment.