

MUSCOGEE COUNTY STATE COURT
COVID 19 Judicial Emergency Schedule
Updated Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 8:30 AM

MUSCOGEE COUNTY STATE COURT

TRAFFIC & MISDEMEANOR DIVISION

Solicitor-General 706 225 4327
Clerk of Court 706 225 4368

CIVIL DIVISION

Clerk of Court 706 225 4361
Judge Prather 706 225 4318
Judge Richardson 706 225 3480

For court dates postponed during the state of emergency, notice of the new court date for traffic and other misdemeanor cases will be mailed to the address shown on your bond. If your address changed during the emergency, please call 706 225 4327.

If you have symptoms of an upper respiratory infection, are over the age of 65, have a preexisting medical condition which places you at higher risk for respiratory complications or have been around someone who has tested positive for the coronavirus, contact the Solicitor-General's Office upon receipt of your notice and ask to be rescheduled. You will be required to provide information about your condition. Excuses may be granted, and your case rescheduled. In some circumstances, documentation may be required.

STATE COURT JUDICIAL EMERGENCY SCHEDULE:

CRIMINAL

- All March, April, and May 2020 arraignment and trial dockets are postponed. New notices will be mailed by the clerk's office for all court dates rescheduled.
- Jail Pleas, preliminary extradition inquiries and other essential criminal matters are being held via teleconferencing. Live streaming is available as follows.
- Division 1, Richardson: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5-rldgsoyceDg3rLreHWtg/live>
- Division 2, Prather: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3NtPK-EBWyxllzcySn4MA>

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CRIMINAL (continued from Page 1)

The following State Court Criminal Arraignments and Trial Dockets have been postponed and will be rescheduled. New notices will be mailed by the clerk's office once they are rescheduled.

- March 20 and 27 Arraignments
- April 3, 10, 17, 24 Arraignments
- April 13 Trial Docket
- May 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 Arraignments
- May 11, Trial Docket
- June 5 and 12 Arraignments
- June 8 Trial Docket

- Bond Forfeiture Show Cause Dates
 - Friday, March 27, 2020 hearings are rescheduled for Friday, July 30, 2020
 - Friday, April 24, 2020 hearings are rescheduled for Friday, June 26, 2020
 - Friday, May 29, 2020 hearing are rescheduled for Friday July 30, 2020

Beginning July 16, 2020, we will conduct Arraignments/Pleas **at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.** (instead of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.).

All notices for the following Arraignments should be changed to reflect **8:00 a.m. for defendants with last names beginning A-L** and **10:30 a.m. for all defendants with last names beginning M-Z:**

- Thursday, July 16
- Friday, July 17

Following State Court Arraignment on July 17, 2020, Muscogee County State Court will cease conducting in-person criminal proceedings. We may resume pending clarification of Chief Justice Melton's July 10, 2020 Fourth Order Extending Declaration of Statewide Judicial Emergency. Jail pleas will continue to be conducted via livestream teleconference.

CIVIL

- Non-jury civil matters will be rescheduled. Video conferencing for civil matters should be operational by early May.
- Civil jury trial dockets will resume once State Court receives word that juries are available for this purpose. Superior Court domestic and all criminal jury matters have priority.

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Potential Guidelines for Courts

- Deep clean entire building
- Increase cleaning and disinfection after each day
- Offer multiple sessions to accommodate social distancing of at least 6 feet
- Do not hand out paper-based information
- Provide hand sanitizer
- Encourage elderly and medically fragile individuals to stay home
- Encourage only the person required for court to attend (*hospitals have a NO guest policy*)
- Ensure that everyone is wearing a mask (provide masks for those who don't have one)
- Mark floors as a visual cue for social distancing
- Remove/arrange furniture to support social distancing
- Keep an online meeting option
- Use a screening tool to screen everyone entering the building for exposure to a COVID-19 positive patient, or any symptoms of the virus or illness
- Screen everyone for fever
- Post signs about non-contact greetings
- Limit bathroom use and control the number of users at one time

[STANDING ORDER FOR COURT PROCEDURES DURING JUDICIAL EMERGENCY](#)