

FULTON COUNTY MAGISTRATE COURT

Chief Magistrate Judge Cassandra Kirk



PRESS RELEASE

Magistrate Court Contact:

Mary Shimell 404-613-9071

Mary.shimell@fultoncountyga.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATLANTA, Georgia, May 22, 2020: On May 11, 2020 Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Harold Melton issued an Order Extending Declaration of Statewide Judicial Emergency for the second time. That Order, set to expire on Friday, June 12, 2020, allows the Court to handle certain matters in compliance with Public Health and CDC Guidance to ensure the health and safety of litigants, lawyers, judges, court personnel and the public. All visitors to the Courthouse are encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a mask, scarf or bandana.

As the Chief Justice's Order tolls, suspends and grants relief from statutory time limits in other matters as of its issuance on May 11, 2020, **Chief Magistrate Judge Cassandra Kirk suspends all hearings and services listed below:**

- **landlord-tenant (evictions)**
- **abandoned motor vehicles**
- **warrant applications**
- **copy of charges**
- **personal property foreclosures and trover**
- **small claims**
- **abandonment of minor child**
- **environmental**
- **garnishment**
- **post-judgment hearings**

The Marshal of Fulton County will begin civil service of process on May 26, 2020 with time limits tolled until the Judicial Emergency is lifted. For example, answers in landlord-tenant matters will be due 7 days after the Judicial Emergency is lifted. No in-person civil matters will be heard prior to June 22, 2020. By agreement of the Marshal and the Chief Magistrate Judge, writ service will begin after 45 days, on July 6, 2020.

Following the County's sanitizing of the Courthouse, courtrooms and associated court spaces and placing of protective barriers within the courtrooms, the Court will begin previously scheduled landlord-tenant and garnishment calendars on June 22, 2020. The Star C Apartment Eviction Relief Fund will be on site at the Courthouse to assist Landlords and Tenants.

The Magistrate Court of Fulton County will continue to provide electronic interface for applications for search and arrest warrants 24/7/365 as well as First Appearance hearings six days a week. Criminal court hearings will be conducted through video conferencing systems, to which the public will have access daily, through a public viewing room available in a designated courtroom. Hearing schedules are available on our website at <https://gafultoncountymagistratecourt.civicplus.com/222/Calendar-Assignment-by-Judge>.

185 Central Avenue S.W., Suite T-1605, Atlanta, GA 30303

Phone: (404) 613-9071; Fax: (404) 612-2632 www.magistratefulton.org

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Provided the Judicial Emergency is lifted, the Court will resume matters on June 22, 2020 subject to certain guidelines listed on the full 'Fourth Amended Magistrate Court Judicial Emergency Guideline' <https://ga-fultoncountymagistratecourt.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/4136/Fourth-Amended-Magistrate-Court-Judicial-Emergency-Guideline>.

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