IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE CITY OF MONROE
STATE OF GEORGIA

ORDER ESTABLISHING PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES DURING PANDEMIC EMERGENCY

As a result of the viral pandemic currently existing, and in contemplation of the potential transmission of Coronavirus/COVID-19, and for the protection of the court users and staff, the Court hereby enters this Order, which shall remain in effect until August 11, 2020 at 11:59 P.M., unless extended due to the existing pandemic.

1.

All visitors, upon entering the courthouse in connection with a court session will have his/her temperature taken with a non-touch thermometer. Entrance shall be prohibited with regard to anyone with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher. Such person shall be given contact information for court officials for direction as to how proceed.

2.

Prior to entering the courthouse, all visitors must assess their physical symptoms, if they have or if they have been around an individual who has traveled overseas, or if they have come into contact with an individual infected with the virus or a potentially infected individual in the last 14 days. If the person is at risk of a transmitting the virus, they shall contact a court official to have their session rescheduled.

3.

Masks or face coverings are required for all persons entering the courthouse. The mask or face covering must remain on at all times while the visitor is in the courthouse unless they are given permission to remove the mask by the judge or other staff member. Hand sanitizer will be provided upon entrance to the courthouse. Hard surfaces in the courtroom area will be wiped down both before and after all court proceedings.

4.

Social distancing of at least six (6) feet shall be maintained at all times. In order to ensure proper social distancing, courtroom seating shall be arranged so that no less than six (6) feet of distance is maintained at all times. If there is a line to enter the courthouse, visitors shall maintain social distancing.

5.

Only parties, counsel, and witnesses shall be allowed to enter the courtroom and adjacent areas. One parent of defendants under twenty-one (21) years of age will also be allowed entry. The Court encourages that, when possible, arrangements for child care be made before coming to court. If one anticipates that their case will require more people in attendance than can safely comply with social distancing requirements, then notify a court official sufficiently in advance of the hearing so that accommodations can be made.

6.

All visitors who are members of a vulnerable population (such as persons over age 65, individuals with serious underlying health conditions such as high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune systems are compromised, such as by chemotherapy for cancer or other conditions requiring such therapy) are encouraged to bring that to the attention of the Court prior to any court appearance so that reasonable alternatives to appearing in person can be explored.

7.

Due to this court limiting access to the courtroom during the pandemic, a video broadcast of each court session will be provided for the public to view. A link will be posted on the City website that directs the viewer to a video for the court sessions.

SO ORDERED this 17th day of July, 2020.

Dale R. "Bubba" Samuels, Judge