

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF FULTON COUNTY
ATLANTA JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA



In Re: Declaration of Judicial Emergency
March 13, 2020

ORDER DECLARING JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

Magistrate Court joins with the Chief Superior Court judge in acknowledging the State of Judicial Emergency in Fulton County. See In RE: Declaration of Judicial Emergency, File No. 2020-EX-000284. To that end, Magistrate Court will continue to provide search and arrest warrant services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year via electronic warrant interface and to conduct first appearance hearings Monday through Saturday at 9:00 am for misdemeanors and 11:00 am for felony cases.

Any individuals charged with crimes in the APH and non-complex divisions who are ON BOND must contact their attorney. Those cases will be removed from the calendar and parties will not be required to appear in court.

Calendars will be further modified and other hearings will be postponed. The Court will address garnishment defendant claims or emergency matters currently pending. During the period of Judicial Emergency, the Court will not hear **landlord-tenant, small claims, abandoned motor vehicles, child abandonment, warrant applications, environmental, copy of charges, personal property foreclosures, trover, and post-judgment hearings or weddings**. Defendants may continue to efile answers in any civil matters; however, answers **must be filed within 48 hours of this Order being lifted**. All other filers are strongly encouraged to postpone their business with the court until the limited judicial emergency order is lifted. All cases currently scheduled will receive a continuance date from the Clerk's office once the limited judicial emergency is lifted.

Civil efile options are available and should be utilized for cases where pending deadlines require a response, such as Answers in landlord-tenant actions. If you are scheduled for a criminal hearing and you believe yourself to be ill or at risk, email a request for continuance to the Court at magistrate.jarequests@fultoncountyga.gov, contact the clerk's office at 404-613-5360, or efile your request for continuance.

This Order is effective immediately.

SO ORDERED, this 13 day of March, 2020.

Cassandra Kirk, Chief Magistrate Judge
Magistrate Court of Fulton County
Atlanta Judicial Circuit