



OFFICE OF
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT, MUSCOGEE COUNTY

Danielle F. Forté
Clerk

P.O. Box 2145
Columbus, Georgia 31902-2145
www.muscogeecourts.com

GOVERNMENT CENTER
TELEPHONE
(706) 653-4370

To: Public Notice/Media Release
From: Danielle F. Forte
Date: March 16, 2020
Re: Limited Access to Clerk's Office

Due to the Statewide Judicial Emergency effective March 14, 2020 to April 13, 2020 relating to the transmission of COVID-19, the Superior Court Clerk's Office will be limiting public access to our staff and office to the performance of **essential functions only**. In an effort to protect the safety of the staff of this office and citizens who utilize our services, people not seeking services for essential functions and are not Superior Court Clerk's Office staff will not be allowed in the Clerk's Office during the Statewide Judicial Emergency.

Superior Court Criminal – will continue to file consent release orders (including consent bonds). This division will also continue to assist in matters concerning bond hearings and accountability courts (Veteran's, Drug, Mental Health, Parental Accountability Court), however, we encourage everyone to visit www.muscogeecourts.com or call (706) 653-4353 for that division. All other matters will be addressed on or after the lifting of the Statewide Judicial Emergency.

Superior Court Civil – Temporary Protective Orders (TPO's) will continue to be initiated on the 7th Floor, Gov't Center Tower, 100 10th St., Columbus, GA 31901. This division will continue to process TPO's and other evidentiary hearings under the stalking and family violence acts where there is imminent danger or risk of physical harm to a party or dependent child. E-Filing is available to everyone. Pro Se (Self-Represented) parties unable or needing assistance with e-filing may call (706) 653-4372 for that division. All other matters will be addressed on or after the lifting of the Statewide Judicial Emergency.

State Court Criminal – will continue to issue cash bond refunds pursuant to orders issued on March 13, 2020 or before. Assistance will also be provided for orders on or before March 13, 2020 reducing DUI's to reckless driving. For schedule and docket changes please visit www.muscogeecourts.com. This division can be reached at (706) 653-4368. All other matters will be addressed on or after the lifting of the Statewide Judicial Emergency.

State Court Civil – E-Filing is available to everyone. For information on e-filing or DD214's (Military Discharge) filings please call (706) 653-4361 for that division. All other matters will be addressed on or after the lifting of the Statewide Judicial Emergency

Real Estate – will only be open to those performing title searches. E-Filing is available to everyone. Pro Se (Self-Represented) parties or those unable or needing assistance with e-filing may call (706) 653-4358, Option 2 for that division. All other matters will be addressed on or after the lifting of the Statewide Judicial Emergency.

Board of Equalization (BOE) – all hearings and other matters will be rescheduled after April 13, 2020 or until the lifting of the Statewide Judicial Emergency

Clerk staff have been instructed to stay home if they are not feeling well or if they are exhibiting any illness symptoms. In turn, visitors to the Clerk's office are being asked to do the same. We encourage you to visit the Clerk's website at www.muscogeecourts.com for COVID-19 updates affecting the Clerk's office.

Your patience and understanding at this time are greatly appreciated. Wishing you and yours Health, Happiness and Safety.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Danielle Forté".

Clerk of State/Superior Court
Danielle Forté