



**Supreme Court  
State of Georgia  
NATHAN DEAL JUDICIAL CENTER  
Atlanta 30334**

Posted: November 2021

**REVISED IN-PERSON ORAL ARGUMENT GUIDELINES**

The Supreme Court of Georgia is resuming in-person oral arguments. In order to comply with health directives necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Court on May 11 made adjustments to entry into the courthouse and the courtroom to ensure the safety of the participants, visitors, the Justices, and Court employees, and noted the guidelines are subject to revision at any time. Based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the entry requirements are as follows:

**Arrival, Security Screening**

- Visitors to the Nathan Deal Judicial Center are required to wear a mask covering the mouth **and** nose while in the building, including the courtroom, and when interacting with others.
- Any person who enters the building is certifying that he or she is free of COVID-19 symptoms and known exposure that poses a significant threat of infection.

**Sixth Floor Courtroom**

- Attendees may not remove their face coverings.
- Based on the evolving COVID-19 circumstances, the Court continues to encourage co-counsel (other than counsel presenting argument), parties, interested persons, and the media to consider viewing oral arguments remotely via the Court's simultaneous livestream available on days oral argument is heard at [www.gasupreme.us](http://www.gasupreme.us). The oral argument sessions are also recorded and posted on the Court's website at <https://www.gasupreme.us/watch/>.

## **Counsel Instructions**

- Counsel who are experiencing symptoms including fever, cough, and shortness of breath, chills, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, or muscle pain the day of oral argument should stay home and immediately contact the Clerk's office to reschedule the in-person argument.
- Once through security, counsel will proceed to the sixth floor courtroom to check-in with the Clerk.
- A maximum of two attorneys are permitted at counsel table.
- Bottled water and hand sanitizer will be available at the table.
- Fully vaccinated arguing counsel may remove their face mask at the podium while arguing and shall put the mask back on when they have completed the argument.

## **Preventative Protocols:**

- Common areas such as lobbies, elevators and washrooms will be cleaned and disinfected frequently by the Georgia Building Authority.
- The building's state-of-the-art ventilation system includes UV lighting to reduce toxins and bacteria that can enter the air stream.
- Hand sanitizer will be available for use throughout the building, including outside the courtroom.

## **Questions:**

If you have any questions about this policy, please contact the Clerk's Office at 404-656-3470.