



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

Posted: May 11, 2021

## **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 has made adjustments to entry into the courthouse and the courtroom to ensure the safety of the participants, visitors, the Justices, and Court employees. These guidelines are subject to revision at any time.

### **Arrival, Security Screening**

- Visitors to the Nathan Deal Judicial Center must wear a mask covering the mouth **and** nose while in the building, including the courtroom, and when interacting with others.
- All visitors will be subject to automated temperature screening upon entrance into the building. Any visitor having a temperature of 100.4 or above will not be admitted.
- 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.
- Signage will be placed inside the building reminding visitors to maintain appropriate distance, including when using the elevator.

### **Sixth Floor Courtroom**

- To support social distancing, maximum occupancy levels have been identified for the courtroom and attorney lounge. A limit of approximately 34 individuals are allowed in the courtroom gallery and four counsel in the lawyer's lounge. Socially distanced spacing and seating has been marked in the courtroom and the lounge.
- The Court encourages 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/>.

- The admittance of participants in scheduled proceedings will be prioritized over members of the public. Counsel should notify the Clerk of Court or Chief Deputy Clerk as soon as possible of any interested persons who need to be in the courtroom during the scheduled argument.

### **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. You will be notified of any additional instructions related to your check-in after confirming your intention to appear.

- A maximum of two attorneys are permitted at counsel table.

- Bottled water and hand sanitizer will be available at the table.

- Each counsel orally arguing may remove their face mask at the podium while arguing and shall put the mask back on when they have completed the argument.

- Counsel are asked to wipe the microphone and top surface of the podium at the end of their argument with the wipes that will be placed on the podium.

- At the end of each oral argument, counsel will be asked to exit the bar in a manner that respects physical distancing.

- There will be a break of at least 15 minutes between arguments during which time the counsel tables, counsel chairs, and the podium will be sanitized.

### **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.