

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF FAYETTE COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**ORDER AMENDING COURTHOUSE SAFETY/SECURITY GUIDELINES
FOR ALL CLASSES OF COURTS EFFECTIVE AUGUST 6, 2021**

Court proceedings are not voluntary, and the Jail and the Courthouse remain the only places in our community where people have no choice in whether to attend or not. Most in-court proceedings compel the attendance of individuals rather than allowing them to decide how best to protect their health. Vaccines are now widely available and, at this time, remaining unvaccinated is – in most circumstances-- a matter of choice and not driven by limited availability. Because of the severe rise in the Delta Variation of the COVID virus, the C.D.C. has revised their public health guidance to individuals that provides that all should wear masks indoors, including those fully vaccinated.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the wearing of masks continue to be mandatory in the Courthouse until further Order of this Court, subject to the clarifications and memorandum establishing safety guidelines attached hereto.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Courts may continue to conduct in-person proceedings consistent with the guidance given in the Memorandum attached to this Order, and in strict compliance with the Public Health Guidelines. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to limit any Court's ability to conduct virtual proceedings that are otherwise allowed by law, Court Rule, or consent of the parties.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the attached memorandum establishing amended courthouse safety guidelines shall be followed and is incorporated herein and made a part of this Order by reference.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Sheriff of Fayette County shall post this Order on his Public Notification site and at the entrance to the Courthouse.

Previous Orders of this Court that are inconsistent with this Order are superseded by the terms of this Order. This Order shall remain in effect until vacated or modified by further Order of this Court.

SO ORDERED this 6th day of August, 2021.



**W. FLETCHER SAMS, CHIEF JUDGE
FAYETTE SUPERIOR COURT
GRIFFIN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**