

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF TROUP COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

JUN 8 '20 PM 12:42  
FILED MAGISTRATE COURT  
TROUP COUNTY  
BY Jay D. Wise CL  
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**SCHEDULING ORDER UNDER STATEWIDE JUDICIAL EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, under the authority of O. C. G. A. §38-3-60 *et seq.*, the Honorable Harold D. Melton entered the Order Declaring Statewide Judicial Emergency with an effective date beginning March 14, 2020 and an ending date of April 13, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the original Emergency Order entered by Justice Melton was extended to an effective ending date of May 13, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, on May 11, 2020, the Emergency Order was further extended to an effective ending date of Friday, June 12, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, after the natural expiration of the Emergency Order, the Magistrate Court of Troup County intends to re-open all of its functions on Monday, June 15, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Justice's Order authorizes the Magistrate Court to re-impose the statutory deadlines for filings, answers and other statutorily mandated time limits;

**WHEREAS**, there exists civil actions and matters before this Court that were previously scheduled for hearings but were stayed by the Emergency Judicial Order;

**WHEREAS**, there exists civil actions and matters that were filed with this Court before the issuance of the Emergency Judicial Order and the summons and actions were served upon the defendant(s) and the answer period was stayed;

**WHEREAS**, there are civil actions and matters filed with the court after the Emergency Judicial Order was issued that have not been processed for service;

**WHEREAS**, there are civil actions and matters that have been filed, served upon the defendant and can be considered to be in default before the issuance of the Emergency Judicial Order; and,

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**WHEREAS**, the Magistrate Court of Troup County is tasked to implement the Order of Chief Justice Harold D. Melton,

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

1.

All matters filed with the Magistrate Court on or before March 14, 2020 and that had previously been scheduled for a hearing before the Court shall be rescheduled as soon as possible after the reopening of the Magistrate Court. Notice to the parties of the newly scheduled hearing dates shall be accomplished by United States Postal Service (USPS) as provided by law.

2.

All matters filed with the Magistrate Court on, before or since March 14, 2020 shall, by this Order, have all of the deadlines imposed by statute, rule, regulation and court order, re-imposed and in full force and effect.

3.

The determination of the number of days remaining for a defendant/party to file an answer in a pending civil action or matter shall be determined by counting the number of days from the service or process until March 14, 2020 (when the emergency stay went into effect) and begin counting from the first day after the expiration of the Emergency Judicial Order (the Order is set to expire on June 12, 2020) until the appropriate days for the particular civil action are reached.

4.

All matters and actions filed with the Magistrate Court will be docketed with the Court in the order received.

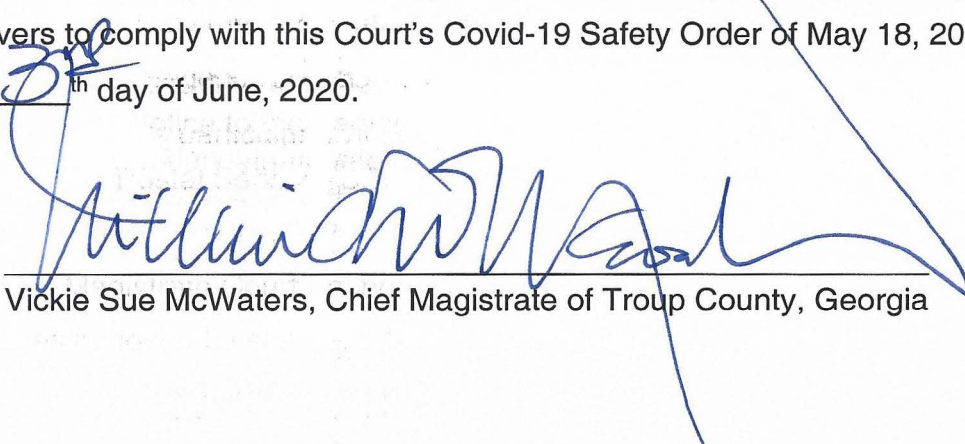
5.

The Magistrate Court will expand the number of hearing days per week with priority to cases that require accelerated hearings by law (*i.e.* dispossessories, foreclosures, traverses).

6.

The Magistrate Court will abide by social distancing and public health guidelines and require all litigants, parties and observers to comply with this Court's Covid-19 Safety Order of May 18, 2020.

**SO ORDERED** this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.

  
Vickie Sue McWaters, Chief Magistrate of Troup County, Georgia