

2020-EX-000859

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF FULTON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA



In re: Limited Order of Business During Judicial Emergency for the Magistrate Court of Fulton County June 22, 2020 - July 19, 2020

**ORDER TO VACATE LANDLORD-TENANT IN PERSON HEARINGS,
SCHEDULED DURING THE LIMITED ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Pursuant to Supreme Court Chief Justice Harold Melton's Order Declaring a Statewide Judicial Emergency, the Magistrate Court suspended all hearings, mediations, and services on all civil and non-essential case types, tolling, suspending and granting relief from statutory time limits as of its issuance on March 14, 2020. Subsequent extensions of the Statewide Order allowed the individual courts to resume in-person hearings, following Public Health and CDC Guidelines. The Fulton County Courts and associated spaces were cleaned and sanitized, temperature screening was instituted and barriers were erected in the courtrooms and throughout the court buildings.

In an effort to begin in-person hearings, the Magistrate Court established small, staggered calendars to hear the 352 landlord-tenant cases scheduled, but unable to be heard due to the Statewide Judicial Emergency. Despite implementing measures authorized by public health experts and adhering to the requirement of anyone entering the building to wear masks, several employees and visitors continue to test positive. Since the Order of Business was filed on June 29, 2020, the number of positive cases and deaths in Georgia, specifically in Fulton County, continues to rise.

In consideration of public health and safety, the Court finds it is in the best interest of the parties, the general public and the orderly conduct of its business to CANCEL all in-person landlord-tenant hearings scheduled the week of July 13, 2020. With the consent of the parties, video conferencing hearing options are available. In-person hearings and mediations will remain suspended until technology is provided to the Court, which will allow those unable or unwilling to attend via video-conference to appear in court. The Court **VACATES** the scheduling of landlord-tenant cases in its Order of Business, referenced above, and filed on June 29, 2020.

It is **ORDERED** that the Clerk is directed to:

1. **CANCEL** any and all landlord-tenant cases scheduled the week of July 13, 2020; and
2. **NOTIFY** affected parties that the scheduled cases will not occur in the manner and at the time scheduled.

SO ORDERED, this 8th day of July, 2020.



 CASSANDRA KIRK, CHIEF MAGISTRATE JUDGE
 FULTON COUNTY MAGISTRATE COURT