

# Marion County Summary Court

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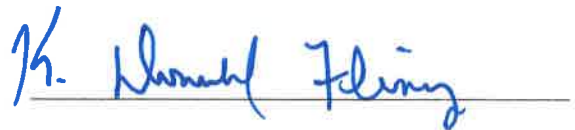
## ORDER

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Due to the recent surge of Covid-19 cases in South Carolina and Marion County, I find it necessary to order the following enhanced protocols for the Marion County Summary Court. This order is in accordance with Chief Justice Beatty's amended order dated December 16, 2020 and is meant to reduce the exposure to the public and the employees of the Marion County Summary Court. This order is effective immediately and stays in effect until lifted.

1. All previous protocols put into place in March 2020 are to be strictly adhered to.
  - a. Reminder that anyone entering the court must wear a mask and pass temperature check and Covid-19 screening questions.
  - b. Anyone entering the courtroom is to be escorted/permitted in by court security only. Do not enter the court without permission.
  - c. Only case parties are permitted in courtroom for a hearing.
  - d. Only one officer/prosecutor is permitted in courtroom per hearing.
  - e. Victim advocates are permitted to escort and remain with one victim at a time per hearing.
  - f. Common areas will be disinfected between each hearing.
2. Per Chief Justice Order dated January 6, 2021 all in-person hearings are suspended except for Bond hearings and emergency matters including, but not limited to, restraining orders, orders of protection, and vacating bench warrants. An order will be issued for resumption of in-person hearings at least two weeks in advance to allow time for scheduling.
3. Bonds will continue twice daily and be done remotely.
4. All civil filings are to be submitted by mail, delivery service, or placed in drop box which will be available in the front lobby of Law Enforcement Center Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm.
  - a. Payments for civil filings are to be made with money orders, certified checks, or attorney account checks only.
  - b. No paperwork or payments will be accepted over the counter for civil filings.

- c. The secured drop box in the lobby will be checked for filings at 8:30am every Monday to assure all filed paperwork has been quarantined for at least 48 hours.
  - d. All mail will be quarantined for 48 hours before opening.
  - e. No one will be permitted past the front desk to the Magistrate window for civil filings.
  - f. A phone number will be made available to contact the Magistrate Office for any questions.
  - g. Only one person at a time will be permitted to enter the lobby to the Magistrate window to make payments on criminal cases including traffic fines.
  - h. Only one person at time will be permitted to enter the lobby to the Magistrate window to file for a Restraining Order or Order of Protection.
5. The door between the Sheriff's Office and Magistrate Office is to remain closed at all times and not used for entry or exit.
    - a. Officer(s) wanting to see a magistrate or clerk must come to the front window or call ahead to make arrangements to meet.
  6. Only one non-employee of the Magistrate Office is permitted in the office to do business.
    - a. All non-employees are required to wear a mask, maintain social distance, and pass Covid-19 temperature and questionnaire before entry.
    - b. All Magistrate employees are to wear a mask when in the office but may remove them at their desk unless a non-employee is in the office.
  7. All parties are encouraged to use telephonic and remote technology as much as possible to avoid unnecessary personal contact.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "K. Donald Fling", is written over a horizontal line.

K. Donald Fling

Chief Magistrate, Marion County

January 13, 2021

Marion, South Carolina