

COVID-19 Update

The Clerk's Office of the Henry Magistrate Court is operating on a limited basis from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Court continues to process new civil filings by docketing them and sending them out for service. The Sheriff's Office is currently serving civil papers, but this is subject to change. The Court will also consider the entry of consent judgments and may consider non-dispositive motions such as motions to transfer or appoint private process servers.

Under the Judicial Emergency Orders of the Georgia Supreme Court and the Chief Superior Court Judge of Henry County Brian Amero, the Court may not hold contested hearings, enter default judgments or enter contested dispositive rulings. As a result no hearings will be held on civil proceedings and code enforcement matters unless specifically set as an emergency matter by the Chief Magistrate Judge, Martin Jones. If you had a code violation, civil or dispossessory hearing scheduled, you will be mailed notice of a new hearing date.

All civil actions, including statements of claim, dispossessory affidavits, abandoned motor vehicle petitions, and personal property foreclosures, are stayed. Any associated limitation period for filing, or time limit for answering, is tolled until the expiration of the Judicial Emergency Order on April 13. It is likely that this period will be extended. You may review the Georgia Supreme Court's Emergency Order, and monitor its expiration or extension, at:

https://www.gasupreme.us/court-information/court_corona_info/

There will be no default judgments entered or writs of possession issued during the stay. The Sheriff's Office is not executing any writs of possession which issued prior to the Emergency Order.

You may review the filings in civil proceedings without charge over the internet. This service was recently reinstated following the cyber attack on the county's computer system. There is a link to the search engine on the Court's website which may be reached on the "home" screen by clicking on "Docket Search." You may then search by name or case number. The Court's website is:

www.co.henry.ga.us/Departments/Courts/Magistrate-Court

Litigants may check the status of Sheriff's Office service of process at:

<https://henrycountysheriff.net/Civil-Paper-Status>

You will need the case number to check the Sheriff's Office's records.

The Court has implemented social distancing. Although our office remains open, the clerks will not meet with litigants at the window. In-person filers will be required to use a Skype session on a computer in the lobby to communicate with the clerks. In-person filers may leave pleadings for filing in a receptacle in the lobby for decontamination and processing. However, all litigants are encouraged to mail pleadings for filing. The mailing address is Henry Magistrate Court, 44 John Frank Ward Blvd., Suite 260, McDonough, Georgia 30253. There are sample forms for answers and other pleadings available at:

www.co.henry.ga.us/Departments/Courts/Magistrate-Court.

The Court continues to issue arrest and search warrants electronically. While the Judicial Emergency is in place, 48 hour and bond hearings will be held by teleconference. This will assist the Sheriff's Office in limiting the movement of, and contact with, detainees. Attorneys may contact the Court at 770-288-7700 to reach the Judges concerning bond issues.

If you have any further questions, or if you believe you have a matter which should be heard on an emergency basis, such as a traverse to a garnishment, you may call the Clerk's Office at (770) 288-7700. You may also email the Clerk at ablackburn@co.henry.ga.us.