

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF ROCKDALE COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

In Re: Courthouse Common Area *
*
Date: December 16, 2021 *
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FILED IN OFFICE
CLERK SUPERIOR COURT
ROCKDALE CO., GA
2021 DEC 20 AM 11:11
Sherry M. [Signature]
CLERK

**FOURTH AMENDED ORDER REGARDING THE REQUIREMENT FOR WEARING
MASKS WHILE IN THE COMMON AREAS OF THE ROCKDALE COUNTY
COURTHOUSE**

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 38-3-61 and 38-3-51 and based on the updated guidance of the CDC regarding the wearing of facial masks and coverings under the current status of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic, and due to the increase in the number of Covid-19 cases since December 3, 2021, this Court's Third Amended Order Regarding the Requirement for Wearing Masks while in the Common Areas of the Rockdale County Courthouse, which was filed December 3, 2021 and was set to go into effect on December 24, 2021, is hereby set aside and the following Order is entered.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that masks shall be worn by all persons, regardless of vaccination status, while inside the Rockdale County Courthouse. This would include meeting areas, common workspaces, hallways, restrooms, courtrooms, jury rooms, jury assembly areas and any other common areas. This mask requirement does not apply to employees when in their individual offices. However, three or more people in an office would constitute an indoor setting subject to the mask requirement. Judges shall retain the right during a hearing or trial to allow witnesses and attorneys to remove their masks while speaking or testifying to improve the ability of such individuals to be heard and to allow a jury, attorneys and litigants to observe the facial expressions of the witness.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall remain in effect until further Order of the Court. Should the nature of the emergency, including changes in the CDC guidelines, otherwise require modification by the Court, the Court will make a determination of available

alternative remedies for the conduct of court business, as necessary, and a corresponding Order will be entered and distributed in accordance with Georgia law.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Sheriff of Rockdale County shall post this Order on his public notification site and in the Courthouse.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this Order shall be served on the Honorable Chief Justice David E. Nahmias of the Supreme Court of Georgia. Such service to be accomplished via email to Tee Barnes, the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Georgia, at barnest@gasupreme.us.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this Order shall be served on the judges and clerks of all courts sitting within this jurisdiction and on the clerks of the Georgia Court of Appeals and the Georgia Supreme Court, such service to be accomplished through reasonable means to assure expeditious receipt, and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that notice of issuance of this Order shall be given to the affected parties, counsel for the affected parties and the public.

SO ORDERED this 17th day of December, 2021, at _____ Conyers, Georgia.



**Robert F. Mumford, Chief Judge
Rockdale County Superior Court,
Rockdale Judicial Circuit**