

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA**

**AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER #141 ON ENTRY PROTOCOLS  
IN MIDDLE DISTRICT BANKRUPTCY COURT FACILITIES  
AS OF MARCH 4, 2022**

As the COVID-19 pandemic enters its current phase with the reduction of confirmed cases and changing CDC mask guidance, periodic updates to Administrative Order #141 are required, as well as a review of the Court's in-person and other procedures. The intent of this amended Administrative Order is to update our Entry Protocols in all Middle District of Georgia Bankruptcy Court facilities, as well as to ensure alignment with the newly issued Middle District of Georgia Standing Order 2022-03 (issued March 3, 2022) on COVID-19 Entrance Requirements. The Court will review in-person and other procedures and provide updates as rapidly as possible.

IT IS ORDERED that Amended Administrative Order #138 remain in effect as to all requirements except those related to facility entrance and face covering (mask) requirements; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that in order to protect public health, including the health of Court staff, parties, Court participants, and all other building occupants, the following persons shall not enter any U. S. Bankruptcy Court facility in the Middle District of Georgia without prior permission from the Chief Bankruptcy Judge or his designee:

- a. Persons who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last five days; or
- b. Persons who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last ten days and symptoms have not resolved; or
- c. Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by any healthcare provider or state or local health authority within the time period of entering the Court facility; or

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d. Fully vaccinated persons who have been exposed to COVID-19 within the last five days and are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19; or

e. Unvaccinated persons who have been exposed to COVID-19 within the previous five days; or

f. Persons currently experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 identified by the CDC, including fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, effective March 4, 2022, the following procedures govern the use of masks or other face coverings:

a. Pursuant to current CDC guidance, masks shall be worn in public spaces of the courthouse when the county in which the relevant divisional courthouse is located is classified by the CDC as “high risk.” The Clerk will post signs at the entrance indicating the current masking requirement based upon this dynamic criteria.

b. Presiding judges shall establish the requirement for wearing masks for court proceedings in their courtrooms.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that anyone denied entry due to these precautions, or anyone with a documented health condition that prevents the wearing of a mask or other face covering will be provided with contact information to contact the relevant Court or Courtroom Deputy with whom they have business.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the United States Marshal, his Deputies, and Court Security Officers shall deny entry to anyone attempting to enter in violation of this Order and shall have the authority to remove anyone from a U. S. Bankruptcy Court Facility in the Middle District of Georgia for failure to abide by this Order while in our facilities.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all persons attending in-person court proceedings will continue to comply with the Clerk's Office document "Amended Facility Entry Protocols During COVID-19 Pandemic as of June 10, 2021" pending review and adjustment of the Court's in-person and other COVID-related procedures.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 4th day of March, 2022.

/s/James P. Smith  
JAMES P. SMITH  
Chief Judge  
United States Bankruptcy Court