

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **MACON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

### **COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSE**

The public areas of the Macon County Jail will no longer be accessible to the general public. As a result the doors entering the public area will be locked. However, virtual access will be allowed but all other in-person access will be limited to the discretion of the sheriff and as needed to comply with certain rights of prisoners.

Visits with inmates are suspended and includes family, friends, charitable and religious organizations, attorneys and others. Inmates will be allowed visitations with family by phone through arrangements made in advance through the Sheriff's department. Attorneys will be allowed access to their clients by telephone and procedures may be put in place to allow client consultations with the attorney by video conferencing or skyping.

Payments for inmate commissary will need to be delivered by US Mail to the following address: Macon County Sheriff's Department, Macon County Justice Center, Hwy 52 Bypass E. Lafayette, TN 37083. It should include legible instructions as to the name of the inmate who is to receive the funds into their commissary account. The Sheriff's department will issue a receipt for the payment by US Mail in the normal course of

business. All payments mailed to the sheriff's office are now limited to check, cashier's check or money order.

All public access with the sheriff's department shall be by telephonic or electronic means. In the event a person is seeking an order of protection, they shall contact the circuit court clerk's office by phone. In the event a person is seeking an arrest warrant or other reportable incident, they shall contact the sheriff's office by phone or come to the sheriff's office and call the sheriff's department for an in-person meeting.

Bail bondsmen will be allowed to continue to make bonds provided they shall telephone the sheriff's department and make arrangements to make the bond. The bondsman will be placed in a quarantined area separate from employees and inmates. The bondsman will be required to complete screening questions before admittance.

In general anyone that needs to conduct business through the sheriff's department will need to call the sheriff's department in advance to make arrangements.

In the event the sheriff's department is called to a person's residence or business to investigate a crime or incident, expect the Sheriff's office to conduct a series of questions concerning potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus before they undertake an incident investigation.