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NORTH CAROLINA
RICHMOND COUNTY

FILED

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR AND DISTRICT
COURT DIVISIONS

2020 MAR 12 P 3:09

IN RE:

CORONAVIRUS
(COVID-19)

RICHMOND CO., C.S.C.

BY m

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

The undersigned Senior Resident Superior Court Judge and Chief District Court Judge for Judicial District 16A enter this administrative order in response to Governor Roy Cooper declaring a state of emergency to respond to coronavirus COVID-19.

IT APPEARING TO THE COURT that on March 10, 2020, Governor Cooper declared a state of emergency and recognized that the "NC DHHS recommends that people at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 avoid large groups of people as much as possible." Furthermore, the Governor recognized that the "people at high risk of severe illness" are "adults over 65 years, those with underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes, or with weakened immune systems."

AND IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that the NC DHHS recommends for "Mass Gathering Events" that the event organizers, in part: (1) Urge everyone who is sick not to attend, (2) Encourage those who are at high risk, as described above, not attend, (3) Find ways to give people more physical space to limit close contact as much as possible, and (4) Encourage attendees to wash hands frequently.

AND IT ALSO APPEARING TO THE COURT that a large number of individuals regularly enter the County court facilities to transact business.

AND IT IS IN THE INTEREST of public safety and welfare that sick individuals and those with an elevated temperature (fever) should be barred from entering the court facilities until the State of Emergency is lifted.

AND IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that Article 1, Section 18 of the North Carolina Constitution provides: "Court shall be open. All courts shall be open; every person for an injury done him in his lands, goods, person, or reputation shall

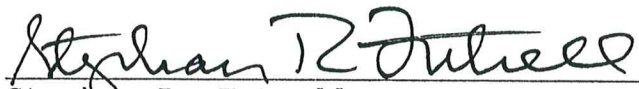
have remedy by due course of law; and right and justice shall be administrated without favor, denial, or delay."

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Adults over 65 years, those with underlying health conditions as described above, and those who are ill are:
 - A. Not required to report for jury duty and may have their service deferred by calling the jury clerk. In Richmond County, the contact is Annette McNeill at (910)419-7443. Those individuals need not appear on the day of service, but should seek to be deferred by phone or email during their assigned week of their service.
 - B. Not required to appear in District or Superior Court as Plaintiffs, Defendants or witnesses (including law enforcement officer witnesses) provided that they give timely notice by calling the Clerk at the above-referenced addresses or by having counsel report the same to the presiding judge on the day the matter is scheduled for court. While this order is in effect, it is not necessary to provide a doctor's note to be excused with prior notice. Notice provided by parties after the close of court on the day the matter is scheduled will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the presiding judge and a doctor's note may be required.
 - C. Not required to appear as counsel provided they have given timely notice to the Court and opposing counsel prior to the day the matter is scheduled. In emergency situations, reasonable notice should be provided taking into account all of the circumstances then existing.
2. The County Sheriff's Department shall not permit sick person or persons with elevated body temperature (fever) to enter the county court facility until further notice.

3. Everyone working or attending court at the courthouse should wash their hands frequently.
4. This administrative order shall expire when the declared state of emergency expires or upon further order of the Court.

This the 12 day of March, 2020.



Stephen R. Futrell
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge



Amanda L. Wilson
Chief District Court Judge