

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
COVID-19 EMERGENCY HEALTH CRISIS**

NOW COME the undersigned Senior Resident Superior Court Judge and Chief District Court Judge for Judicial District 2 and enter this administrative order in response to Chief Justice Cheri Beasley's directives issued March 13, 2020.

IT APPEARING TO THE COURT that The Chief Justice has declared that catastrophic conditions exist in all North Carolina counties. Although our superior and district courts will remain open for business, the normal operation of those courts will change to contain two emergency directives to reduce the spread of infection, which are:

Emergency Directive #1: All District court officials will schedule or reschedule all Superior and District court proceedings for a date no sooner than 30 days after March 16th (April 16, 2020), unless the proceeding:

1. Will be conducted remotely through WebEx or other means;
2. Is necessary to preserve the right to due process of law (e.g., a first appearance or other bond hearing, appointment of counsel for an indigent defendant, probation hearing, or probable cause hearing);
3. Is for the purpose of obtaining emergency relief (e.g., a domestic violence protection order, temporary restraining order, juvenile custody order, judicial consent to juvenile medical treatment order, or civil commitment order); or
4. The senior resident superior court judge, chief business court judge, or chief district court judge determines that the proceeding can be conducted under conditions that protect the health and safety of all participants.
5. This emergency directive will not apply to any proceeding in which a jury or grand jury has already been empaneled, and it will not prohibit judicial officials from exercising in-chambers or ex parte jurisdiction. We encourage the use of remote technology (such as WebEx) for ongoing hearings whenever possible. (See NCAOC's Temporary Audio Video policy.)

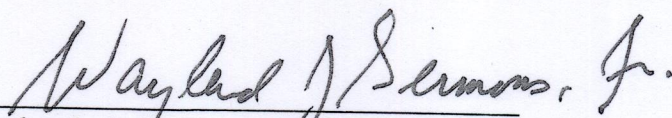
Emergency Directive #2The Clerks of Superior court in all counties shall instruct any person who has likely been exposed to COVID-19 not to enter the courthouse. A person who has likely been exposed to COVID-19 who has business before the courts shall contact the clerk of superior court's office by telephone or other remote means, inform court personnel of the nature of his or her business before the court, and receive further instruction. The specific definition of a person who "has likely been exposed to COVID-19 is (add definition from AOC)

The Clerk of Court in all counties shall Post Notices in public and conspicuous places alerting the public of these directives.

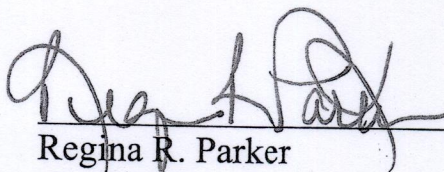
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Directives contained in 1 and 2 above are hereby **ORDERED** as if fully set out herein.
2. The Clerk of Court in all counties shall Post Notices in public and conspicuous places alerting the public of these directives.
3. Anyone with an illness is strongly encouraged not to come to the courthouse.
4. Everyone working or attending court at the courthouse should wash their hands frequently.
5. This administrative order shall expire when the declared state of emergency expires or upon further order of the Court.
6. That each respective Court shall issue directions to all parties to fully implement this Order as circumstances arise.

This the 13th day of March, 2020.



Wayland J. Sermons, Jr.
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge



Regina R. Parker
Chief District Court Judge