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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
CATAWBA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 25B

2020 MAR 13 P 3: 18

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER FOR SUPERIOR COURT IN
CATAWBA COUNTY

BY DS

IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA SUPREME COURT THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FOR CRIMINAL AND CIVIL SUPERIOR COURT THROUGH APRIL 17, 2020. THIS ORDER SHALL APPLY ONLY TO SUPERIOR COURT IN CATAWBA COUNTY.

1. No Jurys will be available for criminal or civil trials for any term of Superior Court until after April 17, 2020.

2. All parties and victims to any case will be automatically entitled to a continuance from any criminal or civil Superior Court session and no individual will be called and failed or cases dismissed as a result of civil parties, criminal defendants, or victims failing to attend Superior Court through April 17, 2020. Criminal defendants and others after Tuesday March 17, 2020 should contact either their attorney or the Catawba County Clerk of Court for new Court dates. New civil trial dates for Catawba County may be obtained by contacting the Superior Court Trial Court Coordinator, Ms. Judy Sherrill at (828) 695-6116.

3. Each scheduled session of civil and criminal Superior Court through April 17, 2020 shall be opened on the first day of each term for the disposition of criminal and civil matters as scheduled on the Master Calendar and shall continue from day to day as needed in the discretion of the presiding Superior Court Judge for the disposition of first appearances or bond hearings, the appointment of counsel for indigent defendants, probation hearings, probable cause hearings, and other matters that may be heard voluntarily by the parties, attorneys, and the State provided the presiding Judge determines that the proceeding can be conducted under conditions that protect the health and safety of all participants.

4. The Senior Resident Superior Court Judge or any other presiding Superior Court Judge may in his or her discretion alter or amend the terms of this administrative order for any particular case or matter as justice may require, or to protect and balance any Constitutional rights.

5. The grand jury of Catawba County shall continue to meet on their regular schedule and shall not be affected by this order.

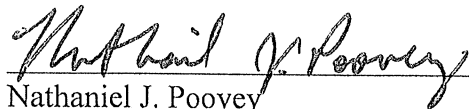
6. Additional accommodations shall be liberally granted to parties, witnesses, attorneys, and others with business before the courts who are at a high risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

7. The Court encourages the Catawba County maintenance department to provide to those working in the courthouse additional cleaning and sanitation resources, including, but not limited to, hand sanitizer and/or Clorox wipes for use at the front door, and the Court encourages the janitorial staff working at the courthouse to provide extra cleaning and sanitation services in high traffic and high touch areas throughout the courthouse.

8. To the extent that this order is in conflict with the order of the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court on March 13, 2020, the order of the Chief Justice shall apply.

9. This order shall be effective until and terminate at 5 pm, April 17, 2020

This the 13th day of March, 2020.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nathaniel J. Poovey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Nathaniel J. Poovey
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge