

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

COUNTY OF FORSYTH

21<sup>st</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING CONTINUANCE POLICY

It is the policy of this Court to provide justice for citizens without unnecessary delay and without undue waste of the time and other resources of the Court, the litigants, and other case participants. For all case types and dockets, and in all courtrooms, the Court looks with strong disfavor on motions or requests to continue court events. In order to protect the credibility of scheduled trial dates, trial-date continuances are especially disfavored.

Now therefore, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

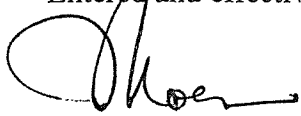
1. Whenever possible, continuance motions or requests shall be made using the appropriate forms issued by the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts, which include:
  - a. AOC-CV-222 for motions to continue civil district cases; and
  - b. AOC-CR-337 for motions to continue in certain impaired driving cases.
2. Any attorney or party requesting a continuance shall state the reasons for the request.
3. Continuances on agreement of counsel or the parties shall not be automatically granted.
4. The Court shall grant a continuance only for good cause shown unless otherwise provided by law.<sup>1</sup>
5. Continuances will be limited to four times; and any beyond this are specifically disfavored and shall be granted only in extraordinary circumstances.

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<sup>1</sup> State law specifies the factors that judges must consider when ruling on pretrial continuance requests in criminal cases. G.S. 15A-952(g). In any district court trial for offenses involving the forfeiture of a motor vehicle pursuant to G.S. 20-28.2, the judge may not continue the case unless the judge finds a "compelling reason" for doing so. G.S. 20-28.3(m). State law entitles defendants in criminal cases to continuances in certain situations without any showing of good cause. *E.g.*, G.S. 15A-1023(b) (defendant must be granted continuance upon judge's rejection of plea arrangement); 15A-1024 (defendant is entitled to continuance upon withdrawal of plea following judge's determination to impose sentence other than as provided for in plea arrangement). There is at least one circumstance in which state law entitles the state to a continuance. G.S. 15A-1415(g) (court must grant state's request for 30-day continuance made in response to defendant's amendment to motion for appropriate relief).

6. Whenever possible, the Court shall hold the rescheduled court event not later than the officer's next court day, normally within 30 days, after the date from which it was continued.
7. Information about the source of each continuance motion or request in a case and the reason for any continuance granted by the Court shall be noted in the Court's file.
8. To the extent that this order conflicts with any statutory provision applicable to a particular continuance motion or request, the statutory provision will control.
9. At least quarterly, the Chief District Court Judge shall generate and review a report of pending cases and any data the Administrative Office of the Courts can make available regarding the number of court dates each case had. To promote the consistent application of this continuance policy, these reports should be reviewed and discussed with all other judges in the district, bar representatives and other court-related agencies to seek resolution of any organizational or systemic problems that cause unnecessary delay in the timely resolution of all cases.
10. This order shall be published on the Administrative Office of the Court's Local Rules website.

Entered and effective as of this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2022.



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Victoria L. Roemer  
Chief District Court Judge  
21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District