

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF GUILFORD

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR AND DISTRICT COURT
20- R 355 2020 MAR 16 P 1:58

AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

GUILFORD CO., C.S.C.

The undersigned Senior Resident Superior Court Judge and Chief District Court Judge for Judicial District 18 enter this Administrative Order pursuant to Governor Roy Cooper declaring a statewide emergency and Chief Justice Cheri Beasley's Administrative Order in response to the coronavirus COVID-19.

IT APPEARING TO THE COURT that on March 13, 2020, Governor Roy Cooper declared a state of emergency and recognized that the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services recommends that people at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 avoid large groups of people as much as possible" and further 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 North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services 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 FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that Chief Justice Cheri Beasley of the North Carolina Supreme Court has issued an Administrative Order that most Superior and District Court activities in the State be suspended for the next thirty days;

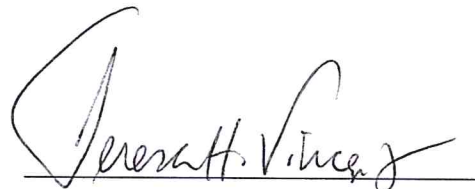
AND IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that Article 1, Section 18 of the North Carolina Constitution provides "All courts shall be open; every person for an injury done him in his lands, goods, person, or reputation shall have remedy by due course of law, and right and justice shall be administered without favor, denial or delay;"

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Only courts that are necessary to due process of law, or are otherwise deemed necessary, will be held during the next thirty days.
2. The attached schedule is hereby incorporated in this Order, setting out modifications and changes to the Superior and District Courts;
3. No person with the coronavirus or flu-like symptoms will be allowed to enter the courthouses of the District;
4. All persons seeking entrance to the courthouses of the District may be subject to limited medical screening and other procedures to ensure the safety of the courthouse prior to such entrance.

THIS the 16th day of March, 2020.


John O. Craig, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge


Teresa H. Vincent, Chief District Court Judge

Teresa H. Vincent, Chief District Court Judge

	A	B	C	D
1	COURTS	REGULAR	CONTINUED FOR 30 DAYS	CHANGES
2	SUPERIOR COURT			
3	Criminal Superior Trials		X	
4	Criminal Superior Administrative Week		X	
5	Pleas		X	
6	Probation			Tue & Thu- P.C. JAIL CASES ONLY-9:30am
7	Bond Motions			Tues & Thurs ONLY-9:30am
8	First Appearances	X		
9	Motions		X	TRO & EMERG. CASE BY CASE
10	Sex Offender		X	
11	Gun Permit Appeals		X	
12	Superior Civil Jury Trials		X	
13	Superior Civil Non-Jury Trials		X	
14	Superior Civil Motions		X	
15	Superior Court Mediation	X		
16	School Board Bond Forfeitures		X	
17	DISTRICT COURT			
18	Criminal Traffic Court		X	
19	Court Non Motor Vehicle Court		X	
20	Probation			Tues & Thurs- JAIL CASES ONLY
21	First Appearances	X		
22	Juvenile Court-Criminal			Secured Custody Hearings ONLY
23	Juvenile Court-DSS			Non-Secured Custody ONLY
24	Child Support		X (See Changes)	Jail cases addressed daily
25	Domestic Violence	X		
26	District Court-Non-Domestic Motions		X	
27	District Court-Non-Domestic- Jury Trials		X	
28	District Court-Non-Domestic Non Jury		X	
29	District Court-Non-Domestic Motions		X	
30	District Court Custody Mediation	X (See Changes)		REMOTE APPEARANCE
31	District CourtED Mediation	X		
32	District Court-Criminal Mediation		X	
33	District Court Arbitration		X	
34	District Court Commitments	X		
35	School Board Bond Forfeitures		X	
36	SPECIALTY COURTS			
37	Adult Drug Court	X		
38	Mental Health Court	X		
39	Bond Hearings and Jury Excuses	X		
40	CLERK OF COURT			
41	Special Proceedings	X (Guardianships)		Foreclosures/etc Postponed
42	Estate	X (See Changes)		Only Pressing Matters Will Proceed
43	CIVIL MAGISTRATES-SMALL CLAIMS		X	

To: Members of the 24th Judicial District Bar

From: Honorable John O. Craig, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge
Honorable Teresa Vincent, Chief District Court Judge
District Attorney Avery Crump
Public Defender John Neiman
Clerk of Superior Court Lisa Johnson-Tonkins

Chief Justice Cheri Beasley entered an order implementing measures designed to curb the spread of COVID-19 and minimize the risk of exposure caused by crowded sessions of court. Consistent with the Chief Justice's order, effective Monday, March 16, superior court and district court proceedings of the 18th /24th Judicial District will be rescheduled for at least 30 days, with limited exceptions, which appear on the following pages.

The emergency directive of the Chief Justice does not apply to proceedings in which a jury has already been empaneled and it does not prohibit a judge or other judicial officer from exercising in chambers or *ex parte* jurisdiction conferred by law upon that judge or judicial officer, as provided by law. Additionally, the emergency directive *does not extend filing and other deadlines*.

Court offices in the Guilford County Courthouse and Justice Center will remain open for business. However, unless you are required to appear in-person to conduct your business, attorneys and the public are strongly encouraged to use email and telephone to communicate with staff of the Eighteenth Judicial District.

Online court services are available for handling some court business, including citation services, paying your ticket, court payments, signing up for court date notifications and reminders, e-Filing court documents for certain courts and case types, and more.

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

- Involuntary Commitments will be conducted as needed, subject to necessary precautions, including, but not limited to video testimony.
- Guardianship Hearings will be conducted as needed, subject to necessary health precautions, as determined by the Clerk of Court
- Maintain normal office hours to for filings unless otherwise notified.
- Estate Administration matters will be conducted. However, person to person interactions will be limited if health concerns arise, as determined by the Clerk of Court.
- Estate hearings will be postponed for thirty days unless the parties consent to the matter being heard remotely.
- Special Proceeding hearings will be postponed for thirty days unless the parties consent to conduct a hearing at a remote location.

MAGISTRATE AND SMALL CLAIMS

- The Greensboro and High Point magistrate offices will operate as normal for Warrants for Arrest, Magistrate's Orders, Criminal Summons, Initial Appearances, Cash Bonds/Property Bonds,

Involuntary Commitment Orders, Juvenile Petitions and Secured and Non-Secured Custody Orders.

- All Small Claims court proceedings are suspended. Pending matters will be continued and rescheduled.
- Magistrates will continue to conduct marriage ceremonies except in the jails.

District Court

- Maintain normal office hours, unless otherwise notified.
- Judges will have office hours and will be available to consider *Ex-Parte* Emergency Custody request(s) and other matters, if appropriate, that may be addressed *ex parte*, such as a Motion to Recall an Order for Arrest.

Civil Domestic Violence Court

- Courtrooms 2B (GSO) and 3A (High Point) will operate as normal handling domestic violence *ex-parte* matters and return hearings.

Civil/Domestic District Courts

- Courtroom 2B (will operate as indicated in the foregoing provision). Emergency custody hearings will also be handled in courtroom 2B. Courtrooms 2E or 3A may be available to assist with handling cases in courtroom 2B. Otherwise, all other matters shall be continued.
- Courtrooms 2E and 3A will be closed other than being open to assist with cases scheduled in courtroom 2B.
- All District Court Arbitrations will be rescheduled for a minimum of thirty (30) days.
- Special Settings – Please contact the Trial Court Coordinator (Mrs. Stephanie Wallace- Greensboro or Pat Dixon- High Point) within ten to fourteen days to reschedule.

Criminal/Traffic District Court

- Courtroom 1C (Criminal Court) will be closed and cases will be continued.
- Courtroom 1D (Traffic Court) will be closed and cases will be continued.
- Courtroom 2C will be operating as normal for First Appearances/Bond Motions and will be available for probation violations (jail cases) and other criminal jail cases (preferably older cases) on Tuesday and Thursday (March 24th and March 26th, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)

Juvenile Abuse Neglect & Dependency Court/Delinquency Court

- Courtrooms are open only for non-secure or secured custody hearings as scheduled. Otherwise, cases will be continued.

Child Support Court

- In Courtroom 2A, jail cases will be addressed daily. Otherwise, cases will be continued for a minimum of thirty (30) days.

Specialty Courts

- Specialty Courts (Adult DTC, Mental Health Court and Juvenile DTC) will operate in accordance with the current schedule, except Juvenile DTC is canceled the week of March 16, 2020.

Mediation Program

- Orientation sessions are cancelled.
- Mediations shall proceed as scheduled unless otherwise notified.

Superior Court

- Staff will be working remotely beginning Monday, March 16th during the court closure period.
- No jurors are to report for jury duty (unless already empaneled for an ongoing matter as instructed by the trial judge).
 - Members of the Grand Jury will report as directed.

Criminal Superior Court

- No regular court sessions or calendar calls will be held from Monday, March 16th through Monday, April 13th.
- Beginning the week of March 23rd, 2020, we will hold court on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 9:30am in courtroom 4C, to address the following cases:
 - Probation probable cause hearings- JAIL CASES ONLY.
 - Bond Motion requests for current inmates ONLY.

Civil Superior Court

- All matters, motions and trials, scheduled to be heard from Monday March 16th through Monday, April 13th are postponed.
- Emergency hearings, such as Civil Temporary Restraining Orders, will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
 - Attorneys who feel they have an emergency matter will need to contact the appropriate Trial Court Coordinator (Greensboro or High Point) for direction and scheduling.
- Motions currently set for court during this closure period will need to be rescheduled by the filing attorney(s) once a definitive reopening date has been confirmed.