

FILED

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

COUNTY OF ALAMANCE

SUPERIOR AND DISTRICT COURT

BY

KC

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

The undersigned Senior Resident Superior Court Judge and Chief District Court Judge of Judicial District 15A enter this Administrative Order pursuant to Governor Roy Cooper declaring a statewide emergency and Chief Justice Cheri Beasley's Administrative Orders 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 on March 15, 2020, Chief Justice Cheri Beasley and NCAOC Director McKinley Wooten, Jr. clarified the above referenced Administrative Order by distributing a Coronavirus Update for our Courts addressing some frequently asked questions including but not limited to: In-person meetings must be postponed or cancelled to the fullest extent possible;

AND IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that Chief Justice Beasley entered an order on April 2, 2020, postponing court proceedings until June 1, 2020

AND IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that Chief Justice Beasley entered an order on May 21, 2020, placing a number of restrictions on in-person proceedings to avoid crowded courtrooms and allow for social distancing;

AND IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that Governor Roy Cooper entered Executive Order No. 147 on June 24, 2020, requiring all state government on-site workers and members of the public to wear face coverings;

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:

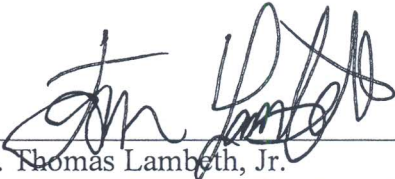
1. Only Courts that can be conducted with proper social distancing and in accordance with the Chief Justice’s May 21, 2020 Order will be held.
2. This Order supplements the Administrative Order entered on May 27, 2020, and that Order remains effective except as amended herein. This Order is effective beginning June 26, 2020, at 5:00 P.M..
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.
5. Pursuant to Executive Order No. 147, any person entering the courthouses shall abide by the following:
  - a. All persons are required to wear face coverings when they are or may be within six (6) feet of another person;
  - b. Face coverings do not need to be worn by any person who:
    - i. Should not wear a face covering due to any medical or behavioral condition or disability (including, but not limited to, any person who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious or incapacitated, or is otherwise unable to put on or remove the face covering without assistance);
    - ii. Is seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing-impaired in a way that requires the mouth to be visible;
    - iii. Is a judge or attorney or person who is addressing the Court and who needs to annunciate for the Court or a court reporter;

Any person who declines to wear a face covering for these reasons should not be required to produce documentation or any other proof of a condition.


- c. All persons will be on the honor system about whether or not there is a reason why they cannot wear a face covering. Everyone is asked to tell the truth and—if they are healthy and able to wear a face covering—to wear a face covering so that they do not put other people at risk of serious illness and death.

- d. Any person refusing to wear a face covering or follow this Administrative Order who does not have a valid excuse as listed in 5(b) will not be allowed to enter the courthouse or will be required to leave. Any person who misses their court appearance because they are not allowed in the courthouse or are asked to leave the courthouse due to a refusal to wear a face covering will be subject to appropriate process and procedures for not attending their court appearance including the potential for an order for arrest being issued in a criminal case or a civil case being heard in the absence of the person.
  
- e. Courthouse security or other designated court personnel will distribute face coverings, free of charge, for any person who does not have their own face covering.

This the 26<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.



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D. Thomas Lambeth, Jr.  
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge



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Bradley Reid Allen, Sr.  
Chief District Court Judge