

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY
COUNTY OF STANLY

FILED

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STANLY CO., C.S.C.

JUDICIAL DISTRICT 20A

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IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
MONTGOMERY COUNTY NO. 20-R-46
STANLY COUNTY NO. 20-R-1

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
(FACE COVERINGS)

This matter coming on before the Honorable Kevin M. Bridges, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, and the Honorable John R. Nance, Acting Chief District Court Judge, in Judicial District 20A, to comply with the emergency directives of the Honorable Cheri Beasley, Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court;

And these Courts find that on July 16, 2020, the Chief Justice issued Emergency Directive 21 which requires that all persons in a court facility wear a face covering while they are in common areas of the facility and when they are interacting with others; that for the purposes of this emergency directive, a “face covering” means a covering of the nose and mouth that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears, or is simply wrapped around the lower face; that this requirement does not apply to persons who cannot wear a face covering due to health or safety reasons, who are actively eating or drinking, who are communicating with someone who is hearing-impaired in a way that requires the mouth to be visible, who are temporarily removing their face covering to secure medical services or for identification purposes, or who are under eleven years of age; that catastrophic conditions continue to exist throughout North Carolina caused by the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19);

And these Courts conclude that it is in the best interests of the citizens of Judicial District 20A that this safety precaution be implemented with the goal of decreasing the spread of COVID-19.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED:

1. Face coverings shall be worn at the Montgomery County Courthouse and the Stanly County Courthouse as set forth in the Chief Justice’s Emergency Directive 21.
2. Montgomery County and Stanly County shall make face coverings available to all persons entering the court facilities if they do not have one.
3. All persons who are not exempt from the face coverings requirement and who refuse to wear a face covering (even though they have access to a face covering) will not be permitted to enter the court facilities. In addition to the Chief Justice’s exceptions as listed above, all persons seeking a protective order in Judicial District 20A shall be allowed to enter the court facilities even if they refuse to wear a face covering.

4. All persons who are denied entry into the court facilities for refusal to wear a face covering should contact the appropriate Clerk's Office immediately to explain their absence from a court proceeding.
5. The Presiding Judge shall determine the appropriate course of action if someone appears in a courtroom without a face covering or is absent because they were denied entry into the court facility for refusal to wear a face covering. The range of options shall include, but are not limited to, a continuance of the case or contempt.
6. The Montgomery County Clerk and the Stanly County Clerk shall post a notice of the face covering requirement at the entrance of their respective court facilities as mandated by Emergency Directive 21.
7. All Orders issued by the Chief Justice related to COVID-19 are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.
8. Montgomery County and Stanly County shall continue to maintain the safety protocols established in the Administrative Order filed on May 26, 2020 which remains in effect.
9. This Order shall take effect when entered and shall remain in effect until modified or terminated by further Orders.
10. The Clerks in Montgomery County and Stanly County shall mail or deliver a copy of this filed Order to their respective County Managers and note the date of service on the original of this Order.

This the 17th day of July, 2020.

/s/ KEVIN M. BRIDGES

KEVIN M. BRIDGES
SENIOR RESIDENT SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 20A

/s/ JOHN R. NANCE

JOHN R. NANCE
ACTING CHIEF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 20A

7/17/2020 Mailed a copy to Andy Lucas (County Manager)
B. Clay