



JACQUELYN L. LEE
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JUDICIAL DISTRICT 11
HARNETT, JOHNSTON & LEE COUNTIES

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MEMORANDUM

TO: 11TH Judicial District

FROM: Jacquelyn L. Lee, Chief District Court Judge 

DATE: March 16, 2020

RE: Temporary changes to Magistrate and District Court (COVID-19 Response)

On Sunday, March 15, 2020, Chief Justice Beasley released new directives to court officials in response to the Governor's March 14, 2020 executive order. In light of these new directives, the following changes to Magistrate and District Court will take effect immediately. These changes shall remain in effect for at least 30 days or until further order of the Court.

Magistrate and Small Claims:

- All small claims and summary ejectment matters are suspended. Pending matters will be continued and rescheduled beyond 30 days.
- Marriage ceremonies will continue subject to health precautions.
- Criminal Magistrates will operate as usual.

District Court:

Civil Domestic Violence

- *Ex parte* Domestic Violence Protective Orders will be heard on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in District Court.
- Magistrates will hear *ex parte* Domestic Violence Protective Orders at all other times.
- Ten day return hearings will be heard as scheduled.
- Motions to Show Cause, Motions to Modify or Set Aside, Motions for Return of Weapons shall be continued beyond 30 days.

Civil District (non-domestic)

- All civil district matters will be rescheduled beyond 30 days.

Domestic

- Emergency cases and matters will be heard. All other cases should be rescheduled beyond 30 days.

Juvenile Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency

- Hearings for non-secure custody will be held. All other cases will be rescheduled beyond 30 days.

Juvenile Delinquency

- Secured custody cases will be heard. First Appearances and Probable Cause hearings will be heard. All other cases will be rescheduled beyond 30 days.

Child Support Enforcement (IV-D)

- All cases will be rescheduled beyond 30 days. If Defendant is in custody, check with Judge Lee's office.

Criminal

- First Appearances will be held Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9:00 a.m.
- Probable Cause and Probation courts will only address defendants who are in custody. All other cases will be rescheduled beyond 30 days.
- Defendants in custody for misdemeanors will be addressed upon notice from Sheriff's Department to District Attorney and Judge Lee's office.
- All other criminal cases shall be continued beyond 30 days.