

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM/ORANGE COUNTIES

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE  
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION  
FILE NUMBER: 20R

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

**Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 15A-1034(a)**, a judge “may impose reasonable limitations on access to the courtroom when necessary to ensure the orderliness of courtroom proceedings or the safety of persons present” and the inherent authority of the Court; and

Whereas, the Court recognizes that a pandemic resulting from the rapid spread of the Corona virus (COVID-19) exists in the State of North Carolina that has resulted in a statewide “Stay at Home” Executive Order issued by the Governor of the State of North Carolina, the Honorable Roy Cooper;

And whereas, the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court has issued an Order postponing non-essential, in-person court proceedings of District and Superior Court in the State of North Carolina for 30 days, effective December 14, 2020;

And whereas, the Chief Justice has further directed that court operations remain as limited as possible during this time;

And whereas, the health and safety of the public, attorneys, law enforcement officers, witnesses and court personnel is of paramount importance to the Court;

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED THAT:**

1. Only essential and emergency court proceedings shall occur in person. These may include some first appearances, domestic violence matters, or other emergency proceedings. **A separate Administrative Order will be issued by the Chief District Court Judge with details of District Court proceedings.**
2. All other proceedings shall proceed remotely, if possible. If not, they shall be continued.
3. The courthouses in both counties shall be restricted to necessary business only. Attorneys and self-represented litigants are directed to file pleadings and make payments by mail or online, as appropriate.

4. The Sheriffs in each county are directed to enforce this order and may provide assistance and information on remote filing and payment options. In consultation with the Clerks of Court, deputies are authorized to accept filings or other papers to further reduce traffic in the courthouses.
5. This Order **shall be effective immediately upon filing** with the Clerk of Superior Court for **thirty (30) days, unless** it is extended or terminated by the District and Superior Courts.
6. This Order **shall be posted conspicuously** on each courthouse door. A copy of this Order in its entirety **shall** be made available to the public and the media for inspection.
7. Any person who willfully fails to comply with the requirements of this Order **shall be subject to CONTEMPT OF COURT and IMPRISONMENT up to thirty (30) days OR a FINE in the discretion of the Court.**

This the 14 day of December, 2020.



Allen Baddour  
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge



Samantha Cabe  
Chief District Court Judge