

FILED

2021 NOV 15 P 3: 26 ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

GUILFORD CO., C.S.C.

The undersigned Chief District Court Judge for Judicial District 18 enter this Administrative Order pursuant to Governor Roy Cooper declaring CONCERNS 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;”

IT APPEARING TO THE COURT that the Guilford County has a daily positivity rate of 5.2 %, and had 68,308 cases of COVID-19, and has had 879 deaths;

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; 4) wear masks; and 5) encourage attendees to wash hands frequently;

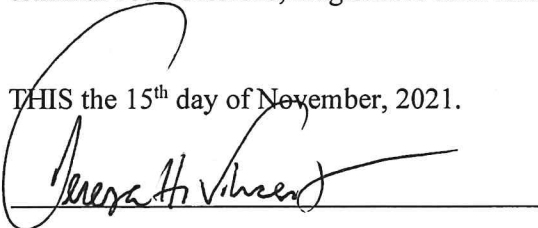
AND IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that Article 1, Section 18 of the North Carolina Constitution provides “All courts shall be open; every person for an injury done him in his lands, goods, person, or reputation shall have remedy by due course of law, and right and justice shall be administered without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

AND IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that several Guilford County courts have a backlog of cases due to COVID-19 and the necessity to scale back or cancel courts.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. To aid in processing cases and diminishing the backlog of cases, effective November 15, 2021, if cases are not continued or disposed of in criminal and traffic courts, orders for arrest shall be issued, if permitted by law. If cases are not continued or disposed of, and orders for arrest are not issued at the end of district traffic and/or criminal court sessions, magistrates shall issue orders for arrest, if permitted by law.

THIS the 15th day of November, 2021.



Teresa H. Vincent, Chief District Court Judge