STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

CATAWBA COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

FILED

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ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
REGARDING COURT'S OPERATIONS IN INCLEMENT WEATHER
OR NATURAL DISASTER

BY

Whereas, the undersigned Senior Resident Superior Court Judge for District 25B and the Chief District Court Judge for District 25 acknowledge that the operation of the courts in Catawba County require a coordinated effort among state and county officials, and that a uniform policy of both trial divisions of the General Court of Justice would promote a more efficient operation of the courts and prevent confusion among the bar, litigants, jurors and the public about the operation of the courts during inclement weather or a natural disaster;

Therefore, by virtue of the authority established by N.C.G.S. Chapter 7A, the undersigned hereby establish the following policy for the operation of the courts during inclement weather or a natural disaster in District 25B:

I. During the Regular School Year when Catawba County Schools are in session, the following schedule shall apply:

A. The First Day

The first day of inclement weather shall be defined as the day following the evening when an inclement weather event first occurs.

B. Schedule on the First Day

1. On the first day of an inclement weather event (which shall include only snow, sleet, freezing rain or ice) if the Catawba County Schools are closed, then all sessions of Court will be cancelled. State or County offices operating within the courthouse building may decide to remain open to the public during this period, but the Clerk shall not be obligated to provide any courtroom staff. *NOTE: The courts will NOT automatically follow the Catawba County School system when schools are closed or delayed due to extreme cold or hot temperatures. The Courts will make an independent determination and announcement when Catawba County Schools are closed or delayed due to extreme temperatures.*

2. On the first day of an inclement weather event (which shall include only snow, sleet, freezing rain or ice) if the Catawba County Schools are operating on any type of delay (one hour, two hour or three hour) then there shall be no change to the normal Superior Court schedule and it shall operate on the normal schedule. All District Courts will start at 10:00 am.

3. When the first instance of inclement weather arises during the 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. workday, the presiding judge of each court shall determine the operating schedule for that judge's court on that day. On any subsequent day and thereafter, the terms of this Administrative Order shall apply. If an early suspension of operations is announced, that day will be considered the first day of inclement weather and any following day of inclement weather will be treated as the Second Day.

C. The Second Day

On the Second Day and on all subsequent consecutive days of inclement weather, the local court officials, in consultation with local authorities, will make an independent determination as to the operation of the Courts and the District Court Trial Court Coordinator will place an independent announcement on the local radio and television stations *ONLY* if court sessions have been cancelled or delayed. If no independent announcement is made, all court sessions will operate as normally scheduled.

II. During the Summer recess or at other times during the school year when Catawba County Schools are not in session, the following schedule shall apply:

When Catawba County Schools are not in session either because it is during the summer recess or based upon a holiday, the Courts will follow the same policy as that of the Second Day of inclement weather delineated above. The District Court Trial Court Coordinator will make an independent announcement *only* if a session of court is cancelled or delayed. If no independent announcement is made, all court sessions will operate as normally scheduled.

III. Natural Disaster

In the event of any natural disaster (e.g. fire, flood, tornado, hurricane, earthquake) the local court officials, in consultation with local authorities, will make an independent decision as to the operation of the Courts and will make an announcement *ONLY* if courts are cancelled or delayed. If no announcement is made, all court sessions will operate as normally scheduled.

This Administrative Order shall supersede any prior orders or policies heretofore entered.

This the 9 of April, 2018.

Nathaniel J. Poovey

NATHANIEL J. POOVEY
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge
District 25B

BURFORD A. CHERRY
Chief District Court Judge
District 25