

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CATAWBA COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
FILE NO. 26R000056-170

FILED
DATE: February 5, 2026
TIME: 2:56:09 PM
CATAWBA COUNTY
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT
BY: J. Holsclaw

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGULATING
LAW ENFORCEMENT ATTIRE IN THE COURTHOUSE

NOW COMES the undersigned Senior Resident Superior Court Judge and Chief District Court Judge for Catawba County who HEREBY ENTER the following Order regulating Law Enforcement attire inside the Catawba County Courthouse.

WHEREAS, the Catawba County Courthouse includes ten separate courtrooms dedicated to the administration of justice in Catawba County. The Courthouse also houses various offices which support and work within the Court system, including the District Attorney's office, Clerk's office, probation/parole and judicial staff and support. The Catawba County Courthouse also houses other county offices, including the Register of Deeds and the Catawba County Sheriff's Office.

AND WHEREAS, Law Enforcement officers are regularly required to appear at various court proceedings inside the Catawba County courthouse in uniform and as part of the official duties of their office.

AND WHEREAS, a normal part of the uniform of a sworn law enforcement officer includes the possession of and carrying of a firearm and/or other deadly weapon(s). Further, the wearing of a law enforcement uniform connotes a heightened level of respect and authority.

AND WHEREAS, in addition to being present inside the courthouse for various official duties, law enforcement officers, like all members of the public, also come into the courthouse in capacities outside of their role as law enforcement officers. By way of illustration, but not limitation, these instances include jury service, as named parties in civil lawsuits, as criminal defendants, and as support for friends and/or family members who are named parties in civil or criminal cases.

AND WHEREAS, while it is appropriate for law enforcement officers to wear their uniform inside the courthouse when present for their official duties, it is not appropriate for law enforcement to wear their uniform inside the courthouse when present for activities outside of their official duties listed within the confines of this order.

NOW THEREFORE, based upon the foregoing findings, it is HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

1. As used in the order, the following definitions apply:

a. "Law Enforcement Officer" means any sworn federal, state, or local police officer or probation officer authorized to carry a firearm in the performance of official duties.

b. "Uniform" means any attire identifying the wearer as a law enforcement officer, including, but not limited to, marked clothing of any type, duty belts, visible badges, or insignia reasonably conveying official authority.

c. "Official duties" means actions taken pursuant to employment responsibilities, including, but not limited to, court appearances, prisoner transport, security functions, service of process, or other court-related law enforcement functions.

d. "Catawba County Courthouse" means all areas inside the footprint of the current Catawba County Courthouse, including, but not limited to, the entrance, foyer, common areas, hallways, bathrooms, courtrooms, meeting and conference rooms, offices open to the public, Register of Deeds, Clerk's Office, and restricted areas.

2. Law Enforcement Officers are allowed to be present inside the Catawba County Courthouse in uniform, including a service weapon, if the reason they are present inside the Courthouse is related to their official duties as Law Enforcement Officers.

3. Law Enforcement Officers are not allowed to be present inside the Catawba County Courthouse in uniform if their presence is specifically related to any of the following activities:

- A. Jury Service,
- B. As a Plaintiff or Defendant in a civil action,
- C. As a Petitioner or Respondent in a special proceeding or estate action,
- D. As a Defendant in a criminal action,
- E. As support for a friend or family member in any of the above types of actions.

4. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to authorize off-duty or non-assigned law enforcement officers to carry firearms or other deadly weapons into courtrooms or restricted courthouse areas except as otherwise permitted by law or authorized by a presiding judge or courthouse security.

5. This Order is not intended to limit the ability of any presiding judge in any courtroom from exercising their independent discretion regarding those parties or family members of parties who appear in their courtroom.

6. This order is effective upon filing and shall be sent to all law enforcement agencies in Catawba County.

7. Violation of this order shall be punishable as for contempt.

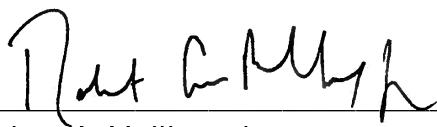
Entered this the 4th of February, 2026

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Nathaniel J. Poovey
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge
District 19



Robert A. Mullinax, Jr.
Chief District Court Judge
District 36