

1. The proceeding will be conducted remotely;
2. The proceeding is necessary to preserve the right to due process of law (e.g., a first appearance or other bond hearing, appointment of counsel for an indigent defendant, probation hearing, or probable cause hearing);
3. The proceeding is for the purpose of obtaining emergency relief (e.g., a domestic violence protection order, temporary restraining order, juvenile custody order, judicial consent to juvenile medical treatment order, or civil commitment order); or
4. The senior resident superior court judge, chief business court judge, or chief district court judge determines that the proceeding can be conducted under conditions that protect the health and safety of all participants.

AND IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that Article 1, Section 18 of the North Carolina Constitution provides: "Court shall be open. 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."

IN CARRYING OUT THESE ORDERS, the Chief Justice has directed that all non-essential, non-time sensitive and non-constitutional mandated courts be suspended for the next thirty (30) days and that each local group of courthouse officials carry out this directive while maintaining and honoring the constitutional duty of the courts to remain open to the public and to continue to guarantee to all persons the protections, rights and liberties afforded under the North Carolina Constitution and the Constitution of the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Effective immediately, it is ordered that the commencement of any and all jury trials in District and Superior Courts in Judicial District 27B be suspended for a period of at least thirty (30) days from the entry of this Order
2. That any juror summoned to appear as a juror in any criminal and/or civil court session is hereby deferred to a later date. New notices of the later date will be mailed to jurors when the deferment date arises. Letters will be furnished by the office of the Clerk of Superior Court notifying each juror of this deferment of service.
3. That any previously calendared criminal and civil Superior Court trials are hereby continued beyond the date of April 15, 2020.
4. The District Attorney and the Clerk of Court shall be responsible for keeping track of all criminal cases continued pursuant to provisions of the Directives of the Chief Justice, this Administrative Order and pursuant to the regular responsibilities for tracking and calendaring of criminal cases. New trial or hearing dates may be assigned by the District Attorney, by order of the appropriate court or determined by court at a later time.

5. The District Court Trial Court Coordinator and Clerk of Court shall be responsible for keeping track of all District Court civil cases continued pursuant to provisions of the Directives of the Chief Justice, this Administrative Order and pursuant to the regular responsibilities for tracking and calendaring of civil cases. New trial or hearing dates may be assigned by the District Court Trial Court Coordinator, by order of the appropriate court or determined by court at a later time.
6. The Superior Court Trial Court Coordinator and Clerk of Court shall be responsible for keeping track of all Superior Court civil cases continued pursuant to provisions of the Directives of the Chief Justice, this Administrative Order and pursuant to the regular responsibilities for tracking and calendaring of civil cases. New trial or hearing dates may be assigned by the Superior Court Trial Court Coordinator, by order of the appropriate court or determined by court at a later time.
7. Anyone with an illness is strongly encouraged not to come to the courthouse.
8. Each of the undersigned judges shall seek input from other courthouse stakeholders in order to implement additional criteria for protection of the public through efforts directed at increased cleaning and sanitation of courthouse facilities, the details of which will be published at a later time.
9. All persons working or entering the courthouse should wash their hands frequently.
10. This administrative order shall expire when the declared state of emergency expires or upon further order of the Court.

This the 13th day of March 2020.

COPY

/s/ Forrest D. Bridges
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge
Judicial District 27B

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/s/ Larry J. Wilson
Chief District Court Judge
Judicial District 27B