

NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

MAGISTRATE LEVEL

9<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

FRANKLIN, GRANVILLE, PERSON

VANCE AND WARREN COUNTIES

### **3<sup>rd</sup> MAGISTRATE DIRECTIVE REGARDING PERFORMING MARRIAGES**

As a result of the Chief Justice's Order issued the 16<sup>th</sup> day of April and received by the undersigned on April 17, 2020 which included Emergency Directive 8 regarding marriages; and whereas the undersigned had previously entered a 2<sup>nd</sup> Magistrate Directive regarding Performing Marriages on April 15, 2020; and whereas the newly issued Emergency Directive 8 differs in significant ways from the undersigned's 2<sup>nd</sup> Magistrate Directive;

Now therefore, and so as to make the terms of the undersigned's directions agree with the Chief Justice's Emergency Directive 8, the undersigned rescinds its 2<sup>nd</sup> Magistrate Directive and replaces the same with the following:

#### **IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED:**

1. As of **April 20, 2020**, the undersigned hereby reinstates Magistrate performed marriages in the 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.
2. A limit of two persons as witnesses shall be allowed to be present along with the couple to be wed at any Magistrate performed ceremony.
3. Each individual Magistrate's office is allowed to implement time slots, appointments or other scheduling measures so as to conduct marriages during regular daylight office hours as deemed appropriate by said office so long as any such requirements are not unduly burdensome so as to create a barrier to marriages occurring.
4. A copy of the Chief Justice's Order is attached and is incorporated hereinto as if fully set forth herein. In the event that any Directive in this Order is contrary to Emergency Directive 8 of the Chief Justice's Order, then, and in that case, the provision of Emergency Directive 8 shall prevail and be adhered to by 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Magistrates.

5. This Directive remains in effect until the earlier occurring of this Directive being modified by the undersigned, or until the Chief Justice's Order which prevents the regular operation of the Court System, or any extension thereof, expires,

Entered this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.



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John W. Davis, Chief District Court Judge  
9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

**ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF NORTH  
CAROLINA**

On 2 April 2020, I issued an order with seven emergency directives affecting the North Carolina Judicial Branch in response to the emerging public health threat posed by the COVID-19 outbreak. Additional information about that order and the Judicial Branch's response to the COVID-19 outbreak is available at <https://www.nccourts.gov/covid-19-coronavirus-updates>.

This emergency directive is now necessary to reduce the spread of infection and to ensure the continuing operation of essential court functions.

Accordingly, I hereby determine and declare under N.C.G.S. § 7A-39(b)(2) that catastrophic conditions resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak have existed and continue to exist in all counties of this state.

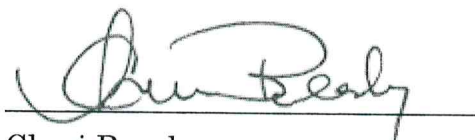
**Emergency Directive 8**

Marriages establish and implicate numerous rights and legal obligations (e.g., military deployments, social security benefits, pensions, workers' compensation benefits, and disability benefits). The date of marriage may impact these rights and legal obligations. It is therefore essential that individuals continue to have access to the performance of marriage ceremonies during this time.

Accordingly, magistrates shall continue to perform marriage ceremonies. Marriage ceremonies before magistrates shall be held in a location that is approved by the Chief District Court Judge and that is capable of allowing all persons in attendance to practice social distancing. Additionally, the Chief District Court Judge may restrict the hours and times during which marriage ceremonies are conducted, may require appointments for marriage ceremonies, and may restrict attendance at the marriage ceremonies.

This emergency directive is effective on Monday, 20 April 2020.

Issued this the 16th day of April, 2020.



Cheri Beasley  
Chief Justice  
Supreme Court of North Carolina