

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

25TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING EXPANSION OF COURT OPERATIONS

FOR THE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION AND MAGISTRATES COURT

IN THE 25TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT -

IN RESPONSE TO THE JUDICIAL BRANCH RESPONSE TO THE JUDICIAL BRANCH RESPONSE TO COVID-19

NOW COMES the undersigned Chief District Court Judge of the 25th Judicial District, and it appearing that in response to the order of the Chief Justice on March 13, 2020 regarding COVID-19 the undersigned entered a temporary order based upon the conditions existing at that time; Later in the same day after the entry of the temporary order, a memorandum regarding temporary Audio Video policy was sent out by NCAOC Director, McKinley Wooten, Jr.; On Saturday, March 14, 2020 Governor Roy Cooper entered an executive order prohibiting the congregation of 100 persons or more and canceled school for two weeks in the state of North Carolina; On Sunday, March 15, 2020 the Honorable Cheri Beasley issued a memorandum that reiterated and clarified her March 13, 2020 order; On March 27, 2020 Governor Roy Cooper entered Executive Order 121 and enacted a "Stay at Home" order. On Friday, April 3, 2020 the Honorable Cheri Beasley issued a new order with new Emergency Directives necessary to reduce the spread of infection while ensuring the continuation of essential court functions.

On May 20, 2020 Governor Roy Cooper entered Executive Order 141 easing restrictions on Travel, Business Operations and Mass Gatherings. On May 21, 2020 the Honorable Cheri Beasley issued a new order and additional Emergency Directives expanding court operations. Therefore, to abide by the most recent order of the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, and the additional circumstances recited herein, the following procedures will be implemented for criminal and civil matters as it relates to DISTRICT COURT and MAGISTRATES' COURT and shall apply to these courts in Burke, Caldwell and Catawba counties.

To continue to administer justice while protecting the health and safety of the public and court personnel, Judicial District 25 (comprised of Burke, Caldwell and Catawba Counties) shall operate by the following guidelines *effective* June 1, 2020.

1. That Emergency Directive 12 from Chief Justice Cheri Beasley's May 21, 2020 Order provides that the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge shall determine the maximum allowable occupancy of each courtroom or meeting space and that the maximum allowable occupancy of each courtroom shall be prominently posted at the entrance of each courtroom and shall have designated social distancing markers accordingly. That for the purposes of this order, that maximum allowable occupancy designated by such is the controlling number.

