

NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

FRANKLIN AND

GRANVILLE COUNTIES

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING REMOTE PROCEEDINGS  
for INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT HEARINGS**

The undersigned Chief District Court Judge hereby Orders as follows:

1. As soon as is practical and subsequent to all conditions set out below or incorporated herein being satisfied, Involuntary Commitment Hearings normally held on-site at Central Regional Hospital in Granville County and at Maria Parham Health Franklin in Franklin County are allowed to be conducted remotely. This authority is granted pursuant to N.C.G.S. 122C-268(g), and as said statute is explained/modified by the Memorandum of McKinley Wooten, AOC Director, dated March 13, 2020.
2. The WebEx system/platform shall be used for any remote hearings conducted by the terms of this Order and said platform shall be satisfactorily tested for reliability prior to use in actual hearings.
3. Remote hearings shall be initiated by Clerk of Superior Court (or Designee) in the County of the appropriate hearing.
4. Before a hearing can be held, The Clerk of Superior Court shall ensure contact points for access to the WebEX platform are properly functioning for the Respondent and Respondent's Counsel, the Presiding Judge, the Doctor/Petitioner, and the Clerk. To that end, any contact point device used by a participant to the hearing shall enable the participant to see and hear all other participants at the same time. Additionally, the Clerk shall ensure that the Audio/Visual recording component of the WebEX system is working properly before beginning any hearing.

5. Any additional requirements for remote hearings as set out in N.C.G.S. 122C-268(g) and as included in the aforementioned Memorandum of McKinley Wooten, AOC Director, are hereby incorporated fully by reference into this Order, and the same are enforceable as such.

6. The Honorable Caroline Slater Burnette shall oversee the implementation of the provisions of this administrative Order, and any directives from Judge Burnette shall be followed.

Entered this the 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.



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