

20B124

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF MOORE

**FILED** IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE  
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

2020 MAY 11 A 10:57

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING RESUMPTION OF CRIMINAL HEARINGS IN DISTRICT COURT THROUGH MAY 29, 2020**

MOORE CO., C.S.E.

LMD

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of North Carolina and the Chief Justice of North Carolina Supreme Court have issued Orders for the courts to take appropriate measures to protect health and safety and minimize exposure to COVID-19. Said Orders stated in part, that all District Court Proceedings must be scheduled or rescheduled for a date no sooner than June 1, 2020 unless they fell into a limited set of circumstances;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the prior Orders by the Governor and the Chief Justice certain permissible criminal hearings have been held including, but not limited to hearings conducted remotely, proceedings necessary to preserve the right to due process of law (e.g., a first appearance following an arrest while still in custody, bond hearing, a probation hearing, a probable cause hearing, etc.);

WHEREAS, a large number of criminal cases have been rescheduled and delayed past June 1, 2020 pursuant to the Orders of the Governor and the Chief Justice and that defendants, victims, witnesses, and other interested persons involved in a criminal matter are entitled to having their matters heard and addressed in a reasonable fashion given the nature of the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the Chief Justice in the Order dated May 1, 2020 in Emergency Directive 1 allowed the Chief District Court Judge to determine that a proceeding can be conducted under conditions that protect the health and safety of all participants;

WHEREAS, the Chief District Court Judge in consultation with representatives with the office of the Moore County Clerk of Superior Court, Moore County District Attorney's Office, Moore County Sheriff's Office, Moore County Bar Association, and the Moore County Department of Health has determined that certain proceedings in criminal district court can be conducted under conditions that promote the health and safety of all participants;

WHEREAS, the described proceedings below will be held in strict compliance by the guidelines and recommendations offered by the Center for Disease Control in relation to social distancing between persons, the use of face coverings, and regular sanitizing of areas and items touched by persons;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that on May 20 through May 22, 2020 criminal district court will be held whereby matters involving only guilty pleas of defendants not in custody will be held based on a schedule coordinated by the Moore County

District Attorney's Office with defense attorneys. That a maximum of ten (10) defendants will be allowed in the courtroom during the assigned attorney time.

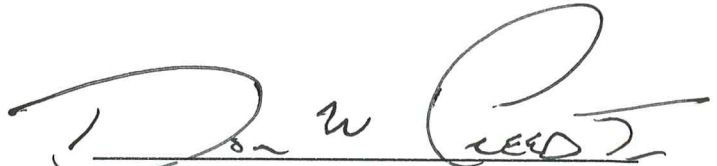
THAT on May 27 through May 29, 2020 criminal District Court will be held whereby first appearances and right to counsel hearings will be conducted on entitled defendants not in custody. That the hearings will be scheduled to have no more than twenty-one (21) defendants in the courtroom at one time. The office of the Moore County Clerk of Superior Court will send out notices to said defendants.

THAT all persons shall comply with social distancing and hygiene protocols while in the Courthouse and courtroom;

THAT it is recommended that all persons wear face coverings while in the courtroom.

This Administrative Order shall be effective immediately and shall expire on May 30, 2020.

This the 11 day of May 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don W. Creed, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Hon. Don W. "Skipper" Creed, Jr.  
Chief District Court Judge  
19D Judicial District