

FILED

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF UNIONIN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 20B
2020 MAR 13 P 4:48ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

UNION CO., C.S.C.

Pursuant to the order of the Honorable Cheri Beasley, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, in order to limit the spread of infection of the Novel Coronavirus/COVID-19, it is hereby ordered:

1. Administrative Traffic Court on Fridays will be cancelled on March 20, March 27, and April 3, and April 17, 2020. Cases will be continued, and notices will be sent to the parties at their address of record.
2. No jury trials will commence before April 20, 2020. Jurors summoned for trials from Monday, March 16, 2020 until April 17, 2020, do not need to report to the Courthouse and do not need to submit requests for jury excuses.
3. The following hearings will continue as scheduled:
 - a. Secure custody hearings in juvenile delinquency cases.
 - b. Non-secure custody hearings in juvenile abuse, neglect, and dependency cases (DSS).
 - c. Domestic Violence Protective Order return hearings involving child custody.
 - d. Video first appearances in criminal cases and video 96-hour hearings (for jail inmates).
 - e. Video bond hearings in domestic violence matters (48-hour hearings).
 - f. Probable cause hearings.
 - g. Probation hearings for incarcerated probationers.
 - h. Other matters may be set for hearing and/or disposition in the discretion of the Court if deemed prudent to do so.
4. The Courthouse will be open, and judges will be available to hear requests for Domestic Violence Protective Orders (50B), No-Contact Orders (50C), and Emergency Ex-Parte Custody Orders, as well as other requests for emergency relief.
5. All other cases not listed above—District and Superior Criminal Court, Superior and District Civil Court, DWI Treatment Court, Family Court, Child Support Court, Truancy Court, and Small Claims court will be canceled for the next 30 days. Cases will be continued and rescheduled administratively with notice to parties and attorneys as applicable.
6. Other matters that will be cancelled for the next thirty days include child custody mediation orientation, child custody mediations, arbitration hearings, and Day One hearings in juvenile (DSS) cases.

7. Courts will resume regular operations on April 20, 2020, subject to further orders of the Chief Justice, and the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge and Chief District Court Judge for District 20B (Union County).
8. For reference, see the Order of the Chief Justice attached hereto.

Entered this the 13th day of March 2020.



**WILLIAM F. HELMS III
CHIEF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 20B**



**JEFFERY K. CARPENTER
SENIOR RESIDENT SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE
DISTRICT 20B**

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

On 10 March 2020, Governor Roy Cooper declared a state of emergency in North Carolina in response to the emerging public health threat posed by COVID-19. Since that time, the World Health Organization has designated the COVID-19 outbreak as a global pandemic, and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has urged all North Carolinians to take steps to reduce the spread of infection.

Accordingly, I hereby determine and declare under N.C.G.S. § 7A-39(b)(2) that catastrophic conditions resulting from the public health threat posed by COVID-19 exist in all counties of this state.

Although the superior courts and district courts remain open, two emergency directives are necessary to reduce the spread of infection.

Emergency Directive 1

I order that all superior court and district court proceedings be scheduled or rescheduled for a date no sooner than 30 days from the issuance of this order, unless:

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 bond hearing, the appointment of counsel for an indigent defendant, a probation hearing, a probable cause hearing, etc.);
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, civil commitment order, etc.); 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.

This emergency directive does not apply to any proceeding in which a jury has already been empaneled.

This emergency directive does not apply to grand juries which have already been empaneled.

This emergency directive does not prohibit a judge or other judicial officer from exercising any in chambers or ex parte jurisdiction conferred by law upon that judge or judicial officer, as provided by law.

Additionally, I encourage the superior courts and district courts to liberally grant additional accommodations to parties, witnesses, attorneys, and others with business before the courts who are at a high risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

Emergency Directive 2

I further order that the clerks of superior court shall post a notice at the entrance to every court facility in their county directing that any person who has likely been exposed to COVID-19 should not enter the courthouse. A person who has likely been exposed to COVID-19 who has business before the courts shall contact the clerk of superior court's office by telephone or other remote means, inform court personnel of the nature of his or her business before the court, and receive further instruction. For purposes of this order, a person who has likely been exposed to COVID-19 is defined as any person who:

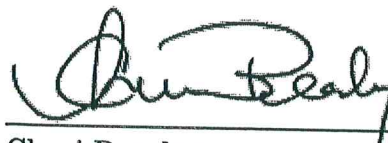
1. has traveled to China, South Korea, Japan, Italy, or Iran within the previous 14 days;
2. has been directed to quarantine, isolate, or self-monitor;
3. has been diagnosed with COVID-19; or
4. resides with or has been in close contact with any person in the abovementioned categories.

* * *

The directives contained in this order will take effect Monday, 16 March 2020.

This order may be extended in whole or in part for additional 30-day periods if necessary.

Issued this the 13th day of March, 2020.



Cheri Beasley
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of North Carolina