

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER – GREENSBORO and HIGH POINT COURTHOUSES

The undersigned Senior Resident Superior Court Judge and Chief District Court Judge for Judicial District 18 enter this Administrative Order pursuant to Governor Roy Cooper declaring a statewide emergency in response to the coronavirus COVID-19.

IT APPEARING TO THE COURT that on March 13, 2020, Governor Roy Cooper declared a state of emergency and recognized that the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services recommends that “people at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 avoid large groups of people as much as possible” and further recognized that the “people at high risk of severe illness” are “adults over 65 years, those with underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes, or with weakened immune systems;”

IT APPEARING TO THE COURT that the Guilford County Health Director has designated the Guilford County Courthouse (GSO) as a “hot spot” due to the number of COVID-19 positive employees and those exposed to the virus requiring testing and time to quarantine; and also recommended restricting access to courts and the building; and it also appearing to the Court that Clerk of Superior Court employees have been significantly impacted and workforce in Greensboro and High Point are greatly diminished;

AND IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services recommends for “Mass Gathering Events” that the event organizers, in part: 1) urge everyone who is sick not to attend; 2) encourage those who are at high risk as described above not attend; 3) find ways to give people more physical space to limit close contact as much as possible; and 4) encourage attendees to wash hands frequently;

AND IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that Article 1, Section 18 of the North Carolina Constitution provides “All courts shall be open; every person for an injury done him in his lands, goods, person, or reputation shall have remedy by due course of law, and right and justice shall be administered without favor, denial or delay;”

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

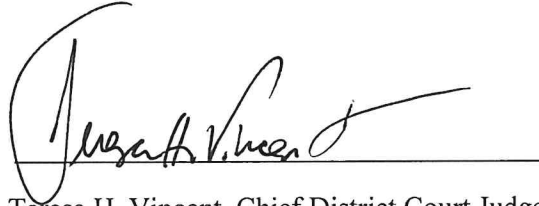
1. Only courts (unless otherwise addressed) that are necessary to due process of law, or are otherwise deemed necessary, and specifically Domestic Violence Court, Juvenile Delinquency, Department of Health and Human Services Court (Matters scheduled for remote hearings only) and First Appearances will be held from Wednesday, January 13, 2021, at 12:30 pm, through Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 5:00 pm, in the Greensboro and High Point Courthouses, EXCEPT Civil Courts in Greensboro courts 2E/3A and High Point 3A shall continue to hold pre-trial conferences remotely each day at 9:00 am. First Appearances will be held at 11:30 am beginning Thursday, January 14, 2021, and through Tuesday, January 19, 2021; whereas the other operating courts will begin at 9:00 am. Magistrates shall continue hearing involuntary commitments matters.
2. Small Claims Court, District (other than the aforementioned) and Superior courts in the Greensboro and High Point Courthouses are **suspended** from Wednesday, January 13, 2021, at 12:30 pm, through Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at 5:00 pm, in the Greensboro and High Point Courthouses.
3. The grand jury shall convene on January 20, 2021, at 8:15 am.
4. Bond Motions shall continue to be heard in District Courts. However, bond motions shall not be heard in Superior Courts from January 13, 2021, to January 19, 2021.
5. All courts will resume on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, in the Greensboro and High Point Courthouses, unless otherwise notified.
6. The Judge’s Chambers will be open from 9:00 am to 12:30 each day from January 13, 2021, to January 19, 2021, unless otherwise notified.

7. The Clerk of Superior Court offices shall be closed to the public through Tuesday, January 19, 2021. The operating hours beginning on January 20, 2021, are from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. All Clerk remote hearings scheduled during this period shall be heard by the Clerk of Superior Court or her designee in accordance with the present schedule.
8. Jury Trials shall resume in District and Superior Courts in March 2021.

THIS the 13th day of January, 2021.

/s/ John O. Craig

John O. Craig, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teresa H. Vincent", written over a horizontal line.

Teresa H. Vincent, Chief District Court Judge