

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF DURHAM

2017100
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR AND DISTRICT COURTS

FILED
2020 MAR 17 A 10 47

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
DURHAM CO., C.S.C.

BY _____

March 13, 2020, Chief Justice Cheri Beasley entered an order implementing measures designed to curb the spread of COVID-19 and minimize the risk of exposure caused by crowded sessions of court. Consistent with the Chief Justice's order, effective Monday, March 16, superior court and district court proceedings of the 14th Judicial District will be rescheduled for at least 30 days, with limited exceptions, which appear on the following pages.

The emergency directive of the Chief Justice does not apply to proceedings in which a jury has already been empaneled and it does not prohibit a judge or other judicial officer from exercising in chambers or *ex parte* jurisdiction conferred by law upon that judge or judicial officer, as provided by law. Additionally, the emergency directive *does not extend filing and other deadlines*.

Court offices in the Durham County Courthouse will remain open for business. However, unless you are required to appear in-person to conduct your business, attorneys and the public are strongly encouraged to use email and telephone to communicate with staff of the 14th Judicial District. Contact information may be found on the [Judicial Directory](#).

[Online court services](#) are available for handling some court business, including citation services, paying your ticket, court payments, signing up for court date notifications and reminders.

Accurate and timely information may be obtained from the following resources:

- Information about the North Carolina Judicial Branch system-wide response to the COVID-19 virus is available on the [NCCourts.gov website](#).
- Information specific to Durham County courts will be available [here](#).

MAGISTRATE AND SMALL CLAIMS

- The Magistrate's Office (219 N. Magnum Street, Durham, NC) will be open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week and normal operations will continue for Warrants for Arrest, Magistrate's Orders, Criminal Summons, Initial Appearances, Cash Bonds / Property Bonds, Involuntary Commitment Orders, Juvenile Petitions, and Secured and Non-Secured Custody Orders.
- Initial appearances and weddings will be conducted at the Magistrate's Office.
- All Small Claims court proceedings are suspended, and pending matters will be continued and rescheduled.

DISTRICT COURT:

- Maintain normal office hours, until further notice

Civil Domestic Violence Court

- Courtroom 5A (Durham County Courthouse) will operate daily for the purpose of hearing *ex parte* Domestic Violence Protective Order (DVPO) requests and ten-day return hearings pursuant to G.S. 50B.
- Courtroom 5A (Durham County Courthouse) will also hear requests for emergency relief pursuant to G.S. 50C.
- DVPOs with no *Ex Parte* Order, Motions to Show Cause, Motions to Modify or Set Aside, and Motions for Return of Weapons may be continued beyond 30 days

Civil District Court

- Durham County Courthouse will hear emergency and time sensitive *ex parte* matters including, but not limited to: Motions for TRO and Motions to Stay Eviction.
- All District Court Arbitrations will be rescheduled beyond 30 days.

Family Court

- All Family Courts will be closed and cases will be rescheduled beyond 30 days.
- Any Emergency Custody cases or other emergency matters will be heard by the assigned Family Court Judge.

Criminal District Court

- Criminal Court will be operating Monday thru Thursday at 2:30pm in Courtroom 4D only to hear probable cause matters with defendants that are in custody and any emergency matters. All cases with defendants not in custody will be continued.
- Probation cases where defendant has already served their underlying sentences will be heard in Jail court.
- Criminal/probation cases will be heard in Jail court where defendants has served their maximum sentence.

Juvenile Abuse Neglect & Dependency Court

- Hearings for Motions for Non-Secure Custody should be coordinated with Stephanie Benfield at 919-808-3251 or stephanie.w.benfield@nccourts.org for Judge Walker and Judge Rhinehart via the District Court Judges Office.

Juvenile Delinquency Court

- Cases will be rescheduled beyond 30 days except for those cases where the juvenile is in secured custody. Secured Custody Reviews and First Appearances should be coordinated with Judge Evans or Judge Wilks via the District Court Judges Office.

Child Support Enforcement Court

- Child Support cases will be rescheduled beyond 30 days except for those cases where the defendant is in custody and the minor child will be turning 18 or graduating.
- Child support cases with the defendant in custody will be heard in Jail court on Wednesdays at 12:30pm.

SUPERIOR COURT:

- Maintain normal office hours, until further notice

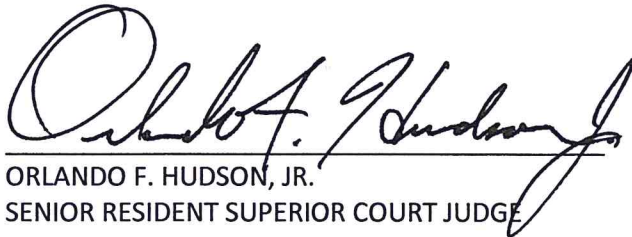
Criminal Superior Court

- No calendar call on March 16, 2020
- No new jury trials; no jurors are to report (unless already empaneled on an ongoing matter as per instructions, subject to discretion of trial judge)
- Criminal court sessions will commence on March 16, 2020 for:
 - Bond Hearing and First Appearance for defendants in custody, where feasible, as scheduled by the District Attorney after consultation with defense counsel; and
 - Probation violations for persons in custody as follows: first appearances, bond, and probable cause hearings will commence March 16, as scheduled by the District Attorney.

Civil Superior Court

- No new jury trials; no jurors are to report (unless already empaneled on an ongoing matter as per instructions, subject to discretion of trial judge)
- Civil Superior hearings will be rescheduled beyond 30 days.

This the 17th day of March, 2020


ORLANDO F. HUDSON, JR.
SENIOR RESIDENT SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE


PAT EVANS
CHIEF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE