

FILED

NORTH CAROLINA
ALAMANCE COUNTY 2 58

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

ALAMANCE CO., C.S.C.

BY *kn*

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

RE: REQUESTS TO BE EXCUSED FROM JURY SERVICE/DEFERRALS

The undersigned Chief District Court Judge of Judicial District 15A enter this Administrative Order pursuant to S.L. 2023-103 (HB)193-Changes to the processing of juror excuses.

THIS MATTER is appropriate for entry of an Administrative Order as it affects the entire Criminal District Court Division of Judicial District 15A (Alamance County).

THAT on July 21, 2023, the Governor signed into law N.C. Session Law 2023-103 (HB 193) (Hereinafter referred to as HB 193). Effective October 1, 2023, Section 8 of HB 193 allows the Chief District Court Judge to delegate the duty of passing on juror excuse applications to the Clerk of Superior Court, with the Clerk's consent.

THAT section 8(a) of HB 193 allows a Chief District Court Judge to delegate the task of receiving requests and passing on requests for excusal, deferral, or permanent or temporary exemption from service, pursuant to G.S. § § 9-6 (b), 9.6.1(a), (b), and (c) to the Clerk of Superior Court, who may assign them to his/her staff:

THAT pursuant to G.S. § § 9-3, 9-6 (a), (b) (d), 9.6.1 (a), (b), and (c) some persons receiving a notice to appear for jury service are disqualified and are required by law to be excused by the Court from such jury service.

THAT it would be an efficient use of the Court's time to authorize the Alamance County Clerk of Superior Court with his/her consent to assign to his/her staff the duty to ministerially make the notation on the request for excuse from jury service pursuant to the authority of an Administrative Order rather than requiring an appropriate District Court Judge to personally sign the request for excuse from jury service in these limited situations reflected below in which the person is disqualified from jury service.

THAT by authority of G.S. §7A-146 and pursuant to the directives of the North Carolina Supreme Court, it is hereby ordered that the following procedures are effective immediately.

THIS Administrative Order shall supersede all previous Administrative Orders regarding requests to be excused from jury service/deferrals.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Effective immediately upon the entry of this Administrative Order, the Alamance County Clerk of Superior Court or his/her designee may receive requests and may pass on requests for excusal, deferral, or permanent or temporary exemptions from jury service, pursuant G.S. § § 9-3, 9-6 (a), (b) (d), 9.6.1(a), (b), and (c) using the following guidelines.

- a. Any person who does not meet the qualifications of prospective jurors pursuant to G.S. § 9-3 may be excused, deferred, or permanently or temporarily exempted.
- b. Any student summoned during their school year/ during a period the prospective juror is scheduled to be in classes or exams (proper documentation provided) may be deferred.
- c. Any person over the age of 72 with a condition that could interfere with the person's ability to serve as a juror (must provide a brief explanation, additional documentation may be required) may be excused, deferred, or permanently or temporarily exempted.
- d. Any person who has a disability that could interfere with the person's ability to serve as a juror (must provide a brief explanation, additional documentation may be required) may be excused, deferred, or permanently or temporarily exempted.
- e. Any person suffering from a readily contagious illness (i.e. flu, Coronavirus Disease 2019, colds, etc., proper documentation provided) may be deferred without the required five day notice.
- f. Any person summoned during a vacation period, doctor's appointment, surgery, or business trip (proper documentation provided) may be deferred.
- g. Any person who cannot understand the English language may be excused, deferred, or permanently or temporarily exempted.

2. This Administrative Order applies to the limited situations and circumstances reflected above and to no other, and all other requests for excuse from jury service shall be reviewed by, decided upon, and granted or denied by an appropriate District Court Judge as the case may be.

3. This Administrative Order shall supersede all previous Administrative Orders regarding requests to be excused from jury service/deferrals.

4. This Administrative Order shall be filed with the Alamance County Clerk of Superior Court and shall be maintained with the other Administrative Orders of this Court as part of the Local Rules of the District Court of the seventeenth Judicial District.

This the 10th day of October, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bradley Reid Allen, Sr." in a cursive style.

Bradley Reid Allen, Sr.
Chief District Court Judge