

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY
COUNTY OF STANLY

FILED

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
MONTGOMERY FILE NO. 20-R-1

2020 MAY 19 A 8:15 STANLY FILE NO. 20-R-1

JUDICIAL DISTRICT 20A STANLY CO., C.S. ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

This matter coming on before the Honorable Kevin M. Bridges, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge in Judicial District 20A, to establish procedures for scheduling and conducting remote hearings via audio/video conferencing for cases pending in Civil Superior Court throughout the district in accordance with the emergency directives of the Honorable Cheri Beasley, Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court;

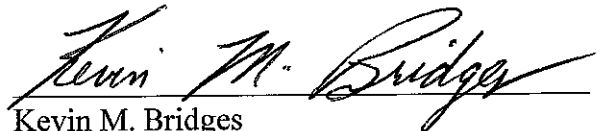
And the Court finds and concludes that this Order is necessary to promote the efficient administration of justice while protecting all litigants, court personnel, and the public from the COVID-19 pandemic.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED:

1. Civil Superior Court Sessions in Montgomery and Stanly Counties shall be conducted remotely by audio/video conferencing. Pursuant to the Chief Justice's Emergency Directive 3, consent of the parties is not required. However, a party may object for good cause to the use of remote audio and video transmissions.
2. If an objection to a remote hearing is upheld by the Court for good cause shown, the case will be set for a hearing in the courtroom and conducted under conditions that protect the health and safety of all participants. Everyone participating in a hearing in the courtroom is encouraged to bring their own personal protective equipment.
3. The audio/video conferencing platform will be Cisco WebEx. Parties and witnesses can participate in the hearing by clicking on an invitation link that will be sent to them. All individuals participating in the remote hearing are **REQUIRED** to provide a working email address and a working telephone number. All participants shall be on standby on the date and time of the scheduled hearing. The Judicial Assistant, Stephanie Hinson, will call to inform all participants as to when they should click on the link to join the remote hearing.
4. Parties may schedule a remote hearing by completing a notice of hearing using the Calendar Request on the Stanly County webpage of nccourts.gov and emailing that to the Judicial Assistant at stephanie.h.hinson@nccourts.org. It is important that an accurate estimate of the total time needed for the hearing be included on the Calendar Request.
5. The Judicial Assistant shall schedule the hearings based on the total time estimated to conduct each hearing. The Judicial Assistant shall also prepare the calendar and publish it on nccourts.gov and distribute it by email to the hearing participants.
6. In addition to the normal functions of a civil clerk with respect to hearings, the clerk shall also issue WebEx invitations, serve as host, and record the hearings.

7. A court reporter shall be present for all Civil Superior Court Sessions.
8. All briefs and memoranda of law shall be emailed to the Judicial Assistant at stephanie.h.hinson@nccourts.org no later than two business days prior to the hearing. Hard copies should not be submitted. All counsel of record and pro se parties shall be served consistent with Rule 5 of the NC Rules of Civil Procedure unless the parties have an alternate agreement. Affidavits, deposition transcripts, exhibits, and supporting authority shall be attached to the briefs.
9. A digital copy of all evidence received during the hearing shall be sent to the clerk at the conclusion of the hearing by the offering party.
10. **The parties may stipulate that the Court can decide a motion on the briefs and memoranda of law submitted without a hearing.**
11. Pursuant to the Chief Justice's Emergency Directive 5, for all documents in which a verification or oath is required, it shall be sufficient for an affirmation to be given under the penalties for perjury in lieu of notarization.
12. No party shall record, or have recorded on their behalf, any remote hearing.
13. All participants shall mute their microphones when they are not speaking during a hearing to minimize background noise and distractions.
14. All hearings shall be open to the public. Any member of the public who wants to observe a hearing shall contact the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court for the appropriate county for a link to the hearing.
15. This Order shall be effective immediately.

This the 18th day of May, 2020.


Kevin M. Bridges
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge
Judicial District 20A