

NORTH CAROLINA

BERTIE COUNTY

IN RE:

CORONAVIRUS     )  
(COVID-19)        )

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE  
SUPERIOR AND DISTRICT  
COURT DIVISIONS  
20R\_\_\_\_\_

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

The undersigned Senior Resident Superior Court Judge for Judicial District 6B and Chief District Court Judge for Judicial District 6 enter this administrative order in response to Governor Roy Cooper's declaration of a State of Emergency in the State of North Carolina on March 10, 2020 and in accordance with the Order of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina.

IT APPEARING TO THE COURT that catastrophic conditions resulting from the public health threat posed by COVID-19 exist in Bertie County, North Carolina.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Effective Monday, March 16, 2020, Superior Court and District Court proceedings shall be scheduled or be rescheduled for a date no sooner than 30 days from the issuance of this order. Any person who has business before the Court which may be affected by this order should call the Clerk of Superior Court at 252-794-6800.
2. Proceedings 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.) may be held remotely at the judge's discretion.
3. Proceedings 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.) may be held remotely at the judge's discretion.
4. This administrative order 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.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

1. The Clerk 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:
  - a. has traveled to China, South Korea, Japan, Italy, or Iran within the previous 14 days;
  - b. has been directed to quarantine, isolate, or self-monitor;
  - c. has been diagnosed with COVID-19; or
  - d. resides with or has been in close contact with any person in the abovementioned categories.
2. Anyone with an illness is strongly encouraged not to come to the courthouse.
3. Everyone working or attending court at the courthouse should wash their hands frequently.
4. The frequency of cleaning public areas including lobbies, elevators, door handles, and public restrooms shall be increased to three times daily.
5. This administrative order shall expire when the declared state of emergency expires or upon further order of the Court.

This the 13<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.

  
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Cy A. Grant, Sr.  
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge

  
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Brenda G. Branch  
Chief District Court Judge