

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 16B**

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

ROBESON COUNTY

IN RE:

**COURT CLOSURES NECESSARY
TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH
AND SLOW THE SPREAD OF
COVID-19 IN THE ROBESON
COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
January 19, 2022**

THIS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER has been entered to ensure fair and proper administration of justice and to mitigate the public health threat posed by COVID-19 within the Robeson County Courthouse. The undersigned Chief District Court Judge enters this Administrative Order pursuant to the inherent authority of the court and in its administrative supervision and authority over the operation of the District Courts in the Judicial District of 16B pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 7A. This order is intended to address the unprecedented public health threat posed by COVID-19 to court staff, the Bar, and the public who have business in the Robeson County Courthouse.

Whereas, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, and is a highly-contagious strain of coronavirus that can be spread from person to person; and

Whereas, the undersigned Chief District Court Judge has consulted with the Director of the Robeson County Health Department who indicated that 1 in 3 persons who are tested for COVID-19 are positive, and that Robeson County is not likely to see any decrease in the next week; and

Whereas, over a significant number of members of the Robeson County Bar and employees of the Robeson County Courthouse have either tested positive for COVID-19 or are in quarantine due to positive family members or other exposures; and

Whereas, additional court staff, law enforcement, and employees have reported symptoms of COVID-19 or exposure; and

Whereas, the spread of COVID-19 in Robeson County has increased significantly over the last week from a positivity rate reported at 21 percent, to a positivity rate of 36 percent; and

Whereas, the extent of the COVID-19 outbreak amongst Robeson County court staff and personnel cannot be fully ascertained and contained as of the date of the entry of this order; and

Whereas, the safety of the public health is at risk, and the efficiency of court proceedings has been greatly diminished due to the effects of COVID-19 on members of the Bar and Courthouse staff.

WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that effective immediately and until January 31, 2022:

1. All sessions of district court in Judicial District 16B are cancelled and rescheduled to a date after the resumption of normal court operations, except as follows:
 - a. Ex Parte requests for temporary Domestic Violence Protection Orders and No-Contact Orders will be heard as normal at 2:00 p.m. in Courtroom 3B.
 - b. LTON (JUV-2) sessions scheduled for January 26 and January 27 will operate as normal, with scheduling of cases and COVID-19 precautions remaining in place.
 - c. All Secured Custody Hearings in delinquency actions shall be heard on January 25, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Robeson County Department of Social Services.
 - d. LTON (DVH) scheduled for January 25 will be in session, however cases will be scheduled in time slots and notice will be provided to the appropriate parties by the Clerk of Superior Court.
 - e. First Appearance hearings scheduled pursuant to N.C.G.S 15A will be heard on January 20, January 24, January 27, and January 28 in Courtroom 3C at 10:00 a.m.
 - f. Motions to address bonds and conditions of release that were previously scheduled but were not heard due to court cancellations may be addressed during sessions of First Appearance hearings, if notice is given to the District Attorney's Office prior to the session.
 - g. IVC hearings will be heard as normal.
2. All district courts will resume normal operations as originally scheduled on **January 31, 2022**.

Entered and effective, this the 19th day of January 2022.

/S/ Angelica Chavis McIntyre

The Honorable Angelica Chavis McIntyre
Chief District Court Judge