

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

25th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

IN THE MATTER CONCERNING THE USE OF CELL PHONES
IN THE DISTRICT COURTS OF THE 25TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
BURKE, CATAWBA, CALDWELL COUNTIES

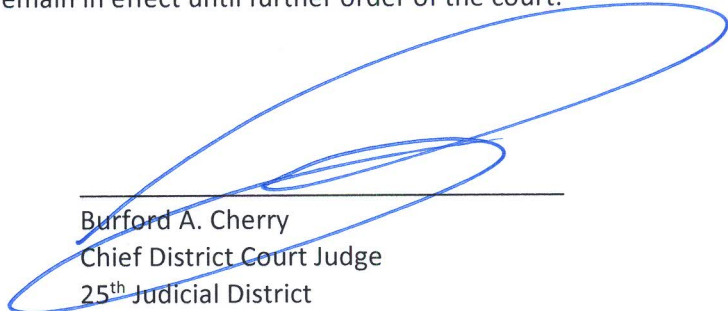
ORDER CONCERNING CELL PHONES IN THE DISTRICT COURTS OF THE 25TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DURING PERIODS OF RESTRICTED OPERATIONS CAUSED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

This matter came on before the undersigned Chief District Court Judge concerning the possession and use of cell phones in the District Courts of 25th Judicial District. The Court finds as fact and concludes as a matter of law that:

1. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has determined that "catastrophic conditions resulting from the Covid-19 outbreak have existed and continue to exist in all counties of this state."
2. Prior orders entered by the undersigned prohibit the possession and use of cell phones by persons entering the District Courts of the 25th Judicial District County.
3. Permitting cell phone communication between litigants their witnesses and their attorneys will facilitate efforts to reduce the number of people waiting in courtrooms, public spaces and lines at the courthouse.

Based on the foregoing findings of fact and conclusions of law, it is hereby ordered that cell phones are permitted in the courthouse to facilitate communications with victims or witnesses who may be required to wait outside the courthouse and to communicate with attorneys. Phones shall be placed on silent or vibrating mode while in the courtroom. Cell phones shall not be utilized to record either audio or video or still photos of court proceedings or any persons in the courtroom without the express permission of the presiding judge. Cell phones shall not be used to play games, watch videos, listen to music, or for other entertainment. Anyone who abuses this privilege will be subject to sanctions including but not limited to seizure of their cell phone until their case is completed at which time the phone shall be returned. This order shall remain in effect until further order of the court.

This the 29 day of May 2020.



Burford A. Cherry
Chief District Court Judge
25th Judicial District