STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

COUNTY OF CLEVELAND

Cleveland County Record No. 20-R-112

IN RE: CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19))	
)	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
Closure of Courthouse Facilities)	CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)
)	

This Order is entered by the undersigned judges, being the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge and the Chief District Court Judge of Judicial District 27B, through the inherent authority of those offices and pursuant to Executive Orders of the Honorable Roy Cooper, Governor of North Carolina and the Emergency Directives of the Honorable Cheri Beasley, Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, to protect the public as well as state and local employees working in the Cleveland County Courthouse.

The undersigned received communication from the Sheriff of Cleveland County that a sheriff's deputy of his department has tested positive for COVID-19, a highly contagious communicable disease. This officer works within the Cleveland County Courthouse, but is not a courtroom bailiff, courthouse security officer, nor custodian of any inmate, but does have responsibility for filing papers with the Clerk's Office.

Based upon a review of information readily available, the following facts are found:

- 1. One member of the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department has tested positive for COVID-19 on or about April 8, 2020. This officer works within the Cleveland County Courthouse, but is not a courtroom bailiff, courthouse security officer, nor custodian of any inmate, but does have responsibility for filing papers with the Cleveland County Clerk of Superior Court's Office.
- 2. Sheriff Alan Norman is requiring that all deputies who had contact with above deputy shall self-quarantine.
- 3. These facts came to the attention of the undersigned on the afternoon of April 8, 2020.
- 4. COVID-19 is highly contagious and can be deadly.
- 5. In similar situation during recent days, Public Health has advised as a precaution that the affected building be shut down for a deep cleaning prior to re-opening.
- 6. As has been the case throughout this Pandemic crisis, this court is faced with making unprecedented decisions concerning the closure of courthouse facilities, which are generally required by law to be open to the public. Such decisions necessarily include a balancing of the imperative and absolute necessity of protecting the public from the possibility of infection, while at the same time protecting the constitutional rights of those having pending civil and criminal proceedings that need to be addressed in a timely manner.

Therefore, based upon the foregoing, it is **HEREBY ORDERED**:

- 1. The Cleveland County Courthouse shall be closed on Thursday, April 9, 2020. The closure may be extended as circumstances require.
- 2. All Courts scheduled for April 9, 2020 are cancelled.
- 3. The Cleveland County Public Health Authority in conjunction with the Cleveland County Commissioners shall provide for the Cleveland County Courthouse to undergo a professional deep cleaning and sanitation to be completed on or before April 11, 2020.
- 4. The undersigned hereby requests and directs, to the fullest extent possible, that the Cleveland County Public Health Authority shall:
 - a) Provide consultation and advice as to when it is safe for the Cleveland County Courthouse to be re-opened, for both employees and members of the public.
 - b) Take into account the nature and extent of contact between the affected Sheriff's Deputy described above and other persons in or about the Cleveland County Courthouse, the areas of the facility in which the Sheriff's Deputy traveled during the past fourteen (14) days, the extent to which paperwork or other items touched by said Sheriff's Deputy have been disseminated to or touched by other persons, and any other relevant considerations as determined by such Health officials.
- 5. A telephone or video conference shall be held on either April 11, 2020 or April 12, 2020 to determine the feasibility of proceeding with the opening of the Cleveland County Courthouse on April 13, 2020.
- 6. Upon the decision to re-open the facility, an announcement will be posted providing the details of the re-opening on the following media:
 - a) nccourts.gov
 - b) Facebook: "Cleveland County Courthouse Judicial District 27B"
 - c) TV News Station(s): WBTV, WSOC-TV and Spectrum News
- 7. Upon the re-opening of the facility, the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department shall take the temperature of each person entering the Cleveland County Courthouse and no person shall be allowed in the Courthouse who refuses to be tested or whose temperature is above normal of 98.6F. This Sheriff shall have the discretion to bar any person from the Cleveland County Courthouse who appears to be ill.

This the 8th day of April, 2020.

COPY	COPY	
/s/ Larry J. Wilson	/s/ Forrest D. Bridges	
Chief District Court Judge	Senior Resident Superior Court Judge	
Judicial District 27B	Judicial District 27B	