



March 16, 2020

On Friday March 13, 2020, Chief Justice Cheri Beasley entered an order implementing measures designed to curb the spread of COVID-19 and minimize the risk of exposure caused by crowded sessions of court. Consistent with the Chief Justice's order, effective Monday, March 16, superior court and district court proceedings of the First Judicial District will be rescheduled for at least 30 days, with limited exceptions, which appear on the following pages. Additionally, the emergency directive *does not extend filing and other deadlines*.

***Court offices in the Dare County Justice Center will remain open for business.*** However, unless you are required to appear in-person to conduct your business, attorneys and the public are strongly encouraged to use email and telephone to communicate with staff of the Dare County Clerk of Courts Office. Contact information may be found on the Judicial Directory located on the [www.nccourts.gov](http://www.nccourts.gov) website.

[Online court services](http://www.nccourts.gov) are available at [www.nccourts.gov](http://www.nccourts.gov) for handling some court business, including citation services, paying your ticket, court payments, signing up for court date notifications and reminders and more.

Accurate and timely information may be obtained from the following resources:

- Questions or concerns please call the Dare County Clerk of Courts Office at (252)475-5200
- Information about the North Carolina Judicial Branch system-wide response to the COVID-19 virus is available on the [NCCourts.gov website](http://NCCourts.gov).
- Information specific to Dare County courts will be available at [www.nccourts.gov](http://www.nccourts.gov).

#### **CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT**

- Maintain normal office hours to accept filings, until further notice
- Guardianship Hearings will be conducted as needed, subject to health precautions, including video testimony, as determined by the Clerk of Court.
- Involuntary Commitments will be conducted as needed, subject to health precautions, including video testimony, as determined by the Clerk of Court.
- Estate administration matters will be conducted, although in-person meetings will subject to health precautions as determined by the Clerk of Court.
- Estate hearings will be postponed for thirty days unless consent by parties to conduct remotely.
- Special Proceeding hearings will be postponed for thirty days.
- Foreclosure hearings will be postponed for thirty days.

Please review the attached Administrative Order from Senior Resident Superior Court Judge Jerry R. Tillett addressing matters before the Superior Court in Dare County and the Administrative Order from Chief District Court Judge Edgar Barnes addressing matters before the District Court in Dare County.

*Dean M. Tolson*

**Dean M. Tolson**

Clerk of Superior Court

Dare County Clerk of Superior Court

**North Carolina Judicial Branch**

O 252-475-5200

F 252-475-5201

<http://www.darenc.com/clerk>

*Justice for all*

[www.NCcourts.org](http://www.NCcourts.org)

