

2024

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR AND DISTRICT
COURT DIVISIONS

COUNTY OF PERSON 2020 JAN 13 PM 12:11

IN RE:

ENTRY SCREENING AND USE)
OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE)
COURTHOUSES OF THE)
NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT)

ADMINISTRATIVE
ORDER

WHEREAS, the Sheriff of Person County is responsible for establishing and maintaining security in and about the county courthouse facilities, and that all persons must comply with this Administrative Order and the Sheriff's instructions regarding courthouse security procedures; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned Senior Resident Superior Court Judge and Chief District Court Judge, in consultation with the Sheriff of Person County, have considered existing policies and procedures and prevailing national standards regarding security and technology in the courthouse, the safety of judicial officers and the public, the efficient operation of court business, and the increasing importance of technology in the practice of law.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is ORDERED:

1. The sheriff is authorized at any time to implement courthouse entry screening procedures and to conduct a search of any and all persons entering the courthouse; and
2. Every person entering the public entrance of the County Courthouse shall be subject to courthouse entry screening procedures, as established by the Sheriff; and
3. Where possible, the following persons shall enter the courthouse through a designated nonpublic entrance:
 - a. judge or courthouse employee who displays his or her credential as such,
 - b. any attorney who displays a North Carolina State Bar identification card and a valid North Carolina driver's license, or
 - c. any individual who displays a valid identification card issued by the Sheriff authorizing expedited entry to the courthouse; and
4. If it is not practicable to establish a designated nonpublic entrance at the courthouse, a separate line at the public entrance may be established for expedited courthouse entry for those persons designated in paragraph 3; and

5. Any person desiring use of a designated nonpublic entrance or an expedited line at a public entrance shall prominently display an approved form of identification, as set out in paragraph 3, prior to entry; and
6. It shall be within the discretion of the Sheriff and his or her officers to permit any individual who displays an approved form of identification to enter the courthouse without having to pass through security screening.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that cell phones, computers, cameras and other personal electronic devices are prohibited in the County Courthouse. This prohibition applies to all persons seeking entry to the courthouse, except the following:

- a. Any individual who displays a valid identification card issued by the Sheriff authorizing expedited entry to the courthouse;
- b. Any individual who has been approved by the Sheriff, or the Sheriff's designee, for entry into the courthouse with a restricted electronic device;
- c. Any attorney who displays a North Carolina State Bar identification card. This permission includes staff employed by the attorney to assist in the attorney's business while in court;
- d. Any pro se litigant or party to a case may seek authorization of the presiding judge to bring a restricted electronic device into the courtroom if necessary for court business. The Clerk of Court may authorize the same for matters appearing before his or her staff. Additionally, any person may seek authorization from the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, the Chief District Court Judge or the Sheriff, or any of their designees. If authorization is given, courthouse security shall permit such person to bring the approved device(s) into the courthouse;
- e. Any member of the media who displays valid media credentials;
- f. Any Federal, State or Local Law Enforcement or Probation and Parole Officer who displays his or her credentials as such;
- g. Any individual who displays a current Jury Summons and who is entering in response to such Summons;
- h. Any Department of Social Services employee or a member of the Guardian Ad Litem Staff or Guardian Ad Litem Volunteer attending court as part of their normal duties, and who displays his or her credentials as such;
- i. Any Judge, Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, or other officer of a governmental agency entering the courthouse for the purpose of conducting Court or an official hearing, and who displays his or her credentials as such;
- j. All staff members of the Offices of the Superior and District Court Judges;

- k. All staff members of the District Attorney's office; and
- l. All staff members of the Clerk of Superior Court.


FURTHER, any person permitted to have a cell phone, computer, camera, or other personal electronic device must silence the same before entry to any courtroom. No one is permitted to photograph, video record, or otherwise capture the image or audio of any person or proceeding in the courtroom, whether from inside or outside the courtroom, without the prior approval of the presiding Judge. Failure to comply with these provisions will result in confiscation of the device until the presiding Judge directs that it may be returned and may also subject the violator to punishment for contempt of court.

Notice of the provisions of this Administrative Order shall be posted prominently at the courthouse facility and shall be listed on the North Carolina Judicial Branch Internet website.

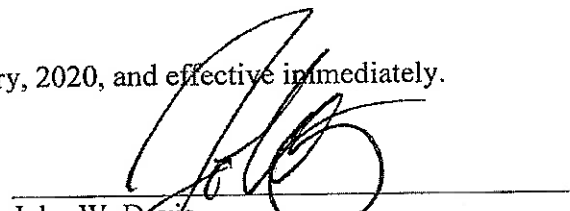
The County Sheriff and his or her officers are hereby authorized to deny courthouse access to any person who fails to comply with this Administrative Order.

All other Administrative Orders pertaining to such devices remain in full force and effect. Nothing herein is to be construed to limit the authority of a Judge to control the Courtroom in which such Judge is presiding.

SO ORDERED this the 7 day of January, 2020, and effective immediately.



John M. Dunlow
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge



John W. Davis
Chief District Court Judge