

NORTH CAROLINA
2nd Judicial District

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

FILED

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
FOR SOCIAL SERVICES MATTERS

BEAUFORT CO., C.S.C.

Pursuant to the Chief District Court Judge's authority and duty under North Carolina General Statute 7A-146, the following Administrative Order is issued:


On 13 March 2020, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina issued a directive closing Superior and District Court with only a few exceptions in response to the National State of Emergency caused by the Covid-19 outbreak. In order to meet the safety needs of community members receiving social services and minimize disruptions to important timeframes, this Court hereby issues the following Administrative Order for the social services programs identified below for hearings that should occur in March and April 2020.

A copy of this Administrative Order shall be valid as if it were an original and shall be served upon each party; or if represented by counsel, served upon their counsel of record by electronic means.

THEREFORE, all child welfare matters scheduled to be heard in Juvenile Court in March or April 2020 that are not contested and do not require an in-person hearing may be resolved by consent of the parties and subsequent signature of the Court and entry out of session. Uncontested child welfare hearings needing the Court's input and those that may be resolved by counsel for the parties and the Court by phone are also hereby authorized to occur out of session as may be arranged by phone during March and April 2020.

FURTHER, all adult protective services matters meeting the criteria for *ex parte* Orders shall proceed as outlined in the N.C.G.S. § 108A-106. For subsequent hearings requiring in person hearings in March or April 2020, time frames, necessary persons in attendance, or other requirements for subsequent hearings may be altered on a case-by-case basis to protect the safety of the adult needing protective services and the community safeguarding due process when possible.

This the 16th day of March 2020.


Regina R. Parker
Chief District Court Judge