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NORTH CAROLINA

GASTON COUNTY

OFFICE OF THE SENIOR RESIDENT  
SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE AND CHIEF DISTRICT  
COURT JUDGE 27A JUDICIAL DISTRICT

2023 APR 26 10:09  
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

IN RE:

CELL PHONES AND OTHER PERSONAL )  
COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN THE )  
COURTHOUSE )  
)

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the undersigned that the need for enhanced court security requires this Order restricting the use of cell phones and other personal communication devices having the capability to take photographs and to record persons and having the capability to record proceedings in violation of Rule 15, General Rules of Practice for the Superior and District Courts, issued by the North Carolina Supreme Court pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. 7A-34; that certain devices have the capability to injure or incapacitate; and that it is in the interest of justice, safety and order, that action be taken to reduce the risk that such devices are used in a manner as to endanger others and disrupt court proceedings;

IT IS ORDERED that the following devices are prohibited in the Gaston County Courthouse:

- a) Cell phones
- b) Smart phones
- c) Laptop computers
- d) Tablet computers
- e) All other electronic devices capable of connecting to the internet or making audio or video recordings

If any unauthorized person enters the courthouse with such device, he or she shall be subject to contempt powers of the court, and the device is subject to confiscation by the Sheriff's Office.

The following persons are exempted from this prohibition:

- 1. An individual who displays a current Gaston County identification card which authorizes entry to the courthouse.
- 2. Attorneys and their staff.
- 3. Individuals having evidence stored on such a device.
- 4. Individuals with pertinent business with the Clerk of Court's Office or the Register of Deeds who have needed information stored on such a device.
- 5. Authorized persons include current courthouse staff, Federal, State, Local law enforcement officers and probation and parole officers who display their credentials.
- 6. Jurors.

7. A judge, commissioner, deputy commissioner or other official of a governmental agency entering the courthouse for the purpose of conducting court or official business.
8. Staff members of the Clerk of Court's Office
9. Staff members of the Superior and District Court Judges.
10. Staff members of the Gaston County District Attorney's Office.
11. Staff members of the Gaston County Public Defender's Office.
12. Staff members of the Gaston County Register of Deed's Office.
13. Staff members of DHHS.
14. Staff members of the office of Guardian Ad Litem and their volunteers.
15. Members of the Press.

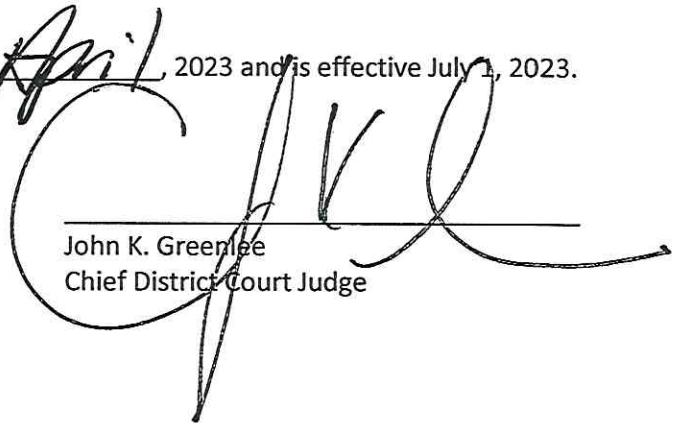
This Order shall become effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 to allow reasonable notice to the public.

Nothing herein is to limit the authority of a presiding judge.

This Order is issued the 26 day of April, 2023 and is effective July 1, 2023.



David A. Phillips  
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge



John K. Greenlee  
Chief District Court Judge