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NORTH CAROLINA
ROBESON COUNTY

FILED

OFFICE OF THE SENIOR RESIDENT
SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE AND CHIEF
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
16-B JUDICIAL DISTRICT

2023 JAN 25 A 11:16
ROBESON CO., C.S.C.

IN RE:

CELL PHONES AND OTHER
PERSONAL COMMUNICATION
DEVICES IN COURTHOUSES

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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, such as witnesses, jurors and attorneys, 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 such devices or devices similar in appearance have the capability to injure or incapacitate; and that it is in the interests 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 Robeson County Courthouse or any other facility while being used to conduct court business:

- 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 does gain entry into any courtroom with such device, he or she shall be subject to contempt powers of the court, and the device is subject to confiscation until the presiding judge decides it may be returned.

The following persons are exempted from this prohibition:

1. An individual who displays a current identification card issued by Robeson County authorized entry to the courthouse.
2. An attorney who displays a current North Carolina State Bar identification card.
3. An individual, such as a litigant having evidence stored on such a device will need to present his/her device to the courthouse security personnel who will place it in an evidence bag for use in court. The evidence bag containing the device will be placed in the custody of the bailiff for the particular courtroom and will remain there until the case

is tried or continued. The bailiff will escort the person out when his/her case is concluded that day and they will receive the device back when they leave the court building.

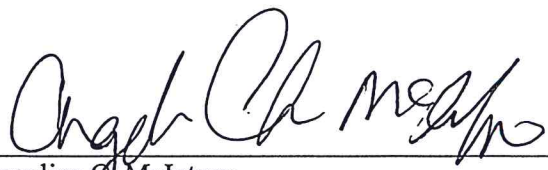
4. A Federal, State and local law enforcement or probation and parole officer who displays his or her credential as such.
5. Any juror or pool of jurors that have been given permission to retain the above described devices by the presiding judge.
6. A judge, commissioner, deputy commissioner or other official of a governmental agency entering the courthouse for the purpose of conducting court or on official business and who displays his or her credentials as such.
7. A member of the Office of the Clerk of Superior court.
8. All staff members of the Offices of the Superior and District Court Judges.
9. All staff members of the Robeson County District Attorney's Office.
10. All staff members of the Robeson County Public Defender's Office.
11. This Order shall become effective March 1, 2023 to allow reasonable notice to the public of the terms of this Order. A copy of this Order shall be run in a newspaper of general circulation in Robeson County as well as being posted on the County's website and any other media that the Court deems appropriate. Furthermore, a copy of this Order shall be posted on the front door of all facilities applicable to this Order as well as outside of all applicable courtrooms.

Nothing herein is to be construed to limit the authority of a judge to control the courtroom in which such judge is presiding.

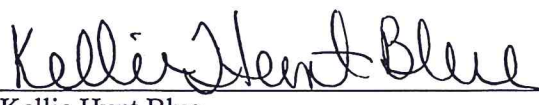
This Order is issued the 25th day of January, 2023 and is effective March 1, 2023.



James G. Bell
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge



Angelica C. McIntyre
Chief District Court Judge



Kellie Hunt Blue
County Manager