

FILED 20 R 326

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

2020 MAY 20

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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COUNTY OF PITT

PITT CO., C.S.C.

DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

IN RE SMALL CLAIMS COURT
PROCEEDINGS FOR THE MONTHS
OF JUNE AND JULY 2020

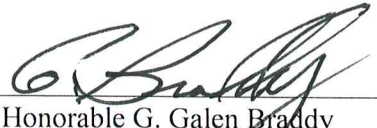
) BY
) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
)

Having reviewed the Orders of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina declaring and determining that catastrophic conditions resulting from the public health threat posed by COVID-19 do exist in all counties of this State and having also received information indicating that there are a substantial number of matters to be addressed in the Small Claims Court of Pitt County, the undersigned judicial official enters the following Order:

It is hereby ORDERED that the Pitt County Small Claims Court shall begin hearing cases on June 1, 2020. The Small Claims Court shall comply with such prudent measures as are prescribed by executive orders, judicial orders, and local health department advisories, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Persons attending court shall comply with such social distancing protocols as are set by Pitt County and enforced by the Pitt County Sheriff. This includes limiting the numbers of persons in attendance in the courtroom to eight, not including the presiding magistrate and the bailiff.
2. Persons arriving after the first eight individuals shall wait outside the courtroom. As one person has their case heard and leaves, another person may enter when given permission to do so. Magistrates shall make an effort to call related cases or cases with common parties at the same time. Magistrates shall have the authority to set times within the calendar for hearing on the day of court, including the authority to tell participants to return at a specified time for the hearing of their cases.
3. In scheduling cases, the clerk shall make every effort to ensure that the total number of cases on a small claims calendar shall not exceed 50. The magistrate shall take the number of cases on a proposed date into consideration before continuing any cases to that date.
4. Persons who have reason to believe that they have COVID-19 will not be permitted to enter the small claims courtroom. They may call the clerk's office prior to the day of court and leave their contact information for the clerk to pass to the magistrate, or they may contact the magistrate thirty minutes prior to court at 252-830-1590, or they may fax a request for a continuance to 252-695-7146.

This the 20 day of May, 2020.


The Honorable G. Galen Braddy
Chief District Court Judge