

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
SIX-A JUDICIAL DISTRICT
SIX JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

HALIFAX COUNTY

FILED

2020 MAY 20

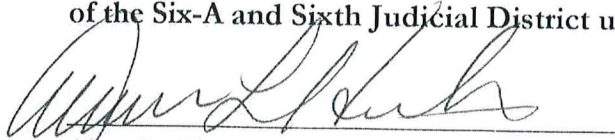
GUIDELINES FOR OPERATION OF
SUPERIOR AND DISTRICT COURT

Acknowledging that social distancing and other safety measures will likely remain in effect at least in the short term after our court system operations begin expanding, the undersigned Senior Resident Superior Court Judge and Chief District Court Judge hereby establish, in accordance with Orders from the Governor of the State of North Carolina and Directives from the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, the following protocols and procedures regarding Superior and District Courts in the Six-A and the Sixth Judicial District:

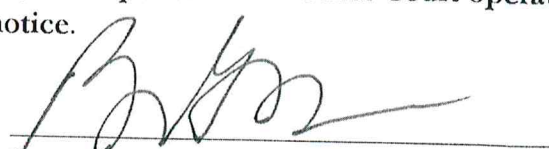
The goal of these guidelines is to conduct effective and efficient court sessions and to dispose of as many cases as possible while maintaining the highest state of safety as possible; therefore:

- A. At all times, social distancing shall be observed while in the Courthouse. Therefore, please remain six (6) feet apart from others.
- B. All persons are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings that cover the nose and mouth while inside the Courthouse and Courtrooms. No face coverings that depict or promote profanity, vulgarity, obscenity, violence or the use of illegal drugs will be allowed.
- C. All persons are strongly encouraged to allow temperature checks by healthcare personnel upon request. Any person seeking entry to the Courthouse who presents with a fever or any other symptom associated with COVID-19 may be asked to immediately wait until limited people are on the Courthouse premises.
- D. All persons are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the hand sanitizing stations upon entering the Courthouse and Courtrooms.
- E. Upon entering the Courtrooms, sit only in the places that are marked or at the direction of the bailiff or any other authorized court personnel.
- F. If you are not a victim, witness, or defendant, we strongly encourage you to wait outside until you are notified that the case in which you have an interest is being called. Then you may enter the courtroom. Immediately after the case has been heard, promptly leave the Courtroom and exit the Courthouse.
- G. All Judges, District Attorneys, Defense Attorneys, Clerks, Security, Law Enforcement, Courthouse Maintenance Staff and others involved in any court session operating under these guidelines should communicate freely and regularly, both prior to and during sessions, to help the court process move smoothly, efficiently, and safely.

Signed the 20th day of May, 2020. Effective June 1, 2020, for Superior and District Court operations of the Six-A and Sixth Judicial District until further notice.



Alma L. Hinton
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge
Six-A Judicial District



Brenda G. Branch
Chief District Court Judge
Sixth Judicial District

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
HALIFAX COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
ADMIN ORDER 20AO16

FILED

2020 MAY 21 4:10:00
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HALIFAX CO. C.S.C.
GUIDELINES FOR OPERATION OF DISTRICT COURT

Acknowledging that social distancing and other safety measures will likely remain in effect at least in the short term after our court system operations begin expanding, the undersigned Chief District Court Judge hereby establishes in accordance with Orders from the Governor of the State of North Carolina and Directives from the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, the following protocols and procedures regarding District Court in the Sixth Judicial District and the Seventh Prosecutorial District:

I. ENHANCED COURTHOUSE SAFETY MEASURES

- A. At all times, social distancing shall be observed while in the Courthouse. Therefore, please remain six (6) feet apart from others.
- B. All persons are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings that cover the nose and mouth while inside the Courthouse and Courtrooms. No face coverings that depict or promote profanity, vulgarity, obscenity, violence or the use of illegal drugs will be allowed.
- C. All persons are strongly encouraged to allow temperature checks by healthcare personnel upon request. Any person seeking entry to the Courthouse who presents with a fever or any other symptom associated with COVID-19 may be asked to immediately wait until limited people are on the Courthouse premises.
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- F. If you are not a victim, witness, or defendant, we strongly encourage you to wait outside until you are notified that the case in which you have an interest is being called. Then you may enter the courtroom. Immediately after the case has been heard, promptly leave the Courtroom and exit the Courthouse.
- G. All Judges, District Attorneys, Defense Attorneys, Clerks, Security, Law Enforcement, Courthouse Maintenance Staff and others involved in any court session operating under these guidelines should communicate freely and regularly, both prior to and during sessions, to help the court process move smoothly, efficiently, and safely.

II. COURT SESSIONS AND PROCEDURES

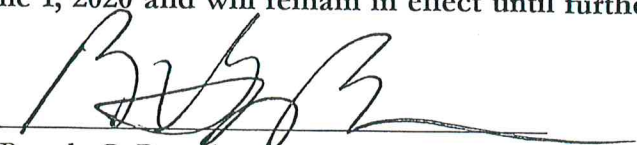
Halifax County Courtrooms No. 2 and No. 3 have audience seating capacity of 35 people per session. Courtroom No. 4 has audience seating capacity of 15 people per session. For all courts, there will be a department representative stationed in the alcove, away from the main entryway, to direct court traffic for continuances or court appearances. Attorneys will be allowed entry into the courtrooms as needed and will be expected to follow safety guidelines. All Judges are asked to be on the bench by 9:15 am.

- A. Criminal Courts – There will be a split session each day, 9:00 am and at 2:00 pm. Calendaring the cases will be at the discretion of the District Attorney.
- B. Child Support Establishment Court -- There will be a split session each day, 9:00 am and 2:00 pm. Calendaring the cases will be at the discretion of the Child Support Agency.
- C. Child Support Enforcement Court -- There will be a split session each day, 9:00 am and 2:00 pm; however, only 15 people each session. Calendaring the cases will be at the discretion of the Child Support Agency.
- D. DWI Court will begin at 9:00 am. Calendaring the cases will be at the discretion of the District Attorney.
- E. Disposition Court will begin at 2:00 pm. Calendaring the cases will be at the discretion of the District Attorney.
- F. Juvenile A/N/D Court will begin at 9:00 am. Calendaring the cases will be at the discretion of the Department of Social Services.
- G. Juvenile Delinquency Court will begin at 9:00 am. Calendaring the cases will be at the discretion of the District Attorney and Juvenile Services.
- H. Family Court will begin at 9:00 am. Calendaring the cases will be at the discretion of the Family Court Staff and Assigned Judge.
- I. Small Claims Court will begin at 10:00 am in Courtroom No. 4. Calendaring the cases will be at the discretion of the Clerk of Superior Court.
- J. Involuntary Commitment Hearings will begin at 12 noon. Calendaring the cases will be at the discretion of Vidant North and the Clerk of Superior Court.

III. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS AND GUIDELINES

- A. All Judges, District Attorneys, Defense Attorneys, Clerks, Security, Law Enforcement, Courthouse Maintenance Staff and others involved in any court session designed by these guidelines should communicate freely and regularly, both prior to and during sessions, to help the processes outlined herein move smoothly, efficiently and safely.
- B. The time frames herein for beginning and ending Periods within any session of Court are provided for guidance. As no two Court dates are ever the same, on the day of any session conducted pursuant to these guidelines, the trial Judge has the discretion to modify said time frames, decrease the number of persons allowed in the Courtroom for any session held, and take other safety measures the Judge deems appropriate for any session.
- C. Safety of all persons involved in the Court System is of the upmost concern. The goal of these guidelines is to conduct effective and efficient court sessions that completely dispose of as many cases as possible while maintaining the highest state of safety possible.

Signed this, the 20th day of May, 2020. Effective June 1, 2020 and will remain in effect until further notice.


 Brenda G. Branch
 Chief District Court Judge
 Sixth Judicial District

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
HALIFAX COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
ADMIN ORDER 20AO16

FILED

AMENDED GUIDELINES FOR OPERATION OF DISTRICT COURT

Acknowledging that social distancing and other safety measures will likely remain in effect at least in the short term after our court system operations begin expanding, the undersigned Chief District Court Judge hereby establishes in accordance with Orders from the Governor of the State of North Carolina and Directives from the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, the following protocols and procedures regarding District Court in the Sixth Judicial District and the Seventh Prosecutorial District:

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II. COURT SESSIONS AND PROCEDURES

Halifax County Courtrooms No. 2 and No. 3 have audience seating capacity of 35 people per session. Courtroom No. 4 has audience seating capacity of 15 people per session. For all courts, there will be a department representative stationed in the alcove, away from the main entryway, to direct court traffic for continuances or court appearances. Attorneys will be allowed entry into the courtrooms as needed and will be expected to follow safety guidelines. All Judges are asked to be on the bench by 9:15 am.

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- E. Disposition Court will begin at 2:00 pm. Calendaring the cases will be at the discretion of the District Attorney.
- F. Juvenile A/N/D Court will begin at 9:00 am. Calendaring the cases will be at the discretion of the Department of Social Services.
- G. Juvenile Delinquency Court will begin at 9:00 am. Calendaring the cases will be at the discretion of the District Attorney and Juvenile Services. Secured Custody Hearings will be done remotely when possible using WebEx hosted by the Clerk of Court.
- H. Family Court will begin at 9:00 am. Calendaring the cases will be at the discretion of the Family Court Staff and Assigned Judge.
- I. Small Claims Court will begin at 10:00 am in Courtroom No. 4. Calendaring the cases will be at the discretion of the Clerk of Superior Court.
- J. Involuntary Commitment Hearings will begin at 12 noon. Calendaring the cases will be at the discretion of Vidant North and the Clerk of Superior Court.

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- C. Safety of all persons involved in the Court System is of the utmost concern. The goal of these guidelines is to conduct effective and efficient court sessions that completely dispose of as many cases as possible while maintaining the highest state of safety possible.

Signed this, the 21st day of May, 2020. Effective June 1, 2020 and will remain in effect until further notice.



Brenda G. Branch
Chief District Court Judge
Sixth Judicial District