

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

25TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

FOR THE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION AND MAGISTRATES COURT

IN THE 25TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT -

DECEMBER 2020 UPDATED RESPONSE TO THE JUDICIAL BRANCH RESPONSE TO THE JUDICIAL BRANCH
RESPONSE TO COVID-19

NOW COMES the undersigned Chief District Court Judge of the 25th Judicial District, and it appearing that in response to the order of the Chief Justice on March 13, 2020 regarding COVID-19 the undersigned entered a temporary order based upon the conditions existing at that time; Later in the same day after the entry of the temporary order, a memorandum regarding temporary Audio Video policy was sent out by NCAOC Director, McKinley Wooten, Jr.; On Saturday, March 14, 2020 Governor Roy Cooper entered an executive order prohibiting the congregation of 100 persons or more and canceled school for two weeks in the state of North Carolina; On Sunday, March 15, 2020 the Honorable Cheri Beasley issued a memorandum that reiterated and clarified her March 13, 2020 order; and an order to order was issued and filed by this office on March 16, 2020 to abide by the order of the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, and the additional circumstances recited herein. On March 27, 2020 Governor Roy Cooper entered Executive Order 121 and enacted a "Stay at Home" order. On Friday, April 3, 2020 the Honorable Cheri Beasley issued a new order with new Emergency Directives necessary to reduce the spread of infection while ensuring the continuation of essential court functions though January 15, 2021. On May 20, 2020 Governor Roy Cooper entered Executive Order 141 easing restrictions on Travel, Business Operations and Mass Gatherings. On May 21, 2020 the Honorable Cheri Beasley issued a new order an additional Emergency Directives expanding court operations effective June 1, 2020.

In response to the growing number of Coronavirus cases, on November 10, 2020 Governor Roy Cooper entered Executive Order 176 reducing the number of people who can gather. On December 8, 2020 Governor Roy Cooper entered Executive Order 181 which is a modified Stay-At-Home order. On December 11, 2020 the Honorable Cheri Beasley notified us that she will be re-establishing Emergency Order 1 beginning December 14, 2020 for 30 days that follow:

Emergency Directive 1

All superior court and district court proceedings be scheduled or rescheduled for a date no sooner than 30 days from the issuance of this order, unless:

1. the proceeding will be conducted remotely;
2. the proceeding is necessary to preserve the right to due process of law (e.g., a first appearance or bond hearing, the appointment of counsel for an indigent defendant, a probation hearing, a probable cause hearing, etc.);
3. the proceeding is for the purpose of obtaining emergency relief (e.g., a domestic violence protection order, temporary restraining order, juvenile custody order, judicial consent to juvenile medical treatment order, civil commitment order, etc.); or

