



# PRIORITY ORDER OF HEARING TYPES

## Summary of Working Group Responses

Prepared by  
NCAOC Research, Policy, and Planning Division

Green text illustrates consistency across responses.

Red text illustrates inconsistency across responses.

Superior Court Civil		
Hearing/Proceeding Type	Court Managers	CJ Chambers
Jury Trials	Medium High	--
Non-Jury Trials	Medium High	--
Settlement Approvals	High	--
Motions	High	--
Petitions for Release of Law Enforcement Agency Recording	Low High	--
Appeals from the Clerk	High Medium	--
Will Caveats	High	--
Facial Constitutional Challenges to Acts of the General Assembly	High Low	--
Administrative Sessions	Medium	--
Swearing-In of New Attorneys and Judges	Medium High	--
Administrative Appeals	Medium	--
Judicial Review of State Board Decisions	High	--
Gun Permit Denial Appeals	Low	--
Pre-trial Motions	--	--
Rule 2.1 Cases	--	--
Civil actions to review or extend a quarantine or isolation order pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 130A-145	--	High





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<b>Superior Court Criminal</b>			
Hearing/Proceeding Type	Court Managers	District Attorneys	CJ Chambers
Administrative Sessions	High	High	--
Misdemeanor Appeals	Low	Low	--
First Appearances	High	High	High
Probation Violations - In-custody	High	High	High
Probation Violations - out of custody	Medium	Medium	Low
Probation Violations - Arrest Review	High	Medium	--
Pleas - In-custody	High	High	--
Pleas - out of custody	Medium High	Medium	--
Jury Trials	Medium High	Low	--
Non-Jury Trials	Low Medium	Medium	--
Motions	Medium High	Low	--
Grand Jury	High	Medium	--
Innocence Commission Referred Cases	Low Medium	--	--
Sex Offender Registry Hearings	Low	--	--
Bond Hearings	Medium	High	High
Review and Issuance of Search Warrants	High	--	High
Review and Issuance of LEO Orders (by phone)	High	--	--
Motions for Appropriate Relief (or related Evidentiary Hearings)	Medium	--	--
Writs of Habeas Corpus	High	Low	High
Specialty Courts	Medium	--	--
Arraignment - in-custody	--	High	High
Arraignment - out of custody	--	Medium	Low
Capacity Issues	--	--	--
Remands to District Court	--	--	--
Restitution to Victims Hearings	--	--	--
Expunction Hearings	--	--	--
Victim Rights Act Violations	--	--	--





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Proceedings to appoint counsel for indigent defendants outside the context of preliminary proceedings	--	--	High
Extradition proceedings	--	--	High
Proceedings to determine or review a defendant's capacity to proceed	--	--	High

District Court Civil				
Hearing/Proceeding Type	Court Managers	Family Law Attorneys	CJ Chambers	DC Judges
<b>General Civil / Other</b>				
Jury Trials	Low	--	--	--
Motions	Medium	Medium	--	--
Non-Jury Trials	Medium	--	--	--
Minor Settlements	High	--	--	--
Tax Delinquency	Low	--	--	--
Arbitration	Low	Medium	--	--
Summary Ejectment Appeals	High	--	--	High
Involuntary Commitment Hearings	High	--	High	--
Proceedings pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 20-13.3(d2) and N.C.G.S. § 20-16.5(g) challenging civil revocation orders	--	--	High	High
Proceedings on petitions for the issuance of a limited driving privilege	--	--	High	High
Proceedings on the return of seized motor vehicles and other conveyances	--	--	High	High
<b>Domestic</b>				
Divorce	Medium	Medium	--	--
Divorce from Bed and Board	--	--	--	High
Temporary Custody	High	High	--	High
Post Separation Support/Alimony	Medium	--	--	--





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Equitable Distribution	Medium	Medium	--	High
Interim Distributions/Injunctions	Medium	High	--	High
Child Support Establishment	Medium	High	--	High
Temporary Child Support	Medium	High	--	High
Child Support Enforcement	Medium	High	--	High
Child Support Motions	Low	High	--	High
Child Custody	High	High	--	High
Ex Parte Temporary Custody	High	High	High	High
Contempt related to child custody/visitation or child support	Medium	High	--	High
<b>Domestic Violence</b>				
DV Ex Parte Temporary Hearing	High	High	High	High
DV Permanent Hearing	High	High	High	High
DV No-Contact	High	High	High	High
DV No-Contact Ex Parte Temporary Hearing	High	High	High	High
DV No-Contact Permanent Hearing	High	High	High	High
<b>Juvenile</b>				
A/N/D Non-secure Custody Petitions	High	--	High	--
A/N/D Compliance Petitions	High	--	High	--
A/N/D Obstruction Petitions	High	--	High	--
A/N/D Adjudications, Dispositions, & Reviews	High	--	High	--
Permanency Planning	--	--	High	--
Delinquency/Undisciplined First Appearances	High	--	High	--
Delinquency/Undisciplined Probable Cause Hearing	--	--	High	--
Delinquency/Undisciplined Transfer hearing	--	--	High	--
Delinquency/Undisciplined Secure Custody Petitions (initial and subsequent)	Medium	--	High	--





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Delinquency/Undisciplined Adjudications, Dispositions, & Reviews	Medium	--	High	--
Hearings related to extension of confinement in a youth development center	--	--	High	--
Detention hearings under the Interstate Compact for Juveniles	--	--	High	--
Non-Secure Custody Hearings	High	--	High	--
Emancipation	Medium	--	--	--
Termination of Parental Rights	Medium	--	--	--
Judicial Waivers	High	--	High	--
Petitions for judicial authorization of emergency treatment	--	--	High	--

District Court Criminal				
Hearing/Proceeding Type	Court Managers	District Attorneys	CJ Chambers	DC Judges
Administrative Sessions	Medium	High	--	--
Class A1 and 1 Misdemeanors	Medium (misd. not delineated)	--	--	High
Other Misdemeanors		Low	--	Low
DWI	Medium	Low	--	High
Ch. 20 with importance to public safety: misd. death by vehicle, passing school bus	--	--	--	High
Other Traffic Court/Infractions	Medium	Low	--	Low
Dispositions	Medium	Medium	--	--
Sentencing	--	Medium	--	--
First Appearances	High	High	High	High
Initial Appearances	--	High	High	--
Felony Probable Cause Hearings - In-custody	High (felony prob. cause not delineated)	High	High	High
Felony Probable Cause Hearings - Out of custody		Medium	Low	--





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Arraignment - in-custody	--	High	High	High
Arraignment - out of custody	--	Medium	Low	--
Bond Forfeiture	Low	--	--	--
Expunction Hearings	Low	--	--	--
Drug Treatment Court	High	--	--	--
DWI Treatment Court	High	--	--	--
Veterans Court	High	--	--	--
Bond Hearings	High (DV)	High	High	High
Probation Violations - In-custody	High (PV violations not delineated)	High	High	High
Probation Violations - out of custody		Medium	Low	--
H&I Felonies - in-custody	Low (H&I Felonies not delineated)	High	--	High
H&I Felonies - out of custody		Medium	--	--
Citizen-Initiated Complaints	Medium	Low	--	--
Pleas - In-custody	High (pleas not delineated)	High	--	High
Pleas - out of custody		Medium	--	--
Search warrants	--	--	High	--
Arrest warrants	--	--	--	--
Trials	--	Low	--	--
Proceedings to appoint counsel for indigent defendants outside the context of preliminary proceedings	--	--	High	--
Extradition proceedings	--	--	High	--
Proceedings to determine or review a defendant's capacity to proceed	--	--	High	--
Cases involving individual victims	--	--	--	High





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Clerk Proceedings	
Hearing/Proceeding Type	CJ Chambers
<b>Estates</b>	
Probate of Wills	Clerk Discretion
Granting and Revoking Letters Testamentary and Letters of Administration of Estates	--
Determination of Elective Share for Surviving Spouse	--
Proceedings to ascertain heirs or devisees, to approve settlement agreements, to determine questions of construction of wills, to determine priority among creditors, to determine whether a person is in possession of property belonging to an estate, to order recovery of property of the estate in possession of third parties, determine existence or nonexistence of any immunity, power, privilege, duty or right.	--
Assignment of Year's Allowance	--
Contested Estate Proceedings	--
Probate in Solemn Form	--
Uncontested Estate Proceedings	--
Living Probate	--
Establish before death that a will or codicil is valid	--
Renunciation by Personal Representative in Estate	--
Revocation of Letters from PR	--
Resignation of appointed PR	--
Action by PR to recover property of decedent	--





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Special Proceeding to allow Personal representative to obtain possession, custody, or control of assets of decedent	--
Special Proceeding to allow sale, lease or mortgage of real estate of decedent	--
Special Proceeding against unknown heirs before distribution of estate	--
Petition for Partition as part of Estate (real property of decedent consists in whole or part of an undivided interest in real property)	--
Contingent or unliquidated claims	--
Compelling Inventory and accountings/Issuing attachments/Contempt	--
Allow commissions to PR and attorney fees	--
Proceedings regarding powers of attorney	High
<b>Special Proceedings</b>	
Adjudication of Incompetency and Appointment of Guardian	High
Appointment of Interim Guardian	High
Restoration to Competency	--
Clerk retains jurisdiction following appointment of guardian in order to assure compliance	--
Appointment of Guardian for Minor absent a natural guardian	High
Compelling Inventory and accountings/Issuing attachments/Contempt	--





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Allow commissions to Guardian and attorney fees	--
Removal of Guardians/Resignation	--
Special Proceeding to Sale, Mortgage, Exchange or Lease Ward's Estate	High
Appointment of standby Guardian Hearing	High
UAGAPPJA	--
Trusts	High
Private Condemnations	--
Adoptions - Children and Adults	--
Foreclosures	--
Foreclosures – Homeowner Associations	--
Legitimation	--
Minor's Money	--
Name Changes	--
Cartway Proceedings	--
Cemeteries	--
Partition of Personal Property	--
Partition of Real Property	--
Boundary Settlements	--
<b>Civil</b>	
Claim & Delivery Hearings	--
Proceedings Supplemental to Execution	--
Attachments	--
<b>Criminal</b>	
Return of Seized Vehicles	High
First Appearances when Judge not available	High





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<b>Magistrate Proceedings</b>			
<b>Hearing/Proceeding Type</b>	<b>CJ Chambers</b>	<b>DC Judges</b>	<b>Court Managers</b>
Criminal Initial Appearance / Pretrial Conditions Hearing	High	High	--
Summary Ejectments	--	High	High
Small Claims - Money Owed	--	--	--
Small Claims - Recovery of Personal Property	--	--	--
Small Claims - Motor Vehicle Liens	--	--	--

