

**ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF NORTH CAROLINA**

On 29 June 2020, I extended [Emergency Directive 18](#) in response to the public health threat posed by the COVID-19 outbreak. A modification and further extension of Emergency Directive 18 for an additional period of time is now necessary.

Accordingly, I hereby determine and declare under N.C.G.S. § 7A-39(b)(2) that catastrophic conditions resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak have existed and continue to exist in all counties of this state.

**Emergency Directive 18**

This emergency directive applies only in summary ejectment actions that are commenced pursuant to Article 3 of Chapter 42 of the General Statutes for nonpayment of rent or other fees or charges.

In actions commenced on or after 27 March 2020, no writ of possession for real property shall be issued unless the magistrate or judge concludes that the property is not a “covered dwelling” as defined by Section 4024(a)(1) of the CARES Act or an “applicable property” as defined by Section 4023(f)(1) of the CARES Act.

The Administrative Office of the Courts has promulgated a [form affidavit](#) to be completed by the plaintiff in these actions. In actions that were commenced on or after 27 March 2020 and before 4 June 2020, the plaintiff shall file the affidavit with the court before the magistrate or judge enters final judgment. In actions that are commenced on or after 4 June 2020, the plaintiff shall file the affidavit with his or her complaint, and the affidavit shall be served on the defendant with the summons and complaint.

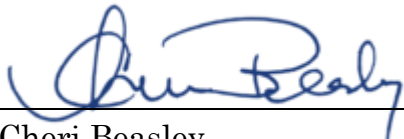
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This emergency directive expires on 23 August 2020.

Additional emergency orders or directives under N.C.G.S. § 7A-39(b) may be entered as necessary to support the continuing operation of essential court functions.

Additional information about the Judicial Branch’s response to the COVID-19 outbreak is available at <https://www.nccourts.gov/covid-19>.

Issued this the 24th day of July, 2020.

  
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Cheri Beasley  
Chief Justice  
Supreme Court of North Carolina