

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NORTH CAROLINA

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ORDER IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

On 13 March 2020, the Chief Justice issued an [order](#) pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 7A-39(b) with two emergency directives deemed necessary to the continuing operation of essential trial court functions. On 19 March 2020, the Chief Justice issued an [order](#) extending time and periods of limitation for documents and papers due to be filed and acts due to be done in the trial courts. The Chief Justice's orders were in response to the public health threat posed by the COVID-19 outbreak and were intended to reduce the spread of infection in courthouses throughout the state.

Now, pursuant to Article IV, Section 13(2) of the Constitution of North Carolina, the Court grants relief to those with business before the appellate courts as follows:

1. **Extension of Time.** Deadlines imposed by the Rules of Appellate Procedure that fall between 27 March 2020 and 30 April 2020, inclusive of those endpoints, are hereby extended for 60 days.
2. **Electronic Filing Encouraged.** All parties are encouraged to file their documents and papers electronically at <https://www.ncappellatecourts.org/>. Until further notice, all document types may be filed electronically in the appellate courts, including the printed record on appeal in Court of Appeals cases.

3. **Credit for Secure-Leave Periods.** Attorneys with secure-leave periods in the appellate courts during the months of April 2020 or May 2020 are hereby credited back those secure-leave periods. Attorneys who prefer to keep their secure-leave periods during those months must contact the Clerk of the Supreme Court for assistance.


Parties in need of other emergency relief in the appellate courts should make an appropriate application.

Additional orders in response to the COVID-19 outbreak will be entered as circumstances may warrant.

Ordered by the Court in Conference, this the 27th day of March, 2020.

  
For the Court

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, this the 27th day of March, 2020.

  
AMY L. FUNDERBURK  
Clerk of the Supreme Court