## STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

16A JUDICIAL DISTRICT

### IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

# DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

Whereas the undersigned Chief District Court Judge has met with the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge and pertinent stakeholders in each county of this judicial district, to include but not limited to the Sheriff, the Elected Clerk of Court, the District Attorney or their designee, Members of the local bar, the County Manager as well as the Public Health director and/or staff, AND has read and considered the Emergency Directives of North Carolina Chief Justice Cheri Beasley, the following administrative order shall be entered as it relates to DISTRICT COURT:

To continue to administer justice while protecting the health and safety of court personnel and the public, Judicial District Sixteen A (comprised of Anson, Richmond and Scotland Counties) shall operate by the following guidelines *effective June 1*, 2020.

- 1. That Emergency Directive 12 from Chief Justice Cheri Beasley's May 21, 2020 Order provides that the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge shall determine the maximum allowable occupancy of each courtroom or meeting space and that the maximum allowable occupancy of each courtroom shall be prominently posted at the entrance of each courtroom and shall have designated social distancing markers accordingly. That for the purposes of this order, that maximum allowable occupancy designated by such is the controlling number.
- 2. That each county shall have one term of Civil District Court during the month of June. That the Case Coordinators have worked and shall continue to work to minimize the number of persons in each courtroom by scheduling cases by specific dates and times. That at no time shall the number of persons in the courtroom be greater than that number set out pursuant to the above emergency directive listed above.
- 3. That all criminal calendars for the month of June in each county shall be split with a 9:30 am calendar and a 2:00 pm calendar. That the calendar in each county shall not exceed the number of people designated for the courtroom where court will be held. (Example: That if the district criminal courtroom can hold 32 people using social distancing, then the 9:30am and the 2:00 pm calendar shall not include more than 32

- defendants for each session). That the Clerks will work with the District Attorney and the Defense Attorneys to schedule cases that are most pertinent. That any additional cases in excess of that number shall be continued.
- 4. That there will be at least one Child Support Court session scheduled in each county during the month of June. That the Child Support Attorney shall work with the agency as well as the Clerk of Court's Office to ensure the number of persons calendared or in court does not exceed the maximum capacity to ensure safety with social distancing pursuant to the above directive. That at no time shall the number of persons in the courtroom be greater than that number set out pursuant to the above emergency directive listed above.
- 5. That Juvenile Court, including Department of Social Services as well as Juvenile Delinquent court shall be scheduled in each county during the month of June. That the Department of Social Services Attorney and/or the Department of Public Safety-Juvenile Court Division/District Attorney's Office shall ensure the number of persons calendared or in court does not exceed the maximum capacity to ensure safety with social distancing pursuant to the above directive.
- 6. That ALL Emergency Directives set out by the Chief Justice as well as ALL orders set out by the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge or any COVID-19 Coordinator designated by the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge shall be followed during all District Court sessions.
- 7. That judicial officials shall continue to make use of remote hearing technology.
- 8. That judicial officials should minimize large gatherings and face-to-face interaction between court staff and the public.
- 9. That the AMENDED JUNE JUDGES' Schedule is published separate from this Administrative Order.

This the 21 day of June 2020.

Amanda L. Wilson

Chief District Court Judge

Judicial District 16A