



**Judicial District 22B  
Prosecutorial District 33  
Davidson and Davie Counties  
State of North Carolina**

Date: March 16, 2020

To: Davidson and Davie County Courthouse and Judicial System Personnel

From: Hon. Mark E. Klass, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge  
Hon. Lori I. Hamilton, Resident Superior Court Judge  
Hon. Wayne L. Michael, Senior Resident District Court Judge  
Hon. Garry F. Frank, District Attorney  
Hon. Sandie T. Chappell, Clerk of Superior Court of Davidson County  
Hon. Ellen E. Drechsler, Clerk of Superior Court of Davie County

**UPDATE: COVID-19 (“Novel Corona Virus”) Measures in Davidson and Davie Counties Judicial Systems**

On Friday, March 13, 2020, North Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice Cheri Beasley announced several directives affecting the operation of the North Carolina court system aimed at protecting public safety during the outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus). By order of the Chief Justice, Davidson and Davie County courts will postpone most cases in district and superior court for at least 30 days. While the work of the courts must continue and courthouses remain open, the first priority of the court system must be the health and safety of the public and of the employees who serve them.

Although the superior courts and district courts remain open, **effective Monday, March 16, superior court and district court proceedings will be rescheduled for at least 30 days**, with some exceptions. These exceptions include (see more in the Supreme Court Order)

- the proceeding will be conducted remotely;
- 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 where the defendant is in custody, a probable cause hearing, etc.);
- 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
- the senior resident superior court judge, chief business court judge, or chief district court judge determines that the proceeding can be conducted under conditions that protect the health and safety of all participants.

## **COVID-19 (“Novel Corona Virus”) Measures in Davidson and Davie Counties Judicial Systems**

This emergency directive does not apply to any proceeding in which a jury has already been empaneled or to any grand juries already empaneled. It also does not prohibit a judge or other judicial officer from exercising any in chambers or ex parte jurisdiction conferred by law upon that judge or judicial officer, as provided by law.

Additionally, the superior courts and district courts are encouraged to liberally grant additional accommodations to parties, witnesses, attorneys, and others with business before the courts who are at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

Our counties will post a notice at all court facilities directing **any person who has likely been exposed to COVID-19 to not enter the courthouse**. Any person who has likely been exposed and has business before the courts should contact the clerk of superior court’s office by telephone or other remote means for further instruction.

As the courts work to postpone thousands of cases, court officials will notify parties and their attorneys of new hearing and trial dates.

The Judicial Branch will be providing continuous updated information and answers to frequently asked questions on our website, [NCCourts.gov](http://NCCourts.gov). The public is encouraged to visit [NCCourts.gov](http://NCCourts.gov) as a first resort to determine if a question can be answered without calling the local courthouse.

Online court services are available for handling some court business, including citation services, paying your ticket, court payments, signing up for court date notifications and reminders, eFiling court documents for certain courts and case types, and more.

Please keep yourselves healthy! Follow these guidelines to reduce your risk of exposure or of exposing others:

- Stay home if you are ill
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue
- Discard tissues after a single use
- Follow the CDC’s travel guide

The work that each of you do within our court system is of utmost importance, and we are all committed to ensuring that the critical work of the justice system in Davidson and Davie Counties will continue as much as possible. However, your health, safety and peace of mind, and that of the citizens who utilize our court facilities, is the top priority. Thank you for your service and stay safe!