

Quick Reference Guide to Orders from the Chief Justice and the North Carolina Supreme Court Related to COVID-19

****This post has been updated multiple times. For the most recent version of the chart, scroll to the bottom of the post.***

Since the start of the pandemic, the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court and the North Carolina Supreme Court have issued a number of directives impacting the court system. Instead of doing a heavy substantive post today, I thought I would share a quick reference chart I've been using to keep track of these directives, their effect based on the most recent order issued, the dates of the order containing each directive, and their expiration date.

This chart is by no means intended to be a substitute for the orders. Please read the full text of the orders for guidance. The full text of the orders along with all of the other COVID-19 judicial branch updates may be found at <https://www.nccourts.gov/covid-19>.

The chart does not include executive orders issued by the Governor related to the pandemic. Those are available [here](#). It also does not include state legislation from the General Assembly, including two key pandemic-related session laws, [Session Law 2020-3](#) and [Session Law 2020-4](#), or related federal legislation, such as the [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act](#) ("CARES Act").

To access the chart (updated through June 9, 2020), click [here](#).

UPDATE (June 23, 2020): On June 20, 2020, the Chief Justice [entered two orders](#). I updated the quick reference chart to reflect those orders. A marked-up version showing changes to the June 9 chart is available [here](#). A clean version without marked changes that incorporates the June 20, 2020 orders is available [here](#).

UPDATE (June 30, 2020): On June 29, 2020, the Chief Justice entered two orders. I updated the quick reference chart to reflect those orders. A marked-up version showing changes to the June 23 chart is available [here](#). A clean version without marked changes that incorporates the June 29, 2020 orders is available [here](#).

UPDATE (July 22, 2020): On July 16 and July 20, 2020, the Chief Justice entered orders. I updated the quick reference chart to reflect those orders. A marked-up version showing changes to the June 30 chart is available [here](#). A clean version without marked changes that incorporates the July 16 and July 20 orders is available [here](#).

UPDATE (July 24, 2020): On July 24, 2020, the Chief Justice entered an order. I updated the quick reference chart to reflect this order. A marked-up version showing changes to the July 22 chart is available [here](#). A clean version without marked changes is available [here](#).

UPDATE (August 4, 2020): On July 29, 2020, the Chief Justice entered an order. I updated the quick reference chart to reflect this order. A marked-up version showing changes to the July 24 chart is available [here](#). A clean version without marked changes is available [here](#).

UPDATE (August 17, 2020): On August 15, 2020, the Chief Justice entered an order. I updated the quick reference chart to reflect this order. A marked-up version showing changes to the August 4 chart is available [here](#). A clean version without marked changes is available [here](#).

UPDATE (August 25, 2020): On August 24, 2020, the Chief Justice entered an order. I updated the quick reference chart to reflect this order. A marked-up version showing changes to the August 17 chart is available [here](#). A clean version without marked changes is available [here](#).

UPDATE (September 18, 2020): On September 15, 2020, the Chief Justice entered an order. I updated the quick reference chart to reflect this order. A marked-up version showing changes to the August 24 chart is available [here](#). A clean version without marked changes is available [here](#).

UPDATE (October 2, 2020): On September 30, 2020, the Chief Justice entered an order. I updated the quick reference chart to reflect this order. A marked-up version showing changes to the September 18 chart is available [here](#). A clean version without marked changes is available [here](#).

UPDATE (October 16, 2020): On October 15, 2020, the Chief Justice entered an order. I updated the quick reference chart to reflect this order. A marked-up version showing changes to the October 2 chart is available [here](#). A clean version without marked changes is available [here](#).

UPDATE (November 19, 2020): On November 16, 2020, the Chief Justice entered an order. I updated the quick reference chart to reflect this order. A marked-up version showing changes to the October 16 chart is available [here](#). A clean version without marked changes is available [here](#).

UPDATE (November 30, 2020): On November 30, 2020, the Chief Justice entered an order. I updated the quick reference chart to reflect this order. A marked-up version showing changes to the previous version of the chart is available [here](#). A clean version without marked changes is available [here](#).

UPDATE (December 14, 2020): On December 14, 2020, the Chief Justice entered an order. I updated the quick reference chart to reflect this order. A marked-up version showing changes to the previous version of the chart is available [here](#). A clean version without marked changes is available [here](#).

UPDATE (December 31, 2020): On December 31, 2020, the Chief Justice entered an order. I updated the quick reference chart to reflect this order. A marked-up version showing changes to the previous version of the chart is available [here](#). A clean version without marked changes is available [here](#).

UPDATE (January 14, 2021): On January 13, 2021, the Chief Justice issued an order. I updated the quick reference chart to reflect this order. A marked-up version showing key changes to the previous version of the chart is available [here](#). A clean version without marked changes is available [here](#).

UPDATE (January 29, 2021): On January 29, 2021, the Chief Justice issued an order. I updated the quick reference chart to reflect this order. A marked-up version showing key changes to the previous version of the chart is available [here](#). A clean version without marked changes is available [here](#).

UPDATE (February 12, 2021): On February 12, 2021, the Chief Justice issued an order. I updated the quick reference chart to reflect this order. A marked-up version showing key changes to the previous version of the chart is available [here](#). A clean version without marked changes is available [here](#).

UPDATE (March 15, 2021): On March 12, 2021, the Chief Justice issued an order that takes effect on March 15, 2021. I updated the quick reference chart to reflect this order. A marked-up version showing key changes to the previous version of the chart is available [here](#). A clean version without marked changes is available [here](#).

UPDATE (April 12, 2021): On April 9, 2021, the Chief Justice issued an order that takes effect on April 12, 2021. I updated the quick reference chart to reflect this order. A marked-up version showing key changes to the previous version of the chart is available [here](#). A clean version without marked changes is available [here](#).

UPDATE (May 10, 2021): On May 7, 2021, the Chief Justice issued an order that takes effect on May 10, 2021. I updated the quick reference chart to reflect this order. A marked-up version showing key changes to the previous version of the chart is available [here](#). A clean version without marked changes is available [here](#).

UPDATE (May 14, 2021): On May 14, 2021, the Chief Justice issued an amendment to his most recent order that took effect on May 10, 2021. I updated the quick reference chart to reflect this amendment. A marked-up version showing key changes to the previous version of the chart is available [here](#). A clean version without marked changes is available [here](#).

UPDATE (June 7, 2021): On June 4, 2021, the Chief Justice issued an order that takes effect on June 7, 2021. I updated the quick reference chart to reflect this order. A marked-up version

showing key changes to the previous version of the chart is available [here](#). A clean version without marked changes is available [here](#).

UPDATE (June 21, 2021): On June 21, 2021, the Chief Justice issued an order that ended the last remaining emergency directives in effect. I updated the quick reference chart to reflect this order. A marked-up version showing key changes to the previous version of the chart is available [here](#). A clean version without marked changes is available [here](#).

	Directive #	Most Recent Effect	Order Date	Expiration
1	Proceedings must be scheduled or rescheduled until after June 1 unless an exception applies	May 1 April 2 March 13	May 30	
2	Clerk of superior court to post notices at courthouse door	May 30 May 1 April 2 March 13	June 29	
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Authoriz ation for judicial officials to conduct remote p roceedin gs• Remote proceedi ngs must saf eguard c onstituti onal rights and meet sta ndards outlined	May 30 May 1 April 2	June 29	

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others April 2
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7	Monies owed pursuant to a judgment or order in a criminal or infraction case	May 30 May 1 April 2	June 29
8	Magistrates required to continue to perform marriages	May 30 May 1 April 16	June 29
9	Social distancing in court sessions; encourages remote hearings; directive to limit large gatherings and face to face interactions between court personnel and the public	May 21	June 29
10	No jury trials for 30 days; intention to extend prohibition through end of July	May 21	June 20
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Senior resident judge to serve as or designated a COVID	May 21	June 20

- 19 Coordinator
- COVID 19 Task Force to develop guidelines for in court proceedings

12	Senior resident superior court judge shall ensure social distancing markings throughout the courthouse, establish maximum occupancy in courtroom to allow for social distancing, post notices regarding maximum occupancy, make sanitizer available, and ensure daily/periodic cleaning	May 21	June 20
13	Before publishing or distributing court calendar, the COVID 19 Coordinator to coordinate social	May 21	June 20

distancing for
court sessions
and ensure
facemasks for
courtroom staff
made available

14

- Clerks [May 21](#)

June 20

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normal
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- Clerks
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only and
limit
hours of
access

15

- Attorney [May 21](#)

June 20

s and
litigants

encouraged to submit filings by mail

- Beginning June 1, pleadings and other documents delivered by the United States Postal Service to the clerk are deemed timely filed if received within 5 business days of the date the filing is due

16

- COVID [May 21](#) June 20
19 Coordinator to make determinations about possibility for jury trials that adhere to social

distancing and spacing in courtroom and deliberation room

- COVID 19 Task Force to recommend best practices and minimum requirements for jury trials

17

- All [May 30](#) June 29 evictions pending in the trial division stayed until June 21
- Sheriff not required to execute or return pending writs of possession of real property until June 30

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- Summar [May 30](#) June 29
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	(file with complaint)		
19	Establishes a voluntary mediation program for summary ejectment actions	May 30	June 29
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In any matter in which deadline to file notice of appeal fell between March 13 and June 1, the deadline for filing the appeal and making any required payment or bond is extended to June 30• Presiding judicial officials retain authority under	May 30	

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Other