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ALAMANCE COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT
BY
ALAMANCE CO. C.S.C.
BY
PROTOCOL FOR ENTRY OF GUILTY PLEAS PRIOR TO JUNE 1, 2020 IN
CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

May 6, 2020

AA

1. Types of Hearings Permitted:

- a. Consent guilty pleas and sentencing of defendants not in custody.

2. Limitations:

- a. Must have a fully executed guilty plea form with plea agreement. Plea agreement may include an active sentence. DWI pleas that require a mandatory split sentence will be served after July 1, 2020 pursuant to Alamance County Local Rules and Procedures and Alamance County Sheriff's Department (ACSD) COVID-19 protocol;
- b. All parties (district attorney, defendant, counsel for defendant) **must consent in writing** to enter plea prior to June 1, 2020 utilizing the attached local form "Consent to Enter Guilty Plea Prior to June 1, 2020". Defendant must acknowledge that he/she meets the medical qualifications to appear in person. Form must be presented in court at the time of the hearing;
- c. Scheduled cases will be grouped together by defense attorney. Up to three cases will be scheduled in fifteen-minute increments with a maximum of twelve cases per hour per attorney. Only one defense attorney will be scheduled per time period.

3. Scheduling:

- a. All guilty pleas and sentencing will be scheduled through the District Court Judge's Office;
- b. The email requesting an in person guilty plea must be sent to Sandy Cobb (Cassandra.L.Cobb@nccourts.org) and Meredith Giannotti (Meredith.S.Giannotti@nccourts.org) and must include the following information. Attorneys may include multiple defendants in one email;
 - i. Name of defendant; file number; list of defendant's charges;
 - ii. An acknowledgment that all parties (district attorney, defendant, counsel for defendant) have fully executed the required **consent form**;



- iii. An acknowledgment that all parties (district attorney, defendant, counsel for defendant) have fully executed the **guilty plea and plea agreement**;
 - iv. List three preferred dates that are at least **3 days** out from the request for which the parties are available. Include preference of morning or afternoon session for each date given. Dates must be at least 3 days out to allow time for scheduling and pulling files;
 - vi. If a language interpreter **or** sign language interpreter is needed;
- c. The district court judge's office will notify the defense attorney, district attorney's office and the clerk's office **via email** the date/time the scheduled guilty plea(s) will be entered.


5. Attendance:

- a. Parties are required to maintain proper social distancing protocol while in the courthouse and the courtroom;
- b. Defendant and defense counsel must appear at their designated date/time **on time** and ready to begin or their case(s) may not be heard;
- c. Defendants, attorneys and alleged victims will be **the only persons** allowed to be present at hearing.

6. Miscellaneous:

- a. Any straight active sentence entered without probation will begin immediately following ACSD COVID-19 protocol;
- b. If ACSD refuses to accept defendant, the guilty plea will be stricken, and the case will be rescheduled on the officer's next court date;
- c. Attorneys will not be permitted to add on cases during their scheduled time period;
- d. Remote hearings via virtual hearing platform WebEx will be considered for out of county defendants and high-risk defendants on a case by case basis.

This the 6th day of May, 2020.


Bradley Reid Allen, Sr.
Chief District Court Judge



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

ALAMANCE COUNTY

DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

FILE NO. _____

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

vs.

CONSENT TO ENTER GUILTY

PLEA PRIOR TO JUNE 1, 2020

_____,
Defendant

1. The parties consent to this guilty plea being entered prior to June 1, 2020 and request an in-person hearing.
2. The parties consent to the limitations on the hearing as stated herein and pursuant to Alamance County Local Rules and Procedures and the Alamance County Criminal District Court Protocol for Entry of Guilty Pleas Prior to June 1, 2020.
3. The parties consent to enter the attached guilty plea form and plea agreement.
4. The Defendant states that he/she:
 - a. has not travelled outside of North Carolina within the preceding 30 days;
 - b. has not experienced fever, cough, or shortness of breath within the preceding 30 days;
 - c. has not been directed to quarantine, isolate, or self-monitor within the preceding 30 days;
 - d. has no known exposure to COVID-19;
 - e. has not been diagnosed with COVID-19;
 - f. does not reside with and has not been in close contact with any person that would answer "yes" to the abovementioned statements.

This the _____ day of _____, 2020.

Signature of Assistant District Attorney

Signature of Defendant's Attorney

Signature of Defendant

ACCEPTED BY: _____
District Court Judge

DATE: _____