

BRADLEY REID ALLEN, SR. CHIEF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

JUDICIAL DISTRICT #15A ALAMANCE COUNTY

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District Court Administrative Order Procedures for Protest Case

"Protest Cases" for Defendants that were charged at an Alamance County protest will be heard beginning Wednesday February 17, 2021. The cases will be scheduled at a specific date and time by the District Attorney's Office to ensure social distancing. These cases will be held in Courtroom B in the JB Allen, Jr. Courthouse (not the Historic Courthouse) with Retired Emergency Judge Lunsford Long presiding.

These cases will be heard on Wednesdays in Courtroom B until all cases have been completed. If a case is in trial and not completed on Wednesday, the case will be completed the next day on Thursday.

Pursuant to Governor Cooper, Chief Justice Beasley, and Chief Justice Newby's Orders and Directives, COVID-19 safety precautions, limited building space, courtroom seating limitations and the necessity of limiting persons and personal contact in the Courthouse and Courtrooms, restrictions have been necessary regarding access to the Courthouses and Courtrooms.

Signs have previously been posted outside Courthouses explaining restrictions. Court Orders, detailing these capacity restrictions, have been placed on the Administrative Office of the Courts website for public viewing.

Persons that will be allowed in the Courtroom specifically for the protest cases are as follows:

- 1. Defendant.
- 2. Attorneys (State and Defense).
- 3. Attorney's Paralegal.
- 4. Witness(es).
- Media.
- 6. Court reporter hired by the State or Defendant.

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District Attorney, Defense attorneys or Pro se defendants must provide a witness list to the Court prior to the case being called for trial. Witnesses will not be allowed in the Courthouse or Courtroom unless they are on the list. The Presiding Judge may make exceptions upon a showing of extraordinary circumstance.

Due to the cases having specific times, the witness(es) will not be allowed into the Courtroom or Courthouse until it is time for their testimony.

If a case exceeds the allotted time, the parties for the next case will not be allowed into the Courtroom or Courthouse until the prior matter is complete.

Space is limited in the Courthouse and Courtrooms to allow for proper social distancing, therefore, ONLY the first five (5) Media Outlets represented and approved will be allowed into the Courtroom and additional Media Outlets will only be allowed inside the Courtroom if one of those first five Media Outlets leave the Courthouse.

Media members will receive an email from Cassandra Cobb and must present said email to security to be admitted in the Courthouse or Courtroom. Please refer to the Administrative Order dated December 18, 2020 regarding Media gaining access to hearings. The number of Media Outlets allowed inside the Courtroom may be reduced if Courtroom seating space does not allow five (5) Media Outlets, due to the number of scheduled defendants, witnesses or alleged victims that are in the Courtroom or present for a particular case.

In these cases of an enhanced public interest and because of limited seating availability, audio to persons outside the Courtroom will be made available to the public and the media:

 Listen to a livestream of the hearing(s) (audio only) via the Alamance County YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/AlamanceCountyNC.

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 Listen to a livestream of the hearing(s)(audio only) by clicking the link on the Alamance County home page at https://www.alamance-nc.com above the banner that reads "Click Here to Listen Live to Alamance County Protest Cases."

All persons entering the Courthouse including members of the Media, Witnesses, Defendants, Attorneys and Paralegals, are subject to COVID-19 screening protocols and may be excluded.

Recording devices, including but not limited to, cameras, audio or video equipment or cell phones are not allowed in the Courthouse or Courtroom without permission of the Judge presiding in said Courtroom.

If a Defendant or witness has evidence on their cell phone or electronic device, notify security upon Courthouse entry. The device will be placed in an envelope and placed securely in the Courtroom. The electronic evidence will be accessible when the case is called for trial.

Recording the Court proceedings in any fashion is not allowed without the express permission of the presiding Judge.

A Court Reporter may be employed to record the proceeding however, they will be required to provide a certified transcript to the state and the defendant regardless of the outcome of the case or hearing.

All persons are subject to the Contempt powers of the Court for violation of this Administrative Order.

This the 4th day of Feb.

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Bradley Reid Allen, Sr.

Chief District Court Judge

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