STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA GASTON COUNTY 27A JUDICIAL/PISSERICT P 1: 39

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER District Court Continuance Policy

It is the policy of this Court to provide justice for citizens without unnecessary delay and without undue waste of the time and other resources of the Court, the litigants, and other case participants. For all case types and dockets, and in all courtrooms, the Court looks with strong disfavor on motions or requests to continue court events. In order to protect the credibility of scheduled trial dates, trial-date continuances are especially disfavored.

Now therefore, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

- 1. Whenever possible, continuance motions or requests shall be made using the appropriate local forms or forms issued by the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts,
- 2. Any attorney or party requesting a continuance shall state the reasons for the request.
- 3. Continuances on agreement of counsel or the parties shall not be automatically granted.
- 4. The Court shall grant a continuance only for good cause shown unless otherwise provided by law.
- 5. Continuances of cases more than 6 (six) months old or that have been previously continued are specifically disfavored and shall be granted only in **extraordinary** circumstances.
- 6. Whenever possible, the Court shall hold the rescheduled court event no later than 90 (ninety) days after the date from which it was continued.
- 7. Information about the source of each continuance motion or request in a case and the reason for any continuance granted by the Court shall be noted in the Court's file.
- 8. To the extent that this order conflicts with any statutory provision applicable to a particular continuance motion or request, the statutory provision will control.

- 9. At least quarterly, the Chief District Court Judge shall generate and review a report of pending cases and any data the Administrative Office of the Courts can make available regarding the number of court dates each case had. To promote the consistent application of this continuance policy, these reports should be reviewed and discussed with all other judges in the district, bar representatives and other court-related agencies to seek resolution of any organizational or systemic problems that cause unnecessary delay in the timely resolution of all cases.
- 10. This order shall be adopted as Local Rule C1 and published on the Administrative Office of the Court's Local Rules website.

Entered and effective as of this $\frac{1}{2}$ day of $\frac{1}{2}$, 2023.

John K. Greenlee

Chief District Court Judge

27A Judicial District