

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
COVID-19 EMERGENCY HEALTH CRISIS  
MAY AND JUNE 2020 COURT OPERATIONS**

**NOW COMES** the undersigned Senior Resident Superior Court Judge and enters this Administrative Order concerning Court operations for May and June of 2020.

**IT APPEARING TO THE COURT** that the Chief Justice has declared that catastrophic conditions exist in all North Carolina counties. Although the Superior Court will remain open for business, the normal operation of the court will change to contain emergency directives to reduce the spread of infection.

This Administrative Order is in addition to all previous Orders.

**NEW PROCEDURES**

In order to expand the use of Court time, and to handle non-custody matters, the two following procedures are adopted.

**1. Hearing of non-custody defendant pleas, motions and probation violations.**

During the month of May and June, non-custody defendant pleas, motions and probation violations may be taken pursuant to the following rules:

- a.) Plea transcripts must be signed by all parties prior to scheduling, however they may be modified if necessary.

- b.) Each attorney having non-custody pleas, motions or probation violations shall notify the District Attorney in advance of the session. The parties shall consult and such attorney shall be allocated a designated time period, and a specific time for each defendant to appear in the courtroom, which shall not overlap.
- c.) Essential victim rights witnesses and defense witnesses who are to address the Court shall be allowed to appear. No other attorney, defendant or witness not necessary for the plea or probation violation shall remain in the courtroom. All persons present shall at all times sit on alternate rows of the courtroom, at least 6 feet apart.
- d.) All persons present in the courtroom are encouraged to wear gloves and a mask as appropriate.

**2. Specific rules for Grand Jury sessions until further notice:**

- a.) The Grand Jury will meet in an empty courtroom, meeting room, or the actual courtroom itself, that is large enough to accommodate the 18 Grand Jurors, and the witness appearing before them. All Grand Jurors shall be seated at least 6 feet apart.
- b.) Each Grand Juror shall be provided a mask and gloves, and sanitizer shall be on site, for their use if desired.
- c.) All witnesses appearing before the Grand Jury shall wear a mask and gloves.
- d.) Breaks to include hand washing shall be taken as needed.

**SCHEDULE OF COURT FOR MAY AND JUNE**

May 4, 2020 - Judge Sermons

10:00 am Hyde County criminal session for in custody and scheduled non- custody pleas, motions and probation violations.

The Hyde County Grand Jury will meet.

May 5, 2020 - Judge Sermons

9:30 am Beaufort County administrative court for in custody and scheduled non-custody pleas, motions and probation violations.

May 11, 2020 District Admin - Judge Sermons

9:30 am

Monday-Martin County in custody and scheduled non-custody pleas, motions and probation violations.

Wednesday- Washington County in custody and scheduled non-custody pleas, motions and probation violations.

Thursday- Hyde County in custody and scheduled non-custody pleas, motions and probation violations. (Unless all are handled May 4<sup>th</sup>)

Tyrell County will be cancelled unless there are matters to be heard.

May 18, 2020 - Judge Sermons

10:00 am Washington County criminal court for in custody and scheduled non-custody pleas, motions and probation violations.

The Washington County Grand Jury will meet.

May 19, 2020 - Judge Sermons

Beaufort County Civil Court to hear district wide motions remotely or in person.

May 26, 2020 - Judge Sermons

10:00 am Beaufort County criminal in custody and scheduled non-custody pleas, motions and probation violations.

The Beaufort County Grand Jury will meet.

There will be no Jury trials in June.

June 1, 2020 - Judge Hinton

10:00 am Martin County criminal court for in custody and scheduled non custody pleas, motions and probation violations.

The Martin County Grand Jury will meet,

June 1, 2020 - Judge Sermons

10:00 am Tyrrell County criminal court for in custody and scheduled non custody pleas, motions and probation violations.

The Tyrrell County Grand Jury will meet.

June 8, 2020 – Judge Sermons

9:30 am Beaufort County Admin for in custody and scheduled non custody pleas, motions and probation violations.

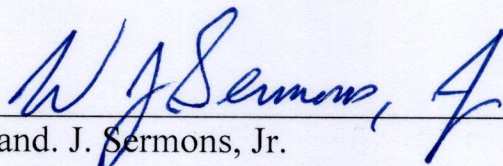
Hyde Civil is cancelled.

June 15, 2020 - No Superior Court is scheduled, however Judge Sermons is available if needed.

June 22, 2020 District Admin – Judge Sermons

9:30 am Hopefully back to normal.

This the 28<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wayland J. Sermons, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Wayland. J. Sermons, Jr.  
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge  
Second Judicial District