




4. The Court shall grant a continuance only for good cause shown unless otherwise provided by law.<sup>1</sup>
5. Continuances of cases more than eight (8) months old or that have been previously continued are specifically disfavored and shall be granted only in extraordinary circumstances.
6. Any grant of a continuance motion or request by the Court shall be made on the record, with an indication of the party requesting it and the reasons for granting it. This information shall be noted in the court file and kept by the Clerk.
7. Whenever possible, the Court shall hold the rescheduled court event no later than sixty (60) days after the date from which it the case was continued.
8. To the extent that this order conflicts with any statutory provision applicable to a particular continuance motion and/or request, the statutory provision will control.
9. At least quarterly, the Senior Resident Superior 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 has 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 the resolution of any organizational or systemic problems that may cause unnecessary delay in the timely resolution of all cases.
10. By entry of this order, this order shall be adopted as a **Local Rule** and shall be published as a Local rule within the “Local Rules” section of [www.nccourts.gov](http://www.nccourts.gov) for Buncombe County

Entered and effective as of this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2023.



Honorable Alan Z. Thornburg  
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge  
Judicial District 28

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<sup>1</sup> State law specifies the factors that judges must consider when ruling on pretrial continuance requests in criminal cases. G.S. 15A-952(g). State law entitles defendants in criminal cases to continuances in certain situations without any showing of good cause. *E.g.*, G.S. 15A-1023(b) (defendant must be granted continuance upon judge’s rejection of plea arrangement); 15A-1024 (defendant is entitled to continuance upon withdrawal of plea following judge’s determination to impose sentence other than as provided for in plea arrangement). There is at least one circumstance in which state law entitles the state to a continuance. G.S. 15A-1415(g) (court must grant state’s request for 30-day continuance made in response to defendant’s amendment to motion for appropriate relief).