

NORTH CAROLINA

FILED

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

HALIFAX COUNTY

2023 JAN 26 4:50

SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

6A JUDICIAL DISTRICT

HALIFAX CO., C.S.C.

**AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER – COURTROOM PROTOCOL AND DECORUM (RULES) (G.S.15A-1031-1035)**

Effective January 1, 2023, it is hereby **ORDERED** that:

1. No backpacks, briefcases, tote bags, messenger bags, or large purses will be allowed to be brought into the Courtrooms. Clutch or small handbags (maximum size: 12" W x 8" H x 4" D) will continue to be allowed.
2. No wireless devices or cell phones will be allowed in the Courtrooms, unless previously authorized. Law enforcement and court officials are authorized to bring their cell phones in the courtroom if the devices are set on the inaudible or silent mode. If the device becomes audible during court, it will be confiscated.
3. Photographs and/or recordings of court proceedings are prohibited. Any device used to take pictures or record court proceedings will be confiscated and destroyed by court order.
4. Defendants, witnesses, parties and spectators must be properly attired. No persons wearing tank tops, fuzzy bedroom pants and/or shoes, shorts, biker pants, halter top, hair/sleeping bonnets, transparent, sheer or revealing clothing will be allowed. All shirts must be tucked in, with no inappropriate language or graphics, and pants must be pulled up (NO SAGGING)! Defendants who are leaving to change into appropriate dress must inform the bailiffs in the courtroom before leaving and upon prompt return.
5. No children under the age of 12 will be allowed in the Courtrooms unless otherwise directly related in a case and supervised by a parent or guardian.
6. Persons may enter and leave the courtroom at will; however, persons must do so in a manner that is not disruptive to the courtroom proceedings.
7. The courtroom bailiffs are authorized to deny entry to the courtroom to any person whom, upon the bailiffs' request, refuses to submit to a search of his or her person for weapons.
8. No persons are permitted to congregate or loiter in the halls adjacent to the courtrooms. Persons outside the courtrooms are not to engage in loud conversation or behavior in the hallways that will disrupt the court proceedings.

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9. E-cigarettes, E-cigarette batteries, cigarette lighters and vapes are not allowed in the Courthouse.
10. There is to be no talking while court is in session other than by court personnel, witnesses who are testifying or defendants who are before the court.
11. No food or drink allowed in the Courtrooms.
12. Violation of this Order may result in a charge of Contempt of Court.
13. The Clerk of Superior Court shall post a copy of this Order on the door to the Courtrooms.

This the 26<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023.

*Brenda G. Branch*

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Brenda G. Branch  
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge