

**ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF NORTH CAROLINA**

On 10 March 2020, Governor Roy Cooper declared a state of emergency in North Carolina in response to the emerging public health threat posed by COVID-19. Since that time, the World Health Organization has designated the COVID-19 outbreak as a global pandemic.

On 14 March 2020, Governor Cooper signed Executive Order No. 117, which prohibits mass gatherings, closes the public schools of North Carolina for at least two weeks, and encourages all North Carolinians to practice social distancing whenever possible and practice proper hygiene in order to stem the spread of infection.

Subsequent guidance from state and federal officials has advised or mandated more extensive social distancing in an attempt to limit the spread of COVID-19, including: a recommendation from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services that in-person gatherings of 50 people or more be cancelled or postponed, Governor Cooper's Executive Order No. 118 closing dine-in service at restaurants and bars, and guidance from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to limit in-person interactions.

Although the superior courts and district courts remain open, additional action is necessary to reduce the spread of infection.

Accordingly, I hereby determine and declare under N.C.G.S. § 7A-39(b)(1) that catastrophic conditions resulting from the public health threat posed by COVID-19 exist in all counties of this state.

**Extension of Time and Periods of Limitation
Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 7A-39(b)(1)**

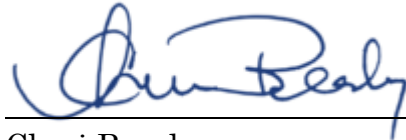
I order that all pleadings, motions, notices, and other documents and papers that were or are due to be filed in any county of this state on or after 16 March 2020 and before the close of business on 17 April 2020 in civil actions, criminal actions, estates, and special proceedings shall be deemed to be timely filed if they are filed before the close of business on 17 April 2020.

I further order that all other acts that were or are due to be done in any county of this state on or after 16 March 2020 and before the close of business on 17 April 2020 in civil actions, criminal actions, estates, and special proceedings shall be deemed to be timely done if they are done before the close of business on 17 April 2020.

This order does not apply to documents and papers due to be filed or acts due to be done in the appellate courts.

Additional emergency orders or directives under N.C.G.S. § 7A-39(b) may be entered as necessary to support the continuing operation of essential court functions.

Issued this the 19th day of March, 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cheri Beasley", is written over a horizontal line.

Cheri Beasley
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of North Carolina