

March 20, 2020

3:00pm

Due to COVID-19 concerns and the recent State of Emergency that has been issued this week, the Macon County Sheriff's Office, at the direction of Sheriff Robert L. Holland, will be implementing several changes in how we conduct the public's business. We will do our best to notify the public prior to those changes being implemented when possible.

Here are a few of the latest changes here at the Macon County Sheriff's Office & Detention Center:

#1

Inmate visitation is generally conducted on Saturdays and Sundays but will be temporarily suspended beginning March 21 and March 22. We are in the process of organizing and implementing new inmate visitation procedures and will have them in place and announced by Monday, March 23. We are asking family members to be patient about this weekend's inmate visitation being suspended as we intend to make visitations available soon. In fact, Sheriff Holland assures inmates' family and friends that they will be able to have inmate visits starting back up within the next few days. We will have an exact date when visitations will be available posted on our Macon County Sheriff's Office Facebook page. With the current concerns about COVID-19 we want to be sure we maintain the safety of the public who visit the Macon County Detention Center, along with those who are incarcerated in our facility as well as our staff, as our top priority. We currently DO NOT HAVE any inmates suffering from flu like symptoms or any other illnesses in the detention facility and we want to do everything we can to keep it that way. We have been communicating with our medical staff working within our facility on a daily basis and we have discussed the new procedures in depth. Sheriff Holland and his staff agree the precautions and new procedures are necessary and appropriate. All are being implemented in the best interest of our community.

#2

"Face to Face" inmate visitation with attorneys will temporarily be suspended and will now be conducted with a glass window barrier. Attorneys will communicate with clients by use of a non-recordable telephone system while seeing inmates on other side of glass window. This is the area within our facility where inmates previously were able to receive visitors and have done so since the detention center originally opened in 1999. This procedure has been approved by Sheriff Holland's legal counsel and a letter has been drafted for all members of the Bar. A copy of this letter will be available at the Macon County Detention Center and provided to all attorneys who come to visit their clients.

#3

Effective immediately there will be no public access until further notice at the MCSO Administrative Building (Annex located at 18 Patton Ave.) or the Macon County Detention Center located at 1820 Lakeside Drive, Franklin. If you do come to the detention center you will be required to use the telephone located at the entrance to communicate with the staff who will continue to be at the front desk. They will continue to address any questions or guide you for any additional assistance.

#4

We have suspended any civilian fingerprinting until further notice related to Concealed Carry Permits and related to schools, daycares and other employment that generally takes place in our facility. The contact that takes place between civilians and officers to do fingerprinting is discouraged at this current time and considered to be a risk to all who may be involved in the fingerprinting process.

#5

Pistol Purchase Permits, Concealed Carry Permits, Concealed Carry Re-Newels are now available on our website www.maconnc.org

You can print and complete the appropriate documents and mail to MCSO at 1820 Lakeside Drive Franklin, N.C., 28734. Be sure to include a copy of your NC Driver's License with your completed documents. Once we receive your completed documents in the mail, a member of our staff will call you and schedule an appointment for you to come be fingerprinted.

#6

Effective immediately ALL individuals arrested and transported to the Macon County Detention Center by any arresting agency will be screened by MCSO staff prior to entering our facility.

#7

Per judicial officials, effective immediately, no "Child Support" order for arrest warrants are to be served.

#8

Effective immediately no individuals who have been ordered to serve an active sentence only on the weekends will be permitted inside our facility. They are directed to contact their probation officers to arrange serving their weekends at a later date.

These are just a few changes we would like for you to know about. All are subject to change at any time. Please continue to follow our Macon County Sheriff's Office Facebook page for any additional changes.

We also encourage you to follow the Macon County Public Health Facebook page for latest updates on COVID-19.

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SHERIFF ROBERT L. HOLLAND

Macon Co. Sheriff's Office

18 Patton Ave

Franklin, NC 28734

CORI SELLERS

Sheriff's Administrative Asst.

(828) 349-2152