

# NORTH CAROLINA REPORTS

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VOLUME 369

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SUPREME COURT OF NORTH CAROLINA



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19 AUGUST 2016

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9 JUNE 2017

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RALEIGH  
2018

**ORDER AMENDING RULE 7 OF THE NORTH CAROLINA  
RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE**

Pursuant to the authority vested in this Court by Article IV of the Constitution of North Carolina, Rule 7 of the North Carolina Rules of Appellate Procedure is amended as follows:

**Rule 7. Preparation of the Transcript; Court Reporter's Duties**

**(a) Ordering the Transcript.**

- (1) **Civil Cases.** Within fourteen days after filing the notice of appeal the appellant shall contract for the transcription of the proceedings or of such parts of the proceedings not already on file, as the appellant deems necessary, in accordance with these rules, and shall provide the following information in writing: a designation of the parts of the proceedings to be transcribed; the name and address of the court reporter or other neutral person designated to produce the transcript; and, where portions of the proceedings have been designated to be transcribed, a statement of the issues the appellant intends to raise on appeal. The appellant shall file the written documentation of this transcript contract with the clerk of the trial tribunal, and serve a copy of it upon all other parties of record and upon the person designated to produce the transcript. If an appellee deems a transcript of other parts of the proceedings to be necessary, the appellee, within fourteen days after the service of the written documentation of the appellant, shall contract for the transcription of any additional parts of the proceedings or such parts of the proceedings not already on file, in accordance with these rules. The appellee shall file with the clerk of the trial tribunal, and serve on all other parties of record, written documentation of the additional parts of the proceedings to be transcribed and the name and address of the court reporter or other neutral person designated to produce the transcript. In civil cases and special proceedings where there is an order establishing the indigency of a party entitled to appointed appellate counsel, the ordering of the transcript shall be as in criminal cases where there is an order establishing the indigency of the defendant as set forth in Rule 7(a)(2).

- (2) **Criminal Cases.** In criminal cases where there is no order establishing the indigency of the defendant for the appeal, the defendant shall contract for the transcription of the proceedings as in civil cases.

When there is an order establishing the indigency of the defendant, unless the trial judge's appeal entries specify or the parties stipulate that parts of the proceedings need not be transcribed, the clerk of the trial tribunal shall order a transcript of the proceedings by serving the following documents upon either the court reporter(s) or neutral person designated to produce the transcript: a copy of the appeal entries signed by the judge; a copy of the trial court's order establishing indigency for the appeal; and a statement setting out the name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of appellant's counsel. The clerk shall make an entry of record reflecting the date these documents were served upon the court reporter(s) or transcriptionist.

(b) **Production and Delivery of Transcript.**

- (1) **Production.** In civil cases: from the date the requesting party serves the written documentation of the transcript contract on the person designated to produce the transcript, that person shall have sixty days to produce and electronically deliver the transcript.

In criminal cases where there is no order establishing the indigency of the defendant for the appeal: from the date the requesting party serves the written documentation of the transcript contract on the person designated to produce the transcript, that person shall have sixty days to produce and electronically deliver the transcript in non-capital cases and one-hundred-twenty days to produce and electronically deliver the transcript in capitally-tried cases.

In criminal cases where there is an order establishing the indigency of the defendant for the appeal: from the date listed on the appeal entries as the "Date order delivered to transcriptionist," that person shall have sixty-five days to produce and electronically deliver the transcript in non-capital cases and one-hundred-twenty-five days to produce and electronically deliver the transcript in capitally-tried cases.

The transcript format shall comply with ~~Appendix B of these rules~~ standards set by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Except in capitally-tried criminal cases which result in the imposition of a sentence of death, the trial tribunal, in its discretion and for good cause shown by the appellant, may, pursuant to Rule 27(c)(1), extend the time to produce the transcript for an additional thirty days. Any subsequent motions for additional time required to produce the transcript may only be made pursuant to Rule 27(c)(2) to the appellate court to which appeal has been taken. All motions for extension of time to produce the transcript in capitally-tried cases resulting in the imposition of a sentence of death shall be made directly to the Supreme Court by the appellant.

- (2) **Delivery.** The court reporter, or person designated to produce the transcript, shall electronically deliver the completed transcript to the parties, including the district attorney and Attorney General of North Carolina in criminal cases, as ordered, within the time provided by this rule, unless an extension of time has been granted under Rule 7(b)(1) or Rule 27(c). The court reporter or transcriptionist shall certify to the clerk of the trial tribunal that the transcript has been so delivered ~~and shall send a copy of such certification to the appellate court to which the appeal is taken.~~ The appellant shall promptly notify the court reporter when the record on appeal has been filed. Once the court reporter, or person designated to produce the transcript, has been notified by the appellant that the record on appeal has been filed with the appellate court to which the appeal has been taken, the court reporter must electronically file the transcript with that court using the docket number assigned by that court.
- (3) **Neutral Transcriptionist.** The neutral person designated to produce the transcript shall not be a relative or employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties, or a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel, or be financially interested in the action unless the parties agree otherwise by stipulation.

This amendment to the North Carolina Rules of Appellate Procedure shall be effective immediately.

This amendment shall be promulgated by publication in the North Carolina Reports and posted on the Court's web site.

Ordered by the Court in Conference, this the 16th day of March, 2017.

s/Michael R. Morgan  
For the Court

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, this the 16th day of March, 2017.

s/J. Bryan Boyd  
J. BRYAN BOYD  
Clerk of the Supreme Court