



NORTH CAROLINA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
of the COURTS

Office of the Director
Judge John W. Smith
Director

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SUPERSEDED

Date: Monday, October 13, 2014

To: Magistrates and Chief District Court Judges and Elected Clerks

From: John W. Smith, Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts

Re: Same-Sex Marriages by Magistrates, Interim Guidance

A blue ink signature of John W. Smith, written in a cursive style.

You will soon receive a more detailed memorandum from Pamela Best in our legal division, but we have received a sufficient number of requests for guidance given the recent federal ruling on same-sex marriages to justify this interim memorandum of guidance to magistrates.

Magistrates should begin immediately conducting marriages of all couples presenting a marriage license issued by the Register of Deeds. No further authorization or instructions are necessary. Under the recent federal ruling, we can assure our magistrates that they are authorized to conduct those marriages of same-sex couples under the existing statutory authority they possess.

Further detail will be forthcoming promptly, but marriages conducted by magistrates should not be delayed or postponed while awaiting further clarification of other questions or issues. Magistrates having questions should direct them to their Chief District Court Judge or to our General Counsel, Pamela Best.