

Initial Appearance

INITIAL APPEARANCE

Exceptions to Pretrial Release Procedures:

A Guide for Magistrates Initial Appearance-Page 1

Domestic Violence 48-Hour Rule Initial Appearance-Page 5

Problems in Determining the

Conditions of Pretrial Release Initial Appearance-Page 13

Problems in Setting Pretrial Release Conditions Initial Appearance-Page 17

EXCEPTIONS TO PRETRIAL RELEASE PROCEDURES: A GUIDE FOR MAGISTRATES

THE GENERAL RULE: Upon arrest, the defendant must be taken without unnecessary delay before a magistrate, who **MUST** hold an initial appearance and set pretrial release (PTR) conditions. G.S. 15A-511; G.S. 15A-533(b) (right to pretrial release determination). There are **LIMITED** exceptions to this rule.

Category	Specific Situation	Response	Statutory Basis	Form to Use
Delay initial appearance altogether	Person is unable to understand rights (ex., person is unconscious, grossly intoxicated, does not understand English)	Delay initial appearance for reasonable time without setting PTR conditions. If you commit person to jail until able to understand rights, set reasonable outer time limit and check regularly with jail. To avoid delay of initial appearance if person does not speak English, use telephone interpreting service when possible.	15A-511(a)(3)	AOC-CR-200 Fill out commitment portion of form only. Check the box to hold person "for the following purpose" and write purpose. Do not set PTR conditions in upper portion of form.
Conduct initial appearance, BUT delay setting pretrial release conditions	Person is charged with domestic violence offense under "48-hour" law	Conduct initial appearance, but do not set PTR conditions. Order that person be returned to magistrate if judge does not set PTR conditions within 48 hours. After 48 hours, magistrate has authority to delay setting of PTR conditions for reasonable time if person continues to pose danger	15A-534.1	AOC-CR-200 Fill out commitment portion of form only. Check the domestic violence box and indicate when defendant should be returned to magistrate if judge has not acted.
	Felony by person on probation if insufficient information about danger to public	Conduct initial appearance, but do not set PTR conditions. Order that person be brought for first appearance before judge no later than 96 hours. If sufficient information before then, set PTR conditions.	15A-534(d2)	AOC-CR-200, AOC-CR-272 (side one) Check the appropriate box in AOC-CR-200 and fill out AOC-CR-272 (side one)
	Violation of probation by person who has pending felony charge or who is subject to sex offender registration if insufficient information about danger to public	Conduct initial appearance, but do not set PTR conditions. If defendant has been held for 7 days without PTR conditions, defendant must be brought before any judicial official to set PTR conditions. If sufficient information before then that not a danger, set PTR conditions.	15A-1345(b1)	AOC-CR-200, AOC-CR-272 (side two) Check the appropriate box in AOC-CR-200 and fill out AOC-CR-272 (side two)
	Violation of 14-277.6 or 14-277.7 (threat of mass violence on educational property or place of worship)	Conduct initial appearance, but do not set PTR conditions. Order that person be returned to magistrate if judge does not set PTR conditions within 48 hours. After 48 hours, magistrate may retain defendant for reasonable time while determining PTR conditions if immediate release poses danger of injury and appearance bond will not prevent injury	15A-534.7	AOC-CR-200

Category	Specific Situation	Response	Statutory Basis	Form to Use
<p>Conduct initial appearance, set pretrial release conditions, BUT delay release</p>	<p>Probable cause of impaired driving offense and clear and convincing evidence that person is so impaired as to present danger to self or others if released</p>	<p>Set pretrial release conditions and order defendant into custody, up to 24 hours, until he or she is no longer impaired to dangerous extent or sober responsible adult agrees to take custody.</p>	<p>15A-534.2</p>	<p>AOC-CR-200, AOC-CR-270 Make special findings in AOC-CR-270 (side one). Use AOC-CR-200 for PTR conditions; check the box that release is subject to AOC-CR-270.</p>
	<p>Probable cause that individual was exposed to defendant in a nonsexual manner that poses significant risk of transmission of AIDS or Hepatitis B</p>	<p>Contact public health official to determine risk of transmission. If risk exists, order defendant detained for up to 24 hours for testing. Set PTR conditions, to go into effect once testing is completed.</p>	<p>15A-534.3</p>	<p>AOC-CR-200, AOC-CR-270 (side two) See above.</p>
<p>Conduct initial appearance, BUT deny any pretrial release conditions if criteria met</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital offense • Fugitive from another state charged with offense punishable by life in prison or death, or fugitive charged with any offense after arrest on Governor's warrant • Out-of-state probationer arrested for violation of probation if subject to Interstate Compact for Adult Supervision • Offense while person was involuntarily committed or on escape from involuntary commitment if person is still subject to commitment • Certain drug trafficking offenses • Certain gang offenses • Certain offenses with firearm • Violation of certain health control measures if person poses health and safety threat • Certain methamphetamine offenses • Military deserter • Violation of post-release supervision or parole • Violation of probation by person who has pending felony charge or is subject to sex offender registration if danger to public¹ 	<p>In all of these situations, deny release if criteria are met. Make findings if required.</p> <p>If offense is while person was involuntarily committed or on escape from involuntary commitment, and person is still subject to commitment, person should be returned to treatment facility.</p> <p>If offense is violation of health control measure (under 130A-145 or 130A-475), pretrial confinement terminates when judicial official finds, based on recommendation of state or local health director, that person no longer poses health and safety threat.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15A-533(c) • 15A-736 • Ch. 148, Art. 4B (Interstate Compact) • 15A-533(a) • 15A-533(d) • 15A-533(e) • 15A-533(f) • 15A-534.5 • 15A-534.6 • Case law • 15A-1368.6, • 15A-1376 • 15A-1345(b1) 	<p>AOC-CR-200</p> <p>In upper portion of form, check the box that states "Your release is not authorized." In additional information section, write any findings or instructions.</p> <p>If a violation of probation by a person who has a pending felony charge or is subject to sex offender registration, also check appropriate box in AOC-CR-200 and fill out AOC-CR-272 (side two)</p>

1. Also applies if probationer would be subject to sex offender registration but for the effective date of NC's sex offender registration program.

Category	Specific Situation	Response	Statutory Basis	Form to Use
<p>Conduct initial appearance, BUT set certain pretrial release conditions</p>	<p>Arrested on order for arrest (OFA) after failure to appear (FTA)</p>	<p>If OFA requires certain PTR conditions, set those conditions. If OFA does not require PTR conditions, set secured bond in at least twice the amount of previous bond. If OFA does not require conditions and there was no previous bond, set secured bond of at least \$1,000. If defendant was already surrendered by surety for this FTA and made new bond, release defendant without setting new bond.</p>	<p>15A-534(d1)</p>	<p>AOC-CR-200 Set pretrial release conditions. Check the box in upper portion of form that defendant was arrested or surrendered for FTA. Also check the box if this is defendant's second or subsequent FTA.</p>
	<p>Surrendered by surety following FTA</p>	<p>Require secured bond in at least twice the amount of previous bond. If defendant was already arrested for this FTA and made new bond, release defendant without setting new bond. If defendant has not been arrested for this FTA, attempt to get OFA recalled.</p>	<p>15A-534(d1)</p>	<p>AOC-CR-200 See immediately above. See also AOC-CR-214 (surrender of defendant by surety)</p>
	<p>New offense while on pretrial release for prior offense</p>	<p>May require (was, shall require) secured bond in at least twice the amount of previous bond for the charges. If no previous bond for the charges, may require (was, shall require) secured bond of at least \$1,000.</p>	<p>15A-534(d3)</p>	<p>AOC-CR-200 Set pretrial release conditions with required bond amount.</p>
	<p>Felony by person on probation if danger to public</p>	<p>Set secured bond, with or without electronic house arrest.</p>	<p>15A-534(d2)</p>	<p>AOC-CR-200, AOC-CR-272 (side one) Check the appropriate box in AOC-CR-200 and fill out AOC-CR-272 (side one)</p>
	<p>Electronic house arrest</p>	<p>If you require house arrest with electronic monitoring, set secured bond.</p>	<p>15A-534(a)</p>	<p>AOC-CR-200 Check appropriate box.</p>
	<p>Order of judge</p>	<p>Follow judge's order.</p>		<p>AOC-CR-200</p>
	<p>Domestic violence offense</p>	<p>If authorized to set PTR conditions, magistrate may impose conditions that defendant stay away from victim, not assault victim, not damage specified property, and may visit defendant's children at times specified in court order</p>	<p>15A-534.1(a)(2)</p>	<p>AOC-CR-200, AOC-CR-630 In space for restrictions in AOC-CR-200, refer to AOC-CR-630 if additional conditions included there.</p>

Category	Specific Situation	Response	Statutory Basis	Form to Use
Set certain pretrial release conditions (cont'd)	Sex offenses and crimes of violence against a minor	In addition to any other PTR conditions, require that defendant stay away from, not communicate with, and not assault, threaten, or harm alleged victim; stay away and non-communication conditions may be waived on proper findings.	15A-534.4	AOC-CR-200, AOC-CR-631 In space for restrictions in AOC-CR-200, refer to AOC-CR-631 if additional conditions included there.
	Threats of mass violence	If authorized to set PTR conditions, magistrate may impose conditions that defendant stay away from threatened educational property or place of worship and, unless granted permission by person in control of property, other such properties.	15A-534.7	AOC-CR-660
	When fingerprints or DNA sample have not been collected as required by certain statutes	In addition to any other PTR conditions, require the collection of fingerprints or DNA sample as condition of release.	15A-534(a)	AOC-CR-200 In space for restrictions, write condition.
Reasons that initial appearance and/or pretrial release conditions may NOT be delayed or denied	Noncitizens	No authority to delay or deny PTR conditions. If ICE has filed detainer, defendant may be detained by jail for additional 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) after defendant makes PTR conditions.	8 C.F.R. 287.7 (ICE detainer)	AOC-CR-200 Fill out release order as in other cases.
	Out-of-county offenses or violations	No authority to delay or deny PTR conditions.		AOC-CR-200, AOC-CR-241 (out-of-county process verification recall and transmission)
	Arrest without paperwork	No authority to delay or deny PTR conditions.	15A-401(a)(2) (arrest authority when warrant not in possession of officer)	AOC-CR-200
	DCI hit states "no bond"	No authority to delay or deny PTR conditions.		AOC-CR-200
	Probation violation by in-state probationer or "absconder"	No authority to delay or deny PTR conditions except in the circumstances in 15A-1345(b1), described above.	15A-1345(b) (bail following arrest for probation violation)	AOC-CR-200

Domestic Violence Crimes and the 48-Hour Rule

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Overview

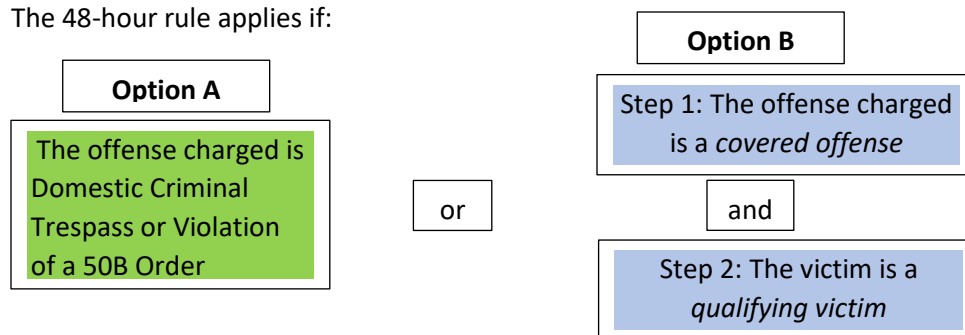
G.S. 15A-534.1 provides that, for certain domestic violence crimes, only a judge may set conditions of release in the first 48 hours after the defendant’s arrest. A magistrate is empowered to set conditions only if 48 hours pass without a judge setting conditions. For example, if a defendant is arrested on Friday night and no judge is available during the weekend, a magistrate could set conditions on Sunday night. This provision is known across the state as “the 48-hour rule.” Note that the rule does not require or permit the defendant to be held for 48 hours if a judge is available to set conditions of release sooner. If a judge is available and the defendant is not presented to him or her, the case may be dismissed. See *State v. Thompspon*, 349 N.C. 483 (1998) (finding a due process violation where a defendant was held despite several judges being available). Thus, the rule is *not* a “48-hour hold.”

The rule applies “[i]n all cases in which the defendant is charged with assault on, stalking, communicating a threat to, or committing a felony provided in Articles 7B, 8, 10, or 15 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes upon a spouse or former spouse, a person with whom the defendant lives or has lived as if married, or a person with whom the defendant is or has been in a dating relationship as defined in G.S. 50B-1(b)(6), with domestic criminal trespass, or with violation of an order entered pursuant to Chapter 50B, Domestic Violence, of the General Statutes.” G.S. 15A-534.1.

This document is intended to assist magistrates and others in applying the 48-hour rule. It is current as of December 1, 2019. It does not address the similar rule contained in G.S. 15A-534.7 regarding defendants charged with communicating certain threats of mass violence.¹

48-Hour Rule Flow Chart

The 48-hour rule applies if:



¹ Previous versions of this document also addressed whether certain offenses were covered by the Crime Victims’ Rights Act, Article 46 of Chapter 15A of the General Statutes. However, the victims’ rights statutes were substantially revised by the General Assembly during the 2019 legislative session. Whether an offense is covered by the victims’ rights statutes now depends exclusively on the offense charged, regardless of the relationship between the defendant and the victim, and thus is an entirely separate question from whether the 48-hour rule applies. A complete list of offenses covered by the new victims’ rights statutes may be found at Jamie Markham, [Crimes Covered under the New Victims’ Rights Law](https://nccriminallaw.sog.unc.edu/crimes-covered-under-the-new-victims-rights-law/), N.C. CRIM. L. BLOG (Sept. 27, 2019), <https://nccriminallaw.sog.unc.edu/crimes-covered-under-the-new-victims-rights-law/>.

Option A: When the offense charged is domestic criminal trespass or violation of a 50B order

The 48-hour rule *always* applies when the defendant is charged with

- G.S. 14-134.3: Domestic criminal trespass
- G.S. 50B-4.1: Violation of valid protective order (note that although G.S. 50B-4.1 addresses violations of both North Carolina protective orders and out-of-state orders, G.S. 15A-534.1 applies only to defendants charged with “violation of an order entered pursuant to Chapter 50B,” i.e., to defendants charged with violating North Carolina protective orders)

When one of these crimes is charged, no further inquiry into the relationship between the defendant and the victim is required.

Option B: When there is a covered offense and a qualifying victim

The 48-hour rule also applies when the defendant is charged with committing what this paper will call a *covered offense* against what this paper will call a *qualifying victim*. Both a covered offense and a qualifying victim are required for the rule to apply. This paper will address the existence of a covered offense as step 1 of the analysis, then will proceed to address the existence of a qualifying victim as step 2.

Step 1: Covered offenses

Covered offenses include charges of “assault on, stalking, communicating a threat to, or committing a felony provided in Articles 7B, 8, 10, or 15 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes upon” a victim. G.S. 15A-534.1. A list of each offense that is covered by the statute is below, organized by the word or clause within G.S. 15A-534.1 that covers the offense.

Assaults

The 48-hour rule applies to “assault[s].”² Many assault crimes are contained in Article 8 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes, and the 48-hour rule also applies to all “felon[ies] provided in Article . . . 8,” so the list of assault crimes set forth below is partly redundant with the list of felonies contained in Article 8 that is set forth later in this document.

The list below includes many assault crimes that are unlikely to arise in a domestic violence context and normally will not involve a qualifying victim. For example, G.S. 14-16.6 makes it unlawful to assault certain executive, legislative, and court officials “because of the exercise of that officer’s duties.” Such an assault normally will be committed by a disgruntled citizen with no personal relationship to the official in question. But the offense is an assault crime and therefore is a covered offense under the terms of the 48-hour rule, so it is included below.³

² Is sexual battery, G.S. 14-27.33, an “assault”? Probably not under *State v. Corbett*, 196 N.C. App. 508 (2009) (ruling in part that “assault is not a lesser included offense of sexual battery”). *But see In re K.C.*, 226 N.C. App. 452 (2013) (stating, in the course of finding insufficient evidence of sexual battery but sufficient evidence of simple assault, that “[a] battery always includes an assault”).

³ It is possible to imagine unusual circumstances under which the offense would involve a qualifying victim. For example, suppose that a district court judge finds a DWI defendant guilty and imposes an active sentence. The

- G.S. 14-16.6: Assault on executive, legislative, or court officer (including with a firearm and inflicting serious bodily injury)
- G.S. 14-23.5: Assault inflicting serious bodily injury on an unborn child (note that it appears to be impossible for an unborn child to be a qualifying victim, but the statute requires “a battery on the mother of the unborn child,” and the mother could be a qualifying victim)
- G.S. 14-23.6: Battery on an unborn child (same note as for G.S. 14-23.5)
- G.S. 14-28: Malicious castration (it is not entirely clear whether this is an assault crime; the statute does not require an “assault” but it does appear to require unconsented contact; in any event, this is a covered offense because it is a felony in Article 8 of Chapter 14)
- G.S. 14-29: Castration or other maiming without malice aforethought (it is not entirely clear whether this is an assault crime; the statute does not require an “assault” but it does appear to require unconsented contact; in any event, this is a covered offense because it is a felony in Article 8 of Chapter 14)
- G.S. 14-30: Malicious maiming (it is not entirely clear whether this is an assault crime; the statute does not require an “assault” but it does appear to require unconsented contact; in any event, this is a covered offense because it is a felony in Article 8 of Chapter 14)
- G.S. 14-30.1: Malicious throwing of corrosive acid or alkali (it is not entirely clear whether this is an assault crime; the statute does not require an “assault” but it does appear to require unconsented contact; in any event, this is a covered offense because it is a felony in Article 8 of Chapter 14)
- G.S. 14-31: Maliciously assaulting in a secret manner
- G.S. 14-32: Felonious assault with deadly weapon with intent to kill or inflicting serious injury
- G.S. 14-32.1: Assaults on individuals with a disability
- G.S. 14-32.2: Patient abuse and neglect (includes several gradations depending on the defendant’s intent and the severity of the injury inflicted; it is not entirely clear whether this is an assault crime; the statute does not require an “assault” but it does require physical abuse; in any event, this is a covered offense because it is a felony in Article 8 of Chapter 14)
- G.S. 14-32.3: Domestic abuse, neglect, and exploitation of disabled or elder adults (note that “assault” is one way of establishing the element of abuse but not the only way, so the assault provisions of the 48-hour rule might apply to some offenses under this statute but not others; in any event, this is a covered offense because it is a felony in Article 8 of Chapter 14)
- G.S. 14-32.4: Assault inflicting serious bodily injury; strangulation
- G.S. 14-33: Misdemeanor assaults, batteries, and affrays, simple and aggravated (this statute includes simple assault, assault inflicting serious injury, assault on a female, and assault on a child under 12, as well as several other assault offenses less likely to arise in a domestic violence context)
- G.S. 14-33.2: Habitual misdemeanor assault
- G.S. 14-34: Assaulting by pointing gun
- G.S. 14-34.1: Discharging certain barreled weapons or a firearm into occupied property (includes several gradations; it is not entirely clear whether this is an assault crime; the statute does not require an “assault” but it does require discharging a firearm into occupied property, which

defendant is angry and assaults the judge. If, years ago, the defendant and the judge had engaged in a dating relationship, the 48-hour rule would apply.

arguably inherently amounts to an assault; in any event, this is a covered offense because it is a felony in Article 8 of Chapter 14)

- G.S. 14-34.2: Assault with a firearm or other deadly weapon upon governmental officers or employees, company police officers, or campus police officers
- G.S. 14-34.5: Assault with a firearm on a law enforcement, probation, or parole officer, or on a member of the North Carolina National Guard, or on a person employed at a State or local detention facility
- G.S. 14-34.6: Assault or affray on a firefighter, an emergency medical technician, medical responder, and hospital personnel
- G.S. 14-34.7: Certain assaults on a law enforcement, probation, or parole officer, or on a member of the North Carolina National Guard, or on a person employed at a State or local detention facility
- G.S. 14-34.9: Discharging a firearm from within an enclosure (it is not entirely clear whether this is an assault crime; the statute does not require an “assault” but it does require discharging a firearm toward a person; in any event, this is a covered offense because it is a felony in Article 8 of Chapter 14)
- G.S. 14-34.10: Discharge firearm within enclosure to incite fear (it is not entirely clear whether this is an assault crime; the statute does not require an “assault” but it does require discharging a firearm with the intent to incite fear in another person; in any event, this is a covered offense because it is a felony in Article 8 of Chapter 14)
- G.S. 14-288.9: Assault on emergency personnel

Stalking

The only offense that is clearly covered under this provision is

- G.S. 14-277.3A: Stalking

A frequent question is whether cyberstalking, as defined in G.S. 14-196.3, is a covered offense. At least under most circumstances, it probably is not for the reasons given in Jeff Welty, *Cyberstalking and the 48-Hour Rule*, N.C. CRIM. L. BLOG (Nov. 28, 2012), <https://nccriminallaw.sog.unc.edu/cyberstalking-and-the-48-hour-rule/>.

Communicating threats

As with the list of assault crimes, above, the list below includes several offenses that are unlikely to arise in a domestic violence context and normally will not involve a qualifying victim.

- G.S. 14-16.7: Threats against executive, legislative, or court officers
- G.S. 14-277.1: Communicating threats
- G.S. 14-277.6: Communicating a threat of mass violence on educational property⁴
- G.S. 14-277.7: Communicating a threat of mass violence at a place of religious worship⁵

⁴ Note that when charging this offense, the 48-hour rule set forth in G.S. 15A-534.7 will apply regardless of whether there is a qualifying victim.

⁵ Note that when charging this offense, the 48-hour rule set forth in G.S. 15A-534.7 will apply regardless of whether there is a qualifying victim.

- G.S. 14-394: Anonymous or threatening letters, mailing or transmitting

A frequent question is whether harassing phone calls, as defined in G.S. 14-196, is a covered offense. At least under most circumstances, it probably is not as discussed in Jeff Welty, *Cyberstalking and the 48-Hour Rule*, N.C. CRIM. L. BLOG (Nov. 28, 2012), <https://nccriminallaw.sog.unc.edu/cyberstalking-and-the-48-hour-rule/>.

Felonies in Article 7B (“Rape and Other Sex Offenses”)

The following felonies are contained in Article 7B. As with several other categories of offenses addressed in this paper, some crimes on this list may be unlikely to involve a qualifying victim and so may rarely require the application of the 48-hour rule.

- G.S. 14-27.21: First-degree forcible rape
- G.S. 14-27.22: Second-degree forcible rape
- G.S. 14-27.23: Statutory rape of a child by an adult
- G.S. 14-27.24: First-degree statutory rape
- G.S. 14-27.25: Statutory rape of person who is 15 years of age or younger
- G.S. 14-27.26: First-degree forcible sexual offense
- G.S. 14-27.27: Second-degree forcible sexual offense
- G.S. 14-27.28: Statutory sexual offense with a child by an adult
- G.S. 14-27.29: First-degree statutory sexual offense
- G.S. 14-27.30: Statutory sexual offense with a person who is 15 years of age or younger
- G.S. 14-27.31: Sexual activity by a substitute parent or custodian
- G.S. 14-27.32: Sexual activity with a student

Felonies in Article 8 (“Assaults”)

The following felonies are contained in Article 8. As noted above, many of these crimes are also assault offenses, making this list partly duplicative of the above list of assault crimes. As with several other categories of offenses addressed in this paper, some crimes on this list may be unlikely to involve a qualifying victim and so may rarely require the application of the 48-hour rule.

- G.S. 14-28: Malicious castration
- G.S. 14-29: Castration or other maiming without malice aforethought
- G.S. 14-30: Malicious maiming
- G.S. 14-30.1: Malicious throwing of corrosive acid or alkali
- G.S. 14-31: Maliciously assaulting in a secret manner
- G.S. 14-32: Felonious assault with deadly weapon with intent to kill or inflicting serious injury
- G.S. 14-32.1: Assaults on individuals with a disability (note, not all offenses defined in this statute are felonies)
- G.S. 14-32.2: Patient abuse and neglect
- G.S. 14-32.3: Domestic abuse, neglect, and exploitation of disabled or elder adults
- G.S. 14-32.4: Assault inflicting serious bodily injury; strangulation
- G.S. 14-33.2: Habitual misdemeanor assault
- G.S. 14-34.1: Discharging certain barreled weapons or a firearm into occupied property

- G.S. 14-34.2: Assault with a firearm or other deadly weapon upon governmental officers or employees, company police officers, or campus police officers
- G.S. 14-34.4: Adulterated or misbranded food, drugs, or cosmetics; intent to cause serious injury or death; intent to extort
- G.S. 14-34.5: Assault with a firearm on a law enforcement, probation, or parole officer, or on a member of the North Carolina National Guard, or on a person employed at a State or local detention facility
- G.S. 14-34.6: Assault or affray on a firefighter, an emergency medical technician, medical responder, and hospital personnel
- G.S. 14-34.7: Certain assaults on a law enforcement, probation, or parole officer, or on a member of the North Carolina National Guard, or on a person employed at a State or local detention facility
- G.S. 14-34.9: Discharging a firearm from within an enclosure
- G.S. 14-34.10: Discharge firearm within enclosure to incite fear

Felonies in Article 10 (“Kidnapping and Abduction”)

The following felonies are contained in Article 10. As with several other categories of offenses addressed in this paper, some crimes on this list may be unlikely to involve a qualifying victim and so may rarely require the application of the 48-hour rule.

- G.S. 14-39: Kidnapping
- G.S. 14-41: Abduction of children
- G.S. 14-43.3: Felonious restraint

Felonies in Article 15 (“Arson and Other Burnings”)

The following felonies are contained in Article 15. As with several other categories of offenses addressed in this paper, some crimes on this list may be unlikely to involve a qualifying victim and so may rarely require the application of the 48-hour rule. Additionally, for several of the offenses in this Article, it may be difficult to determine whether the offense was committed “upon” a qualifying victim because the principal target of the offense is property, not a person. For example, if A burns B’s residence, has A committed an offense “upon” B? What if A burns a residence that does not belong to B but B is injured in the fire? There is no case law explaining when an arson offense is committed “upon” a person for purposes of G.S. 15A-534.1.

- G.S. 14-58: Punishment for arson (note that this statute defines the punishment class for first- and second-degree arson; perhaps an argument could be made that because arson is a common law offense, arson is not a “felony provided in” Article 15 notwithstanding this statute; no case law addresses this issue)
- G.S. 14-58.2: Burning of mobile home, manufactured-type house or recreational trailer home
- G.S. 14-59: Burning of certain public buildings
- G.S. 14-60: Burning of schoolhouses or buildings of educational institutions
- G.S. 14-61: Burning of certain bridges and buildings
- G.S. 14-62: Burning of certain buildings
- G.S. 14-62.1: Burning of building or structure in process of construction
- G.S. 14-62.2: Burning of churches and certain other religious buildings

- G.S. 14-63: Burning of boats and barges
- G.S. 14-64: Burning of ginhouses and tobacco houses
- G.S. 14-65: Fraudulently setting fire to dwelling houses
- G.S. 14-66: Burning of personal property
- G.S. 14-67.1: Burning other buildings
- G.S. 14-67.2: Burning caused during commission of another felony
- G.S. 14-69.1: Making a false report concerning destructive device
- G.S. 14-69.2: Perpetrating hoax by use of false bomb or other device
- G.S. 14-69.3: Arson or other unlawful burning that results in serious bodily injury to a firefighter, law enforcement officer, fire investigator, or emergency medical technician

Step 2: Qualifying victims

If a defendant is charged with a covered offense, the applicability of the 48-hour rule depends on the existence of a qualifying victim. The statute provides that such a victim is “a spouse or former spouse [of the defendant], a person with whom the defendant lives or has lived as if married, or a person with whom the defendant is or has been in a dating relationship as defined in G.S. 50B-1(b)(6).” Thus, a qualifying victim must have one of the following relationships to the defendant:

- *Spouse*. Presumably this applies when the victim and the defendant are legally married, even if separated or in the process of divorce.
- *Former spouse*. There is no time limit in the statute, so this provision appears to apply even if the defendant and the victim divorced years or decades ago.
- *Person with whom the defendant lives as if married*. Although this term is not defined in the statute, presumably this provision applies when the victim and the defendant live together and have a romantic or sexual relationship.
- *Person with whom the defendant has lived as if married*. As with the category “former spouse,” there is no time limit in the statute regarding when the defendant and the victim must have lived together.
- *Person with whom the defendant is in a dating relationship as defined in G.S. 50B-1(b)(6)*. Under G.S. 50B-1(b)(6), a “a dating relationship is one wherein the parties are romantically involved over time and on a continuous basis during the course of the relationship. A casual acquaintance or ordinary fraternization between persons in a business or social context is not a dating relationship.”
- *Person with whom the defendant has been in a dating relationship as defined in G.S. 50B-1(b)(6)*. Again, there is no time limit in the statute regarding when the dating relationship must have existed.

It is not relevant whether the defendant and the victim are the same sex or different sexes. Persons of the same sex or of different sexes may be “spouses,” may “live together as if married,” and may have a “dating relationship.” Confusion sometimes arises on this point because of the reference to G.S. 50B-1(b)(6). If one looks at G.S. 50B-1(b) generally, rather than at (b)(6) specifically, one might focus on the definition of the term “personal relationship.” G.S. 50B-1(b)(6) states that a “personal relationship” includes:

persons of the opposite sex who are in a dating relationship or have been in a dating relationship. A dating relationship is one wherein the parties are romantically involved over time and on a continuous basis during the course of the relationship. A casual acquaintance or ordinary fraternization between persons in a business or social context is not a dating relationship.

Note that nothing in the definition of “dating relationship” requires the parties to be of different sexes. Under the statute, a “dating relationship” is a “personal relationship” only if the parties are of different sexes, but the applicability of the 48-hour rule turns on the existence of a “dating relationship,” not the existence of a “personal relationship.”⁶

Conclusion

To sum up, the 48-hour rule always applies when the offense charged is domestic criminal trespass or violation of a 50B order. It also applies when a defendant is charged with committing a covered offense against a qualifying victim.

⁶ Whether it would be constitutional to apply the 48-hour rule only to different-sex couples might be questioned under *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 576 U.S. ___, 135 S. Ct. 2584 (2015) (holding that laws limiting marriage to same-sex couples are unconstitutional, in part on equal protection grounds).

PROBLEMS IN DETERMINING THE CONDITIONS OF PRETRIAL RELEASE

[Choose best answer(s) for each problem]

1. Frank Furrillo is arrested and brought before you for communicating threats to Joyce Davenport. Furrillo has been living as if married with Davenport for the past 18 months. Furrillo appears to be very upset at being arrested, but he cooperates with you and makes no threats. What action should you take?
 - a. Set release conditions as usual.
 - b. Set release conditions and commit him to jail for a reasonable time.
 - c. Do not set release conditions and commit him to jail for a reasonable time.
 - d. Place him in a holding cell for about 30 minutes.
 - e. Commit him to jail because only a judge may set release conditions for the period of 48 hours from Furrillo's arrest.

2. Charles Manson was arrested and was charged with being drunk and disruptive. After you have found probable cause he starts screaming obscenities in a loud voice. You ask him to be quiet and he yells louder. This continues for several minutes and then he quiets down. Every few minutes he continues to mumble obscenities. What action should you take?
 - a. Place him in a holding cell for about 30 minutes.
 - b. Set release conditions as usual.
 - c. Set release conditions and commit him to jail for a reasonable time.
 - d. Do not set release conditions and commit him to jail for a reasonable time.

3. Amy Ames, a local prostitute, is arrested and charged with assault on a government officer. She walked up to his patrol car, leaned in the open window, yelled "buzz off," and slapped him in the face. You have placed her under a \$500 secured bond. May you specify that the bond is to be satisfied with "cash only"?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No, unless authorized by a judge in local pretrial release policy

4. It is near the end of your shift and you have just conducted an initial appearance for Wilson Snipes. You have placed him under a \$2,000 secured bond. Snipes is resting uncomfortably in the jail because he cannot make bond. On the next shift (you are asleep at home) another magistrate, without consulting you, modifies Mr. Snipes' bond and places him under an unsecured bond. Snipes is released. Was the second magistrate's modification legally authorized based on these facts?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

5. Willis Souse has been charged with disorderly conduct. He is grossly intoxicated and you have decided to delay the initial appearance pursuant to G.S. 15A-511(a)(3). You have checked the box to "hold him for the following purpose" on the commitment order. What is the best choice for completing that part of the order?
 - a. "Hold until sober."
 - b. "Hold a maximum of 8 hours."
 - c. "Hold until sober or a maximum of 24 hours."
 - d. "Hold until sober or a maximum of 8 hours."

6. Ruby Jones tells you that her husband, Will Jones, beat her and she asks you to issue an assault warrant against him. Ruby is badly bruised and her husband has a history of hitting her. You issue a warrant for his arrest. When Will Jones is brought before you he mumbles “that bitch will pay for this when I hit the street tonight.” What action should you take?
- Set release conditions as usual.
 - Set release conditions and commit him to jail for a reasonable time.
 - Do not set release conditions and commit him to jail for a specified reasonable period of time.
 - Commit him to jail for 12 hours.
 - Commit him to jail because only a judge may set release conditions for the period of 48 hours from Will Jones' arrest.
7. Pierre “Happy Feet” Jones has been arrested and charged with criminal trespass. This is the fifth time that he has been arrested for trespass after being forbidden. On each occasion he has trespassed on the property of Joan Arke. You have placed him under a \$500 secured bond and have attached a condition that he refrain from going on her property. Is that a legally authorized condition?
- Yes
 - No
8. Otis, the town drunk, is arrested and charged with misdemeanor breaking and entering. He has a bottle of Thunderbird stuffed into his coat pocket and he reeks of alcohol. Otis falls asleep on the floor while you are talking with the officer. He wakes up when prodded, but each time he goes back to sleep. Otis does not appear to recognize you, though you have known him for years. What action should you take?
- Set release conditions as usual.
 - Set release conditions and commit him to jail for a reasonable time until he is sufficiently sober to appear before you for an initial appearance.
 - Do not set release conditions and commit him to jail for a reasonable time until he is sufficiently sober to appear before you for an initial appearance.
9. Peter “The Rabbit” Martin has been arrested and charged with misdemeanor breaking and entering. You have known Peter for years and believe that basically he is a good kid. He does not have a criminal record. Recently you have heard that he is being influenced by a group of thugs (who have been charged with break-ins) who hang out at the local pool hall, the Corner Pocket. You release Peter on his written promise to appear and attach a condition that he stay away from the Corner Pocket. Is this condition legally authorized?
- Yes
 - No
- Are you required to change his pretrial release conditions if Peter gets mad and demands a secured bond without conditions?
- Yes
 - No
10. L. Winston Vanderbilt has been arrested and charged with second-degree forcible rape. You have placed him under a \$10,000 secured bond. Vanderbilt has lived in the community all his life and certainly will appear for trial. However, he has no friends, is not married, and has no relatives in North Carolina. He is a millionaire, but his assets are frozen in numerous investments. May Vanderbilt be released if he agrees to sign his own secured bond by posting his own cash?
- Yes
 - No

11. Walt Crowell has been arrested and charged with assaulting his wife, Wanda Crowell. Walt Crowell is brought before you after 48 hours have elapsed because a judge was not available to set conditions of pretrial release. You place him under a \$500 secured bond. You also have attached a condition that Walt stay away from Wanda at home and at work. In addition, you have attached a condition that he not harass or assault her. Are these conditions legally authorized?

a. Yes

b. No

12. Defendant was arrested by law enforcement officers on a DCI hit on a warrant from another county. The officers do not have the warrant when they bring the defendant to you. What should you do?

PROBLEMS IN SELECTING THE PROPER CHARGE AND SETTING PRETRIAL RELEASE CONDITIONS

Instructions: For the following problems: (1) decide, if appropriate for the problem, what criminal offense was committed; and (2) set the conditions of pretrial release as you would do so in your county. Each magistrate should complete one release order from one of the problems.

To assist in doing these problems, the following is a list of each class of felonies and the minimum and maximum punishment for each, with the minimum based on a mitigated sentence in Prior Record Level 1 and the maximum based on an aggravated sentence in Prior Record Level VI:

Class A.....	life without parole or death	Class E.....	15 to 98 months
Class B1.....	144 months to life without parole	Class F.....	10 to 59 months
Class B2.....	92 to 471 months	Class G.....	8 to 44 months
Class C.....	44 to 261 months	Class H.....	4 to 30 months
Class D.....	38 to 229 months	Class I.....	3 to 15 months

1. Detective Steve Roman arrests without a warrant and brings in Allen Watts Ewing, age 26, of 1150 Brookside Drive. Earlier this evening—in the course of a search of Ewing’s home with a search warrant—ten pounds of marijuana were found in his bedroom. He also had a .38 caliber pistol under his jacket in his belt. Ewing has two previous arrests and convictions for misdemeanor assault and has been employed as a cook at the same place for the past two years.
2. Officer Kerry Davis arrests without a warrant Jerry Dennis Lawrence, age 18, of 1407 Roosevelt Drive, and brings him to you. Early this afternoon, Lawrence saw the keys in the ignition of Marsha Williams’ 1982 Volkswagen, license TRG 887, when the car was parked on Kennedy Street. Lawrence got in the car, drove it to Frame Street on the other side of town, and abandoned it, just before being apprehended by Davis. Lawrence lives with his parents and is a high school student. He has a previous conviction for reckless driving.
3. SBI agent Felix Katz brings in Troy K. Cake, age 24, arrested under an arrest warrant for selling heroin and possessing heroin with intent to sell and deliver. The arrest warrant was issued in a county located 200 miles from your county. Cake has no prior arrests. Cake has \$1,500 cash and says he would be willing to post a cash bond.

4. A Highway Patrol Officer arrest K.T. Rowse, age 19, of 65 Roosevelt Drive, for DWI. Rowse's alcohol concentration is 0.27. Rowse is cooperative but appears to be extremely intoxicated. There is no sober adult willing and able to take care of him.
5. A new .45 caliber Smith & Wesson revolver, serial #RR456J77, fair market value of \$345, was stolen from Smithville Gun and Hobby Shop during a nighttime break-in two days ago. An undercover officer bought it this morning for \$30 from Fred Lloyd, age 30, and then arrested him without a warrant and brings him to you. Lloyd is a resident of the county and has one prior conviction for felonious breaking and entering.
6. Detective Nancy Stone arrests Wayne Buchanan without a warrant and brings him to you and explains: Last night Wayne Buchanan poured gasoline inside and set fire to Donald Bell's 1991 Ford Mustang. The entire back seat was burned before the fire was extinguished. Buchanan is 16 years old and lives with his parents in town. He refuses to be released to the custody of his parents and he has previously failed to appear in court for a reckless driving charge.
7. Deputy Sheriff Samuel Burden arrests Steve Wiles, age 18, with an order for arrest for Wiles for failing to appear in court for the charge of accessory after the fact of armed robbery. The order for arrest was issued by a district court judge in your county and bears the notation "\$25,000 secured bond."
8. A city police officer arrests Susan T. Jones, age 35, of 66 E. Main Street, for DWI. Jones's alcohol concentration is 0.20. Jones is uncooperative and extremely intoxicated. Her husband, age 37, was a passenger in the car that Jones was driving. He is sober, has a valid driver's license, and states that he will take care of her until she becomes sober.
9. Officer Jesse Wilson appears at your office with Ron Z. Bloat, age 31. The officer has arrested Bloat based on an outstanding arrest warrant for a \$55 worthless check. It is Saturday night. Bloat has a long history of mental trouble. Shortly after his appearance a worker from the Franklin Mental Health Clinic appears and says the Clinic would be happy to see to it that Bloat appears in court.