



CHAPTER 15A
ARTICLE 3 - VENUE

N.C.G.S. § 15A-131.

Venue generally.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT S.L. 2022-47, s. 16(e) — sixth act in the lineage	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 03:44 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT 70cdab66a50216d50322ebcd - 3a62c16a6c7748f608136b5f - d54261754ad3620a
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§ 15A-131(a) Venue for pretrial and trial proceedings in district court of cases within the original jurisdiction of the district court lies in the county where the charged offense occurred.

§ 15A-131(b) Except for the probable cause hearing, venue for pretrial proceedings in cases within the original jurisdiction of the superior court lies in the superior court district or set of districts as defined in G.S. 7A-41.1 embracing the county where the venue for trial proceedings lies.

§ 15A-131(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, venue for probable cause hearings and trial proceedings in cases within the original jurisdiction of the superior court lies in the county where the charged offense occurred. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, if the alleged offense is committed within the corporate limits of a municipality which is the seat of superior court and is located in more than one county, venue lies in the superior court which sits within that municipality, but upon timely objection of the defendant or the district attorney in the county in which the alleged offense occurred the case must be transferred to the county in which the alleged offense occurred. However, for charges brought by municipal law enforcement officers only, if the alleged offense is committed within the corporate limits of a municipality that extends into four or more counties, each of which is in a separate superior court district, offenses committed within the corporate limits of the municipality but in a superior court district other than the one for which the municipality is the seat of superior court shall be disposed of in the municipality with no allowance for objections by the defendant or the district attorney.

§ 15A-131(d)

Venue for misdemeanors appealed for trial de novo in superior court lies in the county where the misdemeanor was first tried.

§ 15A-131(e) An offense occurs in a county if any act or omission constituting part of the offense occurs within the territorial limits of the county.

§ 15A-131(f) For the purposes of this Article, pretrial proceedings are proceedings occurring after the initial appearance and prior to arraignment.

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I

6 ACTS

Amendment lineage

The State prints this history as a single parenthetical at the foot of the section. It is reproduced verbatim in the colophon and unpacked below in order of enactment.

1973	1998	2022	
TICK HEIGHT = ACTS IN THAT YEAR DASHED = RECODIFICATION, NOT AMENDMENT			
Nº	YEAR	ACT	CHARACTER
01	1973	c. 1286, s. 1	ENACTED
02	1975	2nd Sess., c. 983, s. 134	AMENDED
03	1983	c. 727	AMENDED
04	1983	1987 (Reg. Sess., 1988), c. 1037, s. 53	AMENDED
05	2009	S.L. 2009-398, s. 3	AMENDED
06	2022	S.L. 2022-47, s. 16(e)	AMENDED

APPARATUS II

1 AUTHORITY

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
G.S. 7A-41.1	(b)	"set of districts as defined in"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 15A-131 (2022).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 15A-131(a) (2022).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

Provenance

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HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE

(1973, c. 1286, s. 1; 1975, 2nd Sess., c. 983, s. 134; 1983, c. 727; 1987 (Reg. Sess., 1988), c. 1037, s. 53; 2009-398, s. 3; 2022-47, s. 16(e).)

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