



CHAPTER 15A

ARTICLE 29 - FIRST APPEARANCE BEFORE DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

N.C.G.S. § 15A-603.

Assuring defendant's right to counsel.

SOURCE	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT	RETRIEVED	SOURCE FINGERPRINT
General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	c. 409, s. 1 — second act in the lineage	21 September 2026, 03:01 UTC	287f6da0e3cac528d268ac38 - 3d224092f1a6d22e1f1fff50 - 565e009054084302

§ 15A-603(a) The judge must determine whether the defendant has retained counsel or, if indigent, has been assigned counsel.

§ 15A-603(b) If the defendant is not represented by counsel, the judge must inform the defendant that he has important legal rights which may be waived unless asserted in a timely and proper manner and that counsel may be of assistance to the defendant in advising him and acting in his behalf. The judge must inform the defendant of his right to be represented by counsel and that he will be furnished counsel if he is indigent. The judge shall also advise the defendant that if he is convicted and placed on probation, payment of the expense of counsel assigned to represent him may be made a condition of probation, and that if he is acquitted, he will have no obligation to pay the expense of assigned counsel.

§ 15A-603(c) If the defendant asserts that he is indigent and desires counsel, the judge must proceed in accordance with the provisions of Article 36 of Chapter 7A of the General Statutes.

§ 15A-603(d) If the defendant is found not to be indigent and indicates that he desires to be represented by counsel, the judge must inform him that he should obtain counsel promptly.

§ 15A-603(e) If the defendant desires to waive representation by counsel, the waiver must be in writing in accordance with the provisions of Article 36 of Chapter 7A of the General Statutes except as otherwise provided in this Article.

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I
2 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		1977		1981
TICK HEIGHT = ACTS IN THAT YEAR		DASHED = RECODIFICATION, NOT AMENDMENT		
Nº	YEAR	ACT	CHARACTER	
01	1973	c. 1286, s. 1	ENACTED	
02	1981	c. 409, s. 1	AMENDED	

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 15A-603 (1981).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 15A-603(a) (1981).

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; 1981, c. 409, s. 1.)

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