

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

SESSION LAW 2009-246  
HOUSE BILL 630

AN ACT PROVIDING THAT THE TRIAL IN A SUMMARY EJECTMENT PROCEEDING  
MAY COMMENCE NOT SOONER THAN TWO BUSINESS DAYS AFTER SERVICE  
OF THE COMPLAINT AND SUMMONS ON THE DEFENDANT.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 42-29 reads as rewritten:

"§ 42-29. **Service of summons.**

The officer receiving the summons shall mail a copy of the summons and complaint to the defendant no later than the end of the next business day or as soon as practicable at the defendant's last known address in a stamped addressed envelope provided by the plaintiff to the action. The officer may, within five days of the issuance of the summons, attempt to telephone the defendant requesting that the defendant either personally visit the officer to accept service, or schedule an appointment for the defendant to receive delivery of service from the officer. If the officer does not attempt to telephone the defendant or the attempt is unsuccessful or does not result in service to the defendant, the officer shall make at least one visit to the place of abode of the defendant within five days of the issuance of the ~~summons~~summons, but at least two days prior to the day the defendant is required to appear to answer the complaint, excluding legal holidays, at a time reasonably calculated to find the defendant at the place of abode to attempt personal delivery of service. He then shall deliver a copy of the summons together with a copy of the complaint to the defendant, or leave copies thereof at the defendant's dwelling house or usual place of abode with some person of suitable age and discretion then residing therein. If such service cannot be made the officer shall affix copies to some conspicuous part of the premises claimed and make due return showing compliance with this section."

**SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2009, and applies to actions filed on or after that date.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2009.

s/ Walter H. Dalton  
President of the Senate

s/ Joe Hackney  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

s/ Beverly E. Perdue  
Governor

Approved 6:33 p.m. this 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009

