

No alcohol for Black

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A federal judge has ordered 72-year-old former House Speaker Jim Black to abstain from alcohol and to remain in western North Carolina as he awaits his sentencing next month.

His initial terms of release allowed him to travel outside the country without permission from the government. The new terms limits Black to travel within the western third of North Carolina and elsewhere in the state for court appearances and medical appointments. No reason for the change was given.

Black, a Mecklenburg Democrat, pleaded guilty in February to one count of taking thousands of dollars in cash from chiropractors while promoting their industry's agenda in the General Assembly.

His sentencing hearing is scheduled for July 11.