

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURTS OF THE
CHATTAHOOCHEE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN RE:)
DECLARATION OF)
JUDICIAL EMERGENCY)
COURTHOUSE CLOSURE(S))

Filed
At 12:30 O'Clock PM
JAN 20 2025
Tami Wade
Clerk Superior Court
Chattahoochee County, GA
By: TW

ORDER

The undersigned Chief Judge of Superior Courts for the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit of the State of Georgia, as defined in and pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-60, and acting in accordance with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 38-3-60, *et seq.*, and U.S.C.R. 45, it is hereby declared that this Court is confronted with a judicial emergency. Therefore, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-61, the undersigned, Chief Judge of the Superior Courts of the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit, does hereby declare the existence of a Judicial Emergency in the counties of Chattahoochee, Harris, Marion, Muscogee, Talbot, and Taylor.

The nature of this emergency is due to a winter storm which is expected to affect this judicial circuit from 12:00 p.m., on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, through Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 11:59 p.m.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that the following Courts in the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit: Chattahoochee, Harris, Marion, Muscogee, Talbot, and Taylor County Superior, State (Muscogee), Magistrate, Probate, Juvenile, and Municipal (Muscogee) Court shall be closed for business Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., and continuing through and until the regular close of business on Wednesday, January 22, 2025. Thereafter, the above-named Courts in the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit shall reopen for business on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at their regular/respective times.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-62, the Court hereby suspends, tolls, extends and otherwise grants relief from all deadline or other time scheduled or filing requirements

imposed by otherwise applicable statutes, rules, regulations, or court orders, whether in civil or criminal cases or administrative matters, including, but not limited to:

1. A statute of limitation;
2. The time within which to issue a warrant;
3. The time within which to try a case for which a demand for speedy trial has been filed;
4. The time within which to hold a commitment hearing;
5. A deadline or other schedule regarding the detention of a juvenile;
6. The time within which to return a bill of indictment or an accusation or to bring a matter before a grand jury;
7. The time within which to file a writ of habeas corpus;
8. The time within which discovery or any aspect thereof is to be completed;
9. The time within which to serve a party;
10. The time within which to appeal or to seek the right to appeal any order, ruling, or other determination;
11. The time within which hearings must be held in stalking and family violence cases and all ex-parte relief is continued until next scheduled hearing in said matter; and
12. Such other legal proceedings as may be determined to be necessary.

The relief granted herein expires at 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.


The Court expects all public buildings within the Circuit to be closed for an indeterminate period of time, the Court is unable to designate another facility for the transaction of Court business. Should the state of emergency extend beyond the closure period indicated above, the Court will make a determination of an available, appropriate facility for the conduct of court business when it is appropriate to do so. However, anyone requiring the respective Courts' involvement in **an emergency situation** should contact the below listed:

<p><u>Chattahoochee County</u></p> <p>Clerk(s): Superior Court (& Juvenile): 706-989-3424 Probate Court: 706-987-3545 Magistrate Court: 706-329-6062</p> <p>Presiding Judge: 706-329-6062 or 706-304-5129</p>	<p><u>Harris County</u></p> <p>Clerks(s): Clerk of Superior Court (Juvenile): stacy.haralson@gsccca.org Probate Court: 706-628-5038 (Presiding) Magistrate Court: 706-628-4977 (Presiding)</p> <p>Presiding Judge After Hours: 706-628-4211</p>
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<u>Marion County</u> Clerk(s): Superior Court (& Juvenile): 229-649-7321 Probate/Magistrate Court: 229-649-5542 Presiding Judge: 229-649-5542 or 706-304-5129	<u>Muscogee County</u> Clerk(s): Superior & State Courts: 762-207-9666 Juvenile Court: 706-304-5129 Georgia Crisis & Access Line: 800-715-4225 Probate Court: probategeneral@columbusga.org Magistrate Court: 706-653-4390 Municipal Court: 706-225-3417 Presiding Judge: 706-225-4318
<u>Talbot County</u> Clerk(s): Superior Court (& Juvenile): 706-665-3239 Probate/Magistrate: 706-741-5743 Probate Court: shatarap23@yahoo.com Presiding Judge: 706-304-5129	<u>Taylor County</u> Clerk(s): Superior Court (& Juvenile): 478-862-6081 Probate/Magistrate Court: 478-862-6074 Presiding Judge: 478-862-6074 or 706-304-5129
<u>After Hours Assistant District Attorney</u> Emergency Number: 706-304-1065	<u>Hope Harbor</u> 706-326-4063 or 706-225-3519

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-63, this order shall immediately be served upon Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, Chief Judge of the Georgia Court of Appeals and the respective clerks thereof; all Judges and Clerks in the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit for all Courts, as specified above; the District Attorney and his Chief Assistant District Attorney; All Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police for the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit; County/City Attorneys; all lawyers and litigants through their respective bar email listservs; and the pertinent news outlets in the circuit. All Clerks of Court shall post this Order conspicuously in their respective courthouses, share on their Clerk of Courts' social media platform (if available), and spread this Order upon the minutes of the respective Courts listed within this Order.

SO ORDERED, this 20th day of January, 2025, at 11:55 a.m.


Arthur L. Smith, III, Chief Judge
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit