

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

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Tammie Mosley
Clerk of Superior Court
Chatham County
01/22/2025 16:45:50
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In Re:]
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Declaration of Judicial Emergency]

AMENDED ORDER

The undersigned Chief Judge of Superior Court for the Eastern Judicial Circuit of Georgia on January 20, 2025 declared the existence of a judicial emergency in this circuit due, in part, to the State of Emergency for the State of Georgia declared by the Governor. The nature of this emergency was inclement wintery weather which was expected to affect this judicial circuit beginning on January 21, 2024. Further, according to the Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA), the high possibility of a winter storm, including icy precipitation and snow accumulation materialized. Hence, the undersigned makes this declaration in conformance with the recommendation of CEMA and county governing authorities that hazardous conditions still persist. Accordingly, it is the Order of the Court that the Chatham County Courthouse will continue to be closed for business on January 23, 2025, and to reopen at the start of business on January 24, 2025. For purposes of clarity, this Order also encompasses the Chatham County Juvenile Courthouse.

As previously stated, during the period when the Chatham County Courthouse is closed the court hereby suspends, tolls, extends, and otherwise grants relief from all deadlines or other time schedules 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;
- (12) This order shall not toll, extend, or suspend any deadline, time schedule, or time period imposed by statute, rules, regulations, orders whether civil, criminal or administrative cases or matters wherein the parties present to the Court any consent order seeking relief or an order of the court. It is the intent of this provision to allow litigants to obtain consent judgments and orders where desired and to allow attorneys to continue with various matters of litigation by consent if they so choose; and
- (13) Such other legal proceedings as may be determined to be necessary.

Because of the uncertainty surrounding the nature of the impending emergency insofar as the severity and time period is concerned, the Court is unable to designate another facility for the transaction of court business at this time. Should the state of emergency extend beyond the period indicated above, the court will decide of an available, appropriate facility for the conduct of court business.

In the meanwhile, the Court hereby directs all other courts conducting business in the Chatham County Courthouse and the Juvenile Court Courthouse to transact

court business either remotely or by dropbox. However, anyone requiring the Court's involvement in an emergency situation should call the following:

Superior Court Clerk

Tammie Mosley

912-652-7200 Office

State Court Clerk

David Wood

912-652-7230 Office

Magistrate Court Clerk

Rebecca Batey

912-652-7183 Office

Probate Court Clerk

Wendy Williamson

912-652-7270 office

Recorders Court Clerk

Donna Willingham

912-652-7418 Office

Theresa Owens

Juvenile Court

912-652-6721 Office

SO ORDERED this 22nd day of January, 2025.

1st John E. Morse, Jr.

John E. Morse, Jr., Chief Judge
Superior Court, Eastern Judicial Circuit

cc: Chief Justice, Georgia Supreme Court
All Judges and Clerks of Court
Sheriff, Richard Coleman
District Attorney
Public Defender
Savannah Bar President
Chairman Chatham County Commission
News media