

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURTS OF
CHATTAHOOCHEE, HARRIS, MARION,
MUSCOGEE, TALBOT, & TAYLOR COUNTIES
CHATTAHOOCHEE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA**

FILED IN OFFICE
2025 Jan 09 01:54 PM
PENNY D. MAHONE
CLERK OF COURT
TALBOT, GEORGIA

IN RE:)
Declaration of Judicial Emergency)
)

ORDER

The undersigned Chief Judge of Superior Courts for the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit of the State of Georgia, upon his own motion, does hereby declare the existence of a judicial emergency in this circuit, pursuant to O.C.G.A. §38-3-60, et. seq. The nature of this emergency is due to a winter storm which is expected to affect this judicial circuit from approximately Thursday late-night, January 9, 2025, through Saturday, January 11, 2025. The undersigned makes this declaration in conformance with the Order by Governor Brian Kemp who has issued a state of emergency in the State of Georgia, effective January 9, 2025. Accordingly, it is the order of the court that Chattahoochee, Harris, Marion, Muscogee, Talbot, and Taylor County Superior Courts be closed for business Friday, January 10, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. and continuing through and until the regular close of business on Friday, January 10, 2025. Thereafter, the above-named Courts in the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit shall reopen for business on Monday, January 13, 2025, at the regular time.

Given the uncertain nature or duration of this emergency, 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:

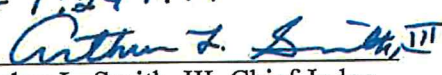
1. A statute of limitation;
2. The time within which to issue a warrant;
3. The time within which to try a case for which a demand for speedy trial has been filed;
4. The time within which to hold a commitment hearing;
5. A deadline or other schedule regarding the detention of a juvenile;
6. The time 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 Friday, January 10, 2025, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

Because 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 Court's involvement in an emergency situation should call the Chattahoochee County Clerk of Courts at 706-989-3424; the Harris County Clerk of Courts at 706-628-4973; the Marion County Clerk of Courts at 229-649-7321; the Muscogee County Clerk of Courts at 762-207-9666; the Talbot County Clerk of Courts at 706-665-3239; the Taylor County Clerk of Courts at 478-862-5594; or the After Hours Assistant District Attorney Emergency Contact Number at 706-304-1065.

This order shall be served upon the 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; the District Attorney; all lawyers and litigants as possible; and the pertinent news outlets in the circuit. All Clerks are ordered to post this order conspicuously in their respective courthouses and spread this Order upon the minutes of the courts.

SO ORDERED, this 9th day of January, 2025. *at 1:24 P.M.*

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