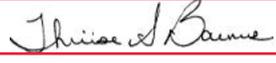


**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE WAYCROSS JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN RE:
Declaration of Judicial Emergency

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ORDER

FILED IN OFFICE 08/05/2024 <hr/>  <hr/>
SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

The undersigned Chief Judge of Superior Court for the Waycross Judicial Circuit of Georgia 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 Hurricane Debby which is expected to affect certain counties in this judicial circuit beginning August 05, 2024. The undersigned makes this declaration in conformance with the Order by Governor Brian Kemp of the existence of a state of emergency in Georgia which was issued on or about August 3, 2024 (Attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit “A”). Moreover, the county commissioners in Bacon, Brantley, Charlton, Pierce and Ware counties have directed the closure of all county offices on August 05, 2024 and reopening at regular scheduled office hours on August 07, 2024. Local school boards in some or all six counties in the Waycross Judicial Circuit have closed school during the same time period. Accordingly, it is the order of the Court that Bacon, Brantley, Charlton, Pierce and Ware County Superior Courts, State Courts, Probate Courts, Magistrate Courts, and Juvenile Courts be closed for business at 12:00 noon on August 05, 2024 and reopen at regular office hours on August 07, 2024 unless amended. If conditions warrant, as determined by each county commission, any court may open early. Any court, by opening earlier, will not affect the protections afforded hereby for deadlines and extensions.

Given the uncertain nature or duration of this emergency, 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;
11. The time for which hearings must be held in stalking and family violence cases, all ex parte relief is continued until next scheduled hearing in said matters; and
12. Such other legal proceedings as may be determined to be necessary.

The relief granted herein expires at 11:59 p.m. on August 06, 2024 unless otherwise ordered by the court. Should any courthouse be closed due to law enforcement declared curfews, by order of the sheriff, by the county commission, by power outages, or other unforeseen contingencies, the expiration declared herein shall be extended hereby for the duration of the contingency.

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. Judges of courts and clerks of all courts shall provide a dropbox for the filing of legal documents and shall also post conspicuously contact information including a phone number in case of an emergency. 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.

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 Waycross Judicial Circuit; all lawyers and litigants if possible; and the pertinent newspapers in the circuit. All Clerks are ordered to post this order conspicuously in their respective courthouses.

SO ORDERED, this 5th day of August, 2024 at 12:20 p.m. in Douglas, Coffee County Georgia.



DWAYNE H. GILLIS, Chief Judge, Superior Court
Waycross Judicial Circuit