



**ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY COURTS**  
**Athens-Clarke County Courthouse**  
**325 East Washington Street**  
**Athens, Georgia 30601**



**Superior Court**  
Chief Judge Lisa Lott  
Judge Eric W. Norris  
Judge Lawton E. Stephens  
Judge H. Patrick Haggard

**State Court**  
Chief Judge Charles E. Auslander, III  
Judge Ryan S. Hope

**Probate Court**  
Judge Susan Schaffner

**Magistrate Court**  
Chief Judge Benjamin R. Makin  
Judge Donarell Green  
Judge Kelly Wegel

**Juvenile Court**  
Judge Amanda Trimble

**Municipal Court**  
Judge Marcy Jolles

**SECOND ORDER DECLARING JUDICIAL EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, on July 22, 2024 the Athens-Clarke County judges learned of the presence of bed bugs in the Athens-Clarke County Courthouse, and by recommendation from the Athens-Clarke County Unified Government's Central Services Department, the decision has been made to restrict court operations and limit public access due to the confirmed presence of bed bugs in the Athens-Clarke County Courthouse, located at 325 East Washington Street, Athens, Georgia.

THEREFORE, the undersigned Chief Judge of the Superior Courts for the Western Judicial Circuit does hereby declare the existence of a judicial emergency for Athens-Clarke County, pursuant to O.C.G.A. 38-3-61 and O.C.G.A. 38-3-62. The nature of this emergency is due to the confirmed presence of bed bugs in areas in the building. The assessment was conducted by a pest control company that recommended multi-day measures to treat the spaces. The temporary closure of the courthouse is thereby effective July 29, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. until July 31, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. to allow for necessary measures to treat the building.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that the Athens-Clarke County courts will cancel all jury trials and hearings for the time period of July 29, 2024 to July 30, 2024. The Clerk of the State and Superior Courts will continue to accept electronic filings. There will be alternative access for filing ex parte Temporary Protective Orders and other emergency issues from July 29, 2024 through July 30, 2024 at the Hancock Street door of the courthouse, where a table, information, sample petitions and assistance will be available from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm during this judicial emergency. In addition, persons applying for ex parte Temporary Protective Orders may access the necessary petitions online at the following address: [www.accgov.com/8086/self-help-forms](http://www.accgov.com/8086/self-help-forms). If circumstances allow, the courts will resume normal operations on July 31, 2024, 8:00 am, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

All filing deadlines, all limitation periods, and hearing deadlines for all of the Athens-Clarke County courts are suspended and tolled and from July 29, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. through July 31, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. Any filings due on any of these days will now be due on July 31, 2024 by 5:00 p.m.

If an individual with a scheduled court date or other courthouse business presents at the courthouse, the security staff shall provide contact information for the specific court or office for which attendance is warranted. Emergency contact information for all offices will also be posted at the Courthouse entrance. All litigants or other interested persons shall contact the appropriate court or office to request further instructions regarding future court attendance.

In order to provide for the health and safety of all persons attending court or working in the Courthouse, the Courts will continue to monitor this situation and will update these operational directives as necessary. This Order may be subject to further modifications as the situation dictates.

IT SO ORDERED, this 29th day of July, 2024, *nunc pro tunc* July 26, 2024.



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Lisa Lott  
Chief Judge, Superior Courts  
Western Judicial Circuit

Important Contact Information:

Athens Clarke County Website:  
[www.accgov.com](http://www.accgov.com)

Superior Court:

Chief Judge Lisa Lott, 706-310-3606  
Judge Eric Norris, 706-546-7704  
Judge Lawton Stephens, 706-613-3175  
Judge H. Patrick Haggard, 706-613-3780

Clerk of Courts, 706-613-3190

ACC Sheriff-Courts, 706-613-3261

Juvenile Court, 706-613-3300

State Court, 706-613-3200

Probate Court, 706-613-3320

Magistrate Court, 706-613-3310

Municipal Court, 706-613-3690