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08/05/2024

*Theresa A. Bame*

SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

SPJEO24-00001

THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE EASTERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
STATE OF GEORGIA

In Re. ]

Declaration of Judicial Emergency ]

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Tammie Mosley  
Clerk of Superior Court  
Chatham County  
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**ORDER OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY**

The undersigned Chief Judge of Superior Court for the Eastern Judicial Circuit of Georgia does hereby declare the existence of a judicial emergency in this circuit. The nature of this emergency is due to Hurricane Debby which is expected to affect this judicial circuit beginning in the evening hours of Monday, August 5, 2024. The undersigned makes this declaration in conformance with the following: (a) the state-wide "State of Emergency for Tropical Depression 4" enacted on August 3, 2024 by Brian Kemp, Governor of the State of Georgia, (b) the local Chatham County, Georgia State of Emergency enacted on August 4, 2024 by Chester Ellis, Chairman of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, (c) the recommendation of the Chatham Emergency Management Agency, (d) the decision of Chatham County to close all county offices for business beginning Tuesday, August 6, 2024, and (e) the decision of the Savannah-Chatham County public school system to close beginning Monday afternoon, August 5, 2024.

**Accordingly, it is the order of the court that the Chatham County Courthouse be closed for business on Tuesday August 6, 2024 and will reopen for business on 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 7, 2024<sup>1</sup>. For purposes of clarity, this Order also encompasses the Juvenile Court Courthouse.**

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;

<sup>1</sup>A later decision will be made as to whether it is also necessary to extend this Order beyond 8:00 a.m. on August 7, 2024.

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; and
11. 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 make a determination of an appropriate available facility for the conduct of court business.

SO ORDERED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024.



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Penny Haas Freeseemann, Chief Judge  
Superior Court, Eastern Judicial Circuit of Georgia

cc: Chief Justice, Georgia Supreme Court  
All Judges and Clerks of Court  
District Attorney  
Chief Public Defender  
Chairman Chatham County Commission  
News media