

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE MIDDLE JUDICIAL  
CIRCUIT**

(Candler, Emanuel, Jefferson, Toombs and Washington Counties)

In Re: §  
§  
Declaration of Judicial Emergency §  
§

**ORDER**

The undersigned Chief Judge of Superior Court of the Middle 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 Helene which is expected to affect this judicial circuit on Monday, September 30th, 2024.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all Court business in the Superior and Juvenile Court in Toombs County will be closed for business on Monday, September 30th, 2024.

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 of 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 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 in 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 . And such other legal proceedings as may be determined to be necessary;

for the duration of the time of closing set forth herein.

Because the Court expects all public buildings within Toombs County 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.

SO ORDERED this 30th day of September, 2024.



[Judge Tommy J. Smith \(Sep 30, 2024 11:29 EDT\)](#)

Tommy J. Smith  
Chief Judge of Superior Court  
Middle Judicial Circuit

Parties copied to on the following page

Copy: Hon. Mike Boggs, Chief Justice, Georgia Supreme Court  
Therese S. Barnes, Clerk of the Supreme Court of Georgia  
Steve E. Castlen, Clerk of the Georgia Court of Appeals  
Hon. Robert S. Reeves, Superior Court Judge, MJC  
Hon. Sherri P. McDonald, Juvenile Court Judge, MJC  
Tripp Fitzner, District Attorney, MJC  
Brandi Payne, Chief Public Defender, MJC  
Robert P. Nadekow, 8<sup>th</sup> District Administrator  
Derick Durden, Washington County Administrator  
Bryan Aashiem, Candler County Administrator  
Guy Singletary, Emanuel County Administrator  
Jerry Coalson, Jefferson County Administrator  
John Jones, Toombs County Administrator  
Jenny H. Grimes, Candler County Clerk  
Kristin C. Hall, Emanuel County Clerk  
Nancy Pittman, Toombs County Clerk  
Megan Cramer, Washington County Clerk  
Anne Durden, Jefferson County Clerk