

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: :
: :
DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL :
EMERGENCY :

AMENDED ORDER

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-61, et seq., and Rule 45 of the Uniform Rules for the Superior Courts, the undersigned Chief Judge of the Superior Court for the Dublin Judicial Circuit of Georgia does hereby declare the existence of a Judicial Emergency in Laurens County, Georgia. The nature of the emergency is inclement weather with the arrival of Hurricane Helene, which is expected to affect this judicial circuit from approximately 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 26, 2024, through Friday, September 27, 2024. The undersigned makes this declaration at the request of the Laurens County Emergency Management Director.

Accordingly, it is the order of the Court that the Laurens County Courthouse be closed for business on Thursday, September 26, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. and will reopen for business on Monday, September 30, 2024 at regular time.

This order shall immediately be posted in the Laurens County Courthouse, interior and exterior.

During the period when the Laurens 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;
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 the 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 responsive pleadings are due;
12. This order shall not toll, extend, or suspend any deadline, time schedule, or time period imposed by statute, rules, regulations, orders whether civil, criminal or administrative cases or matters wherein the parties present to the Court any consent order seeking relief or an order of the court. It is the intent of this provision to allow litigants to obtain consent judgments and orders where desired and to allow attorneys to continue with various matters of litigation by consent if they so choose; and
13. Such other legal proceedings as may be determined to be necessary.

Because the governing authority of Laurens County has ordered that all public buildings within its jurisdiction be closed during this period of emergency, the court is unable to designate another facility for the transaction of court business. Should the state of emergency extend beyond the period indicated above, the court will make a determination of an available, appropriate facility for the conduct of court business. However, anyone requiring the Court's involvement in an emergency situation should call the Laurens County Sheriff's office at 478-272-1522.

SO ORDERED THIS 26th day of September, 2024.



Jon F. Helton, Chief Judge
Laurens County Superior Court
Dublin Judicial Circuit

cc: Chief Justice, Georgia Supreme Court
Clerk of the Georgia Supreme Court
Clerk of the Georgia Court of Appeals
All Judges and Clerks of Court
District Attorney
Dublin Judicial Circuit Bar
Chairman, Laurens County Commissioners
News media