

**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 Thursday, September 26th, 2024 and Friday, September 27, 2024.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all Court business in Superior and Juvenile Court in Washington County will be closing for business at 12:00 noon on Thursday, September 26th, 2024 and will remain closed on Friday, September 27, 2024. The Washington County Courts will reopen for business on Monday, September 30, 2024 at the regular time.

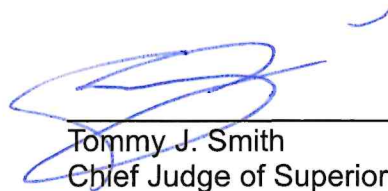
Given the uncertain nature or duration of this emergency, the Court hereby suspends, tolls, extends, and otherwise grants relief from all deadlines or other time schedules of filing requirements imposed by otherwise applicable statutes, rules, regulations, or court orders, whether in civil or criminal 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 Washington 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 26th day of September, 2024.



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, 8th 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