

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE OGEECHEE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
(Counties of Bulloch, Effingham, Screven, and Jenkins)

STATE OF GEORGIA

In Re:)
)
Declaration of Judicial Emergency)

ORDER

The undersigned Chief Judge of Superior Court for the Ogeechee 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 caused catastrophic damage to the infrastructure of the counties of the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit.

Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the previously entered Emergency Order is hereby extended, and all Court business in the Superior and Juvenile Courts for Bulloch County, Effingham County, Screven County, and Jenkins County, and the State Courts thereof, will be closed for business on Monday, September 30, 2024, through Friday, October 4, 2024, and will reopen for business on Monday, October 7, 2024, at the regular time. The Clerks of the counties of the Ogeechee Judicial circuit are free to open to provide limited services on dates and times as may be deemed appropriate by their respective county governing authorities.

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 Bulloch County, Effingham County, Screven County, and Jenkins 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 conducting of court business when it is appropriate to do so.

SO ORDERED this 29th day of September, 2024.



F. GATES PEED

Chief Judge

Ogeechee Judicial Circuit

Copy: Hon. Michael P. 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. Michael Muldrew, Superior Court Judge
Hon. Lovett Bennett, Jr., Superior Court Judge
Hon. Ronald K. Thompson
Daphne Totten, District Attorney
Renata Newbill-Jallow, Chief Public Defender
Richard F. Denney, First District Court Administrator
Tom Couch, Bulloch County Administrator
Tim Callanan, Effingham County Administrator
Lori Burke, Screven County Administrator
Grady Saxon, Jenkins County Administrator
Heather McNeal, Bulloch County Clerk
Jason Bragg, Effingham County Clerk
Mandy Howard, Screven County Clerk
Tracy Herrington, Jenkins County Clerk