

**ORDER EXTENDING EMERGENCY
ORDER DECLARING A JUDICIAL EMERGENCY
IN THE WAYCROSS JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

On September 26, 2024, this Court declared a judicial emergency due to Hurricane Helene and the accompanying projected path as reported by various news and weather channels. Hurricane Helene came through the Waycross Judicial Circuit in the early morning of September 27, 2024. Helene caused damage to roads, homes, businesses and extensive power outages throughout the Circuit. Additionally, internet and cell services have been severely curtailed in many areas. In certain areas, travel is impeded due to downed trees.

Due to communication problems, the Court is unable to fully ascertain all of the impediments faced by lawyers, litigants, law enforcement, Clerks and staff and other courthouse personnel. Accordingly, the Court considers reports from Clerks with which it can communicate, courthouse closing decisions from County Commissions, decisions from the Board of Education regarding school closings, news reports and various other sources.

A substantial number of people in all six counties of the Waycross Judicial Circuit, Coffee, Ware, Pierce, Charlton, Bacon, and Brantley, remain without power and the Court has been notified that the courthouses also remain without power, internet or phone services.

The Court believes that in the exercise of caution and prudence, and based on the available information, that the Order of September 26, 2024 declaring a Judicial Emergency in the Waycross Judicial Circuit shall be extended through October 4, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. unless otherwise modified or extended by the Court. The extension will cover all counties in the Waycross Judicial Circuit.

All provisions and protections, rights and privileges provided in the order of September 26th, 2024 shall remain in full force and effect in all counties covered by the present order.

The distribution of this Order shall be via email, text, photograph and verbally, if necessary. The Georgia Supreme Court and Georgia Court of Appeals will be notified via email.

So ordered this 28th day of September, 2024.



Jeffrey H. Kight, Superior Court Judge
on behalf of Dwayne H. Gillis, Chief Judge
of the Waycross Judicial Circuit