

Ordered filed with the Court at Chambers on January 22, 2025 at 5:23 P.M.

[Signature]
Henry L. Belkowitz - Judge of Superior Courts, Pataula Judicial Circuit

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PATAULA JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA

Judicial Circuit

IN RE:)
Declaration of Judicial Emergency)
)

FIRST ORDER EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2025, the Judges of the Superior Courts of the Pataula Judicial Circuit entered an Order declaring a judicial emergency pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-60 et. Seq. (the "Emergency Order"); and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Order fixed the period of the duration of the judicial emergency which expires at 11:59 P.M. on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, unless otherwise ordered by the Court; and

WHEREAS, severe winter storm weather conditions persist that require the extension of the period of duration of the judicial emergency;

NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned Chief Judge and Judge of Superior Courts for the Pataula Judicial Circuit, pursuant to O.C.G.A. §38-3-61(b) do extend the period of the judicial emergency and the relief granted thereunder through and including **January 23, 2025, at 11:59 P.M.**, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. In addition, the Superior Courts of the Pataula Judicial Circuit and the other classes of courts of the Pataula Judicial Circuit named in the Emergency Order shall reopen for business on Friday, January 24, 2025, at the regular time.

This order shall be served upon the Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, Chief Judge of the Georgia Court of Appeals and the respective clerks thereof; all judges and clerks in the Pataula Judicial Circuit; all lawyers and litigants if possible; and the pertinent newspapers in the circuit. All Clerks are ordered to post this order conspicuously in their respective courthouses and spread this Order upon the minutes of the courts.

[Signature]

[Signature]

SO ORDERED, this 22 day of January, 2025.


T. Craig Earnest, Chief Judge
Pataula Judicial Circuit


Henry L. Balkcom, IV, Judge
Pataula Judicial Circuit

*with
express
permission.*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have this day served a copy of the above and foregoing ORDER OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY upon the following named persons:

Supreme Court of Georgia
Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs via fax: 404 656-2253
Therese Barnes, Clerk barnest@gasupreme.us

Georgia Court of Appeals
Patty Bender, Deputy Clerk coaefast@gaappeals.us

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scjtce@gmail.com

Hon. Henry L. Balkcom, IV
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Hon. Bill Mills
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whmills@windstream.net

Hon. Ronnie Rentz
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Hon. Ed Collier
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Hon. Mia Wallace
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Hon. Will Caudill
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YCE

JKB

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Hon. Matt Self
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Hon. Tony Thompson
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Hon. Sara Torbert
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Hon. Michael J. Rogerson
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Hon. Carol Speir
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Sheriff William Price
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Sheriff Garrison Clenney
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Sheriff Charles Davis
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Sheriff Eddie Fairbanks
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Sheriff Heath Elliott
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Sheriff Vernon Jessie
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Perry Price, Chief Probation Officer
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	ecn.files@gmail.com
Miller County Liberal	millercountyliberal@gmail.com
Donalsonville News	legals@donalsonvillenews.com
	rhonda@donalsonvillenews.com
The Dawson News	news@thedawsonnews.com

This 22 day of January, 2025


April Baggett, Judicial Administrative
Assistant to Judge Henry L. Balkcom IV

written
express
permission

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PATAULA JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN RE:)
Declaration of Judicial Emergency)
)

ORDER

The undersigned Chief Judge and Judge of Superior Courts for the Pataula Judicial Circuit of the State of Georgia, upon their own motion, do hereby declare the existence of a judicial emergency in this circuit, pursuant to O.C.G.A. §38-3-60, et. seq. The nature of this emergency is due to a severe winter storm which is expected to produce significant ice and snow throughout this judicial circuit from approximately Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 12:00 P.M. through Wednesday, January, 22, 2025. The undersigned make this declaration in conformance with the Executive Order by Governor Brian P. Kemp who has declared a state of emergency in the State of Georgia, including Southwest Georgia and all counties in the Pataula Judicial Circuit, effective January 20, 2025. Accordingly, it is the order of the Court that Clay, Early, Miller, Quitman, Randolph, Seminole and Terrell County Superior, Magistrate, Probate and Juvenile Courts and Early County State Court be closed for business Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 12:00 P.M. and continuing through and until the regular close of business on Wednesday, January 22, 2025. Thereafter, the above-named courts in the Pataula Judicial Circuit shall reopen for business on Thursday, January 23, 2025, 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 deadline or other time scheduled 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;

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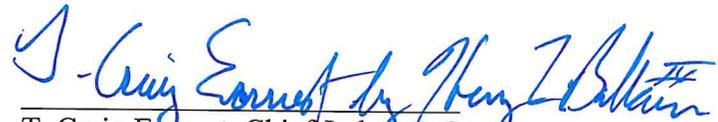
5. A deadline or other schedule regarding the detention of a juvenile;
6. The time within which to return a bill of indictment or an accusation or to bring a matter before a grand jury;
7. The time within which to file a writ of habeas corpus;
8. The time within which discovery or any aspect thereof 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;
11. The time within which hearings must be held in stalking and family violence cases and all ex-parte relief is continued until next scheduled hearing in said matter; and
12. Such other legal proceedings as may be determined to be necessary.

The relief granted herein expires at 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

Because the Court expects all public buildings within the circuit 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.

This order shall be served upon the Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, Chief Judge of the Georgia Court of Appeals and the respective clerks thereof; all judges and clerks in the Pataula Judicial Circuit; all lawyers and litigants if possible; and the pertinent newspapers in the circuit. All Clerks are ordered to post this order conspicuously in their respective courthouses and spread this Order upon the minutes of the courts.

SO ORDERED, this 21 day of January, 2025.


 T. Craig Earnest, Chief Judge
 Pataula Judicial Circuit

will express permission


 Henry L. Balkcom, IV, Judge
 Pataula Judicial Circuit

JCE

[Handwritten initials]

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have this day served a copy of the above and foregoing ORDER OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY upon the following named persons:

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The Dawson News	news@thedawsonnews.com

This 21 day of January, 2025


April Baggett, Judicial Administrative
Assistant to Judge Henry L. Balkcom IV

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SMC