

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

FILED IN OFFICE
CLERK SUPERIOR COURT
NEWTON COUNTY GEORGIA

IN RE:)
)
DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL)
EMERGENCY)

2025 JAN -9 PM 4: 05
REC'D IN BK _____
PAGE # _____
DATE _____
STEPHANIE FINNIE, CLERK

**ORDER DECLARING JUDICIAL EMERGENCY DUE TO EXPECTED HAZARDOUS
WEATHER CONDITIONS ON JANUARY 10, 2025**

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-61, *et seq.*, and Uniform Superior Court Rule 45, the undersigned Chief Judge of the Superior Courts for the Alcovy Judicial Circuit of Georgia does hereby declare the existence of a Judicial Emergency in Newton County, Georgia. The Court notes that Governor Brian P. Kemp has also declared a statewide State of Emergency effective immediately through Tuesday, January 14, 2025. The nature of the Judicial Emergency is potential danger to courthouse staff and the public from an approaching winter storm the National Weather Service (“NWS”) is forecasting to impact the State of Georgia and Newton County beginning Friday morning, January 10, 2025, and lasting into the weekend. Newton County is under a winter storm watch from 7:00 a.m. Friday, January 10, 2025, through 7:00 a.m. Saturday, January 11, 2025, with possible accumulations of snow and sleet up to two inches and an accumulation of freezing rain up to one-quarter inch. If such accumulations occur, they will create hazardous road conditions and possibly render roads impassable, preventing courthouse staff and the public from accessing the courthouse. Furthermore, it is reasonable to expect that all emergency personnel, including sheriff’s deputies normally assigned to the courthouse to provide security, will be needed to attend to any emergencies caused by the weather conditions. These conditions will substantially endanger or infringe upon the normal functioning of the judicial system, the ability of persons to avail themselves of the judicial system, and the ability of litigants or others to have access to the courts or to meet schedules or time deadlines imposed by court order or rule, statute, or administrative rule or regulation.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-61, the Newton County Courthouse shall be closed on Friday, January 10, 2025, and shall re-open at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, January 13, 2025, unless weather and road conditions remain so hazardous as to require extension of the closure. In that event, the undersigned will issue an order extending the declaration of a Judicial Emergency and extending closure of the Courthouse as allowed by O.C.G.A. § 38-3-61(b).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, during the period when the Courthouse is closed due to this Judicial Emergency, all deadlines and other time schedules and filing requirements imposed by otherwise applicable statutes, rules, regulations, or court orders, whether in civil or criminal cases or administrative matters, are hereby suspended, tolled, and extended until Monday, January 13, 2025. Such deadlines and time schedules include, but are not limited to:

1. statutes 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; and
11. the time within which responsive pleadings are due.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Sheriff or his designee shall post a copy of this notice on the courthouse doors.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Superior Court, or her designee, shall immediately notify the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and shall notify and serve a copy of this Order on the judges and clerks of all courts sitting within Newton County and on the clerks of the Georgia Court of Appeals and the Georgia Supreme Court by reasonable means to assure expeditious receipt.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, the County Manager, or his designee, shall post a copy of this notice and any subsequent modification or extension in accordance with O.C.G.A § 38-3-63 on the county website and all other appropriate public information systems and shall distribute a copy to local news media as well as news media in the Atlanta television and radio market.

SO ORDERED this 9th day of December, 2025.


W. Kendall Wynne, Jr.
Chief Judge, Superior Courts
Alcovy Judicial Circuit