

for the duration of the time of closing set forth herein.

At this 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 16th day of January, 2026.



MICHAEL T. MULDREW

Chief Judge

Ogeechee Judicial Circuit

Copy: Hon. Nels S. D. Peterson, 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. Lovett Bennett, Jr., Superior Court Judge
Hon. Ronald K. Thompson
Hon. Matthew K. Hube, Superior Court Judge
Robert Busbee, District Attorney
Renata Newbill-Jallow, Chief Public Defender
Randall Weiland, First District Court Administrator
Tim Callanan, Effingham County Administrator
Walt Lawson, Effingham County Clerk

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE OGEECHEE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
(County of Effingham)

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 HVAC work on the Effingham Courthouse which is expected to affect this judicial circuit on January 20, 2026, through January 23, 2026. It has been represented to the Court that the nature of the work requires the closure of the entire courthouse.

Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all Court business in Superior and Juvenile Courts for Effingham County, and the State Court thereof, will be closed for business beginning on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, through Friday, January 23, 2026, and will reopen for business on Monday, January 26, 2026, 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:

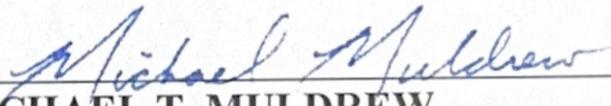
1. A statute of limitation;
2. The time within which to issue a warrant;
3. The time within which to try a case for which demand for speedy trial has been filed;
4. The time within which to hold a commitment hearing;
5. A deadline or other schedule regarding the detention of a juvenile;
6. The time within 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.

At this 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.

If you have an emergency requiring the assistance of the Clerk of Court, Walt Lawson, he may be reached at (912) 856-4735 or by email at wlawson@effinghamcounty.org. If you have an emergency requiring the assistance of a Superior Court Judge please contact our office at (912) 764-9607.

SO ORDERED this 16th day of January, 2026.



MICHAEL T. MULDREW
Chief Judge
Ogeechee Judicial Circuit

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