

IN THE SUPERIOR COURTS FOR THE NORTHERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
(ELBERT, FRANKLIN, HART, MADISON AND OGLETHORPE COUNTIES)

IN RE:

DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

Filed by the court

January 23, 2026; 8:30 A.M.

A. Cheri Peltier
Judge

ORDER

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-61 et seq. and Rule 45 of the Uniform Rules of Superior Courts, the undersigned Chief Judge of the Superior Courts of the Northern Judicial Circuit, encompassing Elbert County, Franklin County, Hart County, Madison County and Oglethorpe County, does hereby declare the existence of a Judicial Emergency in the five (5) counties of the Northern Judicial Circuit. The Judicial Emergency will begin at 12:01 o'clock A.M. on Monday, January 26, 2026 and conclude at 5:30 o'clock P.M. on Tuesday, January 27, 2026. The nature of the emergency is weather related freezing rain, sleet and snow, with accumulations of ice up to .7 inches being forecast during the morning hours of January 25, 2026, and continuing into Monday, January 26, 2026, with temperatures to remain near or below freezing during such period of closure. The inclement weather will cause highways and roads to be icy, slick, dangerous and hazardous to the public.

As a result of this Declaration, all hearings scheduled in the Superior Courts of the Northern Judicial Circuit are cancelled for the period of the Judicial Emergency, and will be rescheduled by the assigned Judge.

This Order will negatively affect access to the Office of the Clerks of Superior Court and Courthouses of the Northern Judicial Circuit. Should there be an emergency or necessity to file pleadings during the period of the Judicial Emergency, the person/party in need shall call the number

set forth below for his/her/their County, provide a name and phone number, and an official of the Court will return the call. Contact numbers are as follows:

Elbert County – 706-988-9357

Franklin County – 706-988-2508 or 706-384-2525

Hart County – 706-376-3114

Madison County – 706-540-7821

Oglethorpe County – 706-743-8101 or 911

During the period of the Judicial Emergency deadlines or other time schedules for filing requirements imposed by otherwise applicable statutes, rules, regulations, or court orders, whether in civil or criminal cases or administrative matters, are hereby suspended and tolled such that one shall have until Thursday, January 29, 2026 at 5:00 o'clock P.M., to make the filings affected hereby, including the following:

A Statute of Limitations

The time within which to issue a warrant

The time in within which to hold a commitment hearing

A deadline or other schedule regarding the detention of a juvenile

The time within which to return a bill of indictment or an accusation

The time within which to file a writ of habeas corpus

The time within which discovery or any aspect thereof is to be completed

The time within which to serve a party

The time within which to appeal or to seek the right to appeal any order, ruling or other determination

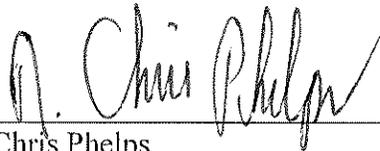
Notwithstanding the foregoing, any TPO hearings scheduled during the period of closure shall by the terms hereof be continued and reset on the assigned Judge's next regularly scheduled civil motion day.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, any child support recovery hearings scheduled during the period of closure shall by the terms hereof be continued and reset for the next Judge's assigned child support recovery day.

It is expressly found by the Court that the period during which the Judicial Emergency exists shall not negatively affect any existing statutory speedy trial demands or requirements.

A copy of this Order shall be posted at the main entrances of all Courthouses in the Northern Judicial Circuit, as well as the main entrances of all other locations in which a Courtroom is located.

IT IS SO ORDERED AND ENTERED, on this the 23rd day of January, 2026, at 8:30 o'clock A.M. in Elberton, Georgia.



R. Chris Phelps
Chief Judge of Superior Courts
Northern Judicial Circuit

Distribution: Chief Justice, Georgia Supreme Court
Clerk of the Georgia Supreme Court
Clerk of the Georgia Court of Appeals
All Judges and Clerks of Court
District Attorney
Public Defender
Northern Judicial Circuit Bar Members
Chairpersons of all Boards of Commissioners in the Northern Judicial Circuit
News Media
Juvenile Court Judge
All Probate Courts
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