

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURTS OF THE
CHATTAHOOCHEE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN RE:)
DECLARATION OF)
JUDICIAL EMERGENCY)
COURTHOUSE CLOSURE(S))

ORDER

The undersigned Chief Judge of Superior Courts for the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit of the State of Georgia, as defined in and pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-60, and acting in accordance with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 38-3-60, *et seq.*, and U.S.C.R. 45, it is hereby declared that this Court is confronted with a judicial emergency. Therefore, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-61, the undersigned, Chief Judge of the Superior Courts of the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit, does hereby declare the existence of a Judicial Emergency in the counties of Chattahoochee, Harris, Marion, Muscogee, Talbot, and Taylor.

The nature of this emergency is due to a winter storm which affects this judicial circuit from approximately 8:00 a.m., on Monday, January 26, 2026, until 11:59 p.m. The undersigned makes this declaration in conformance with the Order by Governor Brian Kemp who has issued a state of emergency in the State of Georgia, effective January 22, 2026.

The emergency substantially endangers or infringes upon the normal functioning of the judicial system, the ability of persons to avail themselves of the judicial system, and/or the ability of litigants or others to have access to the courts or meet deadlines imposed by court order or rule, statute, or administrative rule or regulation,

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that the following Courts in the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit: ALL Chattahoochee, Harris, Marion, Muscogee, Talbot, and Taylor County Superior, State (Muscogee), Magistrate, Probate, Juvenile, Recorders (Muscogee) and Municipal (Muscogee) Court shall be closed for business Monday, January 26, 2026, at 8:00 a.m., and continuing through until 11:59 p.m. Thereafter, the above-named Courts in the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit shall reopen for business on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at their regular/respective times.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-62, 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;
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 Monday, January 26, 2026, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

Pursuant to OCGA 38-3-63, the Sheriff or designee shall post a copy of this notice on the courthouse doors; the Clerk of Court, Court Administrator or designee shall post a copy of this notice and any subsequent modification or extension on the county website; the Clerk of Court shall provide notice of the closure in the same manner as they would for cancellation of any other court matter, including announcements on television, radio, and public address systems; and notice of this order and any extension shall be provided to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, to the judges and clerks of all courts sitting within the affected jurisdiction, and on the clerks of the Supreme Court of Georgia and the Court of Appeals of Georgia.

Anyone requiring the Court's involvement in an emergency situation may contact the office of the Chief Judge of Superior Court by calling 706-225-4273, or as is listed in the chart below:

<p>Chattahoochee County</p> <p>Clerk(s): Superior Court (& Juvenile/Magistrate): 706-989-3424 Probate Court: 706-989-3603 Magistrate Court: 706-989-3643</p>	<p>Harris County</p> <p>Clerks(s): Clerk of Superior Court (<i>Juvenile</i>): stacy.haralson@gsecca.org Probate Court: 706-628-5038 (Presiding) Magistrate Court: 706-628-4977 (Presiding)</p>
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<p>Presiding Judge: 706-225-4273 or 706-329-6062 or 706-304-5129</p>	<p>Presiding Judge After Hours: 706-225-4273 or 706-628-4211</p>
<p>Marion County Clerk(s): Superior Court (& <i>Juvenile</i>): 229-649-7321 Probate/Magistrate Court: 229-649-5542</p> <p>Presiding Judge: 706-225-4273 or 229-649-5542 or 706-304-5129</p>	<p>Muscogee County Clerk(s): Superior & State Courts: 762-207-9666 Juvenile Court: 706-304-5129 Georgia Crisis & Access Line: 800-715-4225 Probate Court: probategeneral@columbusga.org Magistrate Court: 706-225-3374 Municipal Court: 706-225-3417 Recorders Court: 706-641-5304</p> <p>Presiding Judge: 706-225-4273</p>
<p>Talbot County Clerk(s): Superior Court (& <i>Juvenile</i>): 706-665-3239 Probate/Magistrate: 706-741-5743 Probate Court: shatarap23@yahoo.com</p> <p>Presiding Judge: 706-225-4273 or 706-304-5129</p>	<p>Taylor County Clerk(s): Superior Court (& <i>Juvenile</i>): 478-862-6081 Probate/Magistrate Court: 478-862-6074</p> <p>Presiding Judge: 706-225-4273 or 478-862-6074 or 706-304-5129</p>
	<p>Hope Harbor 706-326-4063 or 706-225-3519</p>

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-63, this order shall immediately be served upon 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 Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit for all Courts, as specified above; the District Attorney and his

Chief Assistant District Attorney; All Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police for the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit; County/City Attorneys; all lawyers and litigants through their respective bar email listservs; and the pertinent news outlets in the circuit. All Clerks of Court shall post this Order conspicuously in their respective courthouses, share on their Clerk of Courts' social media platform (if available), and spread this Order upon the minutes of the respective Courts listed within this Order.

SO ORDERED, this 23rd day of January, 2026.

/s/ Arthur L. Smith, III, 4:32 P.M.
w/ express permission by Liz Barker,
Judicial Administrative Assistant to
Arthur L. Smith, III, Chief Judge
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit