IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE:

DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

FILED IN OFFICE

08/29/2023

SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

ORDER

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 38-3-61, et seq., and Rule 45 of the Uniform Rules for the Superior Courts, the undersigned Chief Judge of the Superior Court for the Dublin Judicial Circuit of Georgia does hereby declare the existence of a Judicial Emergency in Laurens County, Georgia. The nature of this emergency is the pending arrival of Hurricane Idalia which is expected to affect this judicial circuit from approximately 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 30, 2023, through Thursday, August 31, 2023. The undersigned makes this declaration at the request of the Laurens County Emergency Management Director and Laurens County Sheriff. Accordingly, it is the order of the Court that the Laurens County Courthouse be closed for business on Wednesday, August 30, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. and to reopen for business on Thursday, August 31, 2023 at the regular time.

During the period when the Laurens County Courthouse is closed the court hereby suspends, tolls, extends, and otherwise grants relief from all deadlines or other time schedules 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 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;
- (11) The time within which responsive pleadings are due; and
- (12) Such other legal proceedings as may be determined to be necessary.

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Because the governing authority of Laurens County has ordered that all public buildings within its jurisdiction be closed during this period of emergency, the court is unable to designate another facility for the transaction of court business. Should the state of emergency extend beyond the period indicated above, the court will make a determination of an available, appropriate facility for the conduct of court business. However, anyone requiring the Court's involvement in an emergency situation should call the Laurens County Sheriff's office at (478) 272-1522. A copy of this Order shall be posted at the Laurens County Courthouse door.

SO ORDERED this 29th day of August, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in Dublin, Georgia.

ION F. HELTON, CHIEF JUDGE

SUPERIOR COURT

DUBLIN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF GA

cc: 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
Chairman, Laurens County Commission