

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURTS OF THE SOUTHERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BROOKS, COLQUITT, ECHOLS, LOWNDES AND THOMAS COUNTIES
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN RE:

Declaration of Judicial Operations)

Emergency Order)

ORDER

The undersigned Chief Judge and Judge of Superior Court for the Southern Judicial Circuit of the State of Georgia, upon acting under the authority of O.C.G.A. §38-3-60, et. seq., hereby declares a judicial emergency in all counties of the Southern Judicial District Circuit. This emergency is due to **Winter Storm Enzo** which will impact operations in all counties of the Southern Judicial Circuit. The undersigned makes this declaration in conformance with the Order by Governor Brian Kemp, who has previously issued a state of emergency in the State of Georgia, including all counties in the Southern Judicial Circuit.

The undersigned Chief Superior Court Judge having consulted with all of the acting Superior Court Judges within the Circuit, all are in agreement that access to the courthouses of the Southern Circuit will be impracticable during this judicial emergency.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, all Court business within the Southern Judicial Circuit, including Superior Courts, State Courts, Magistrate Courts, Probate Courts and Juvenile Courts, be closed for business on **Wednesday, January 22, 2025**.

For the periods of the Judicial Emergency cited above, the undersigned Chief Judge of Superior Courts hereby suspended, tolls, extends or otherwise grants relief from all deadlines 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. This includes, but is 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 seek the right of appeal any order, ruling, or other determination;
- (11) Such other legal proceedings as determined to be necessary by the authorized judicial official.

The relief granted herein expires at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 23, 2025, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. Separately, the Courts specifically grant clerks offices allowance to close offices in tandem with their respective county government until safe travel conditions resume.

Should the State of Emergency extend beyond the closure period indicated above, the court will make a determination of an available, appropriate facility to the conduct of court business when it is appropriate to do so and make a determination of extended dates and time for the conduct of business.

This order shall be served upon the Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, the Clerk of the Georgia Supreme Court, Clerk of the Court of the Georgia Court of Appeals, all Judges of any classification in the Southern Judicial Circuit, and the Clerks of Court in Brooks County, Colquitt County, Echols County, Lowndes County and Thomas County. Further, notice of this order shall be given to all affected parties and their counsel. All Clerks are ordered to post this order in conspicuous locations in their respective courthouses and spread this Order upon the minutes of the Court.

SO ORDERED, this the **21** day of **January, 2025**

Time: 8:15 AM

/s/ Brian A. McDaniel

CHIEF JUDGE SOUTHERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

This order has been approved by Judges:

Hon. Gregory A. Voyles Hon. Catherine M. Smith

Hon. James L. Prine Hon. William Long Whitesell

PARTIES TO BE SERVED:

Supreme Court of Georgia
Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs
Via fax: 404-656-2253

Clerk of the Supreme Court
Therese Barnes
barnest@gasupreme.us

Georgia Court of Appeals
Patty Bender
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Brooks County Bar Association
Colquitt County Bar Association
Lowndes County Bar Association
Thomas County Bar Association

Sheriff Mike Dewey	229-363-7559 fax	229-263-7558 phone
Sheriff Rod Howell	229-616-7436 fax	229-616-7430 phone
Sheriff Randy Courson	229-559-5678 fax	229-559-7526 phone
Sheriff Ashley Paulk	229-671-3442 fax	229-671-2610 phone
Sherriff Carlton Powel	229-225-3400 fax	229-225-3300 phone
District Attorney Brad Shealy	229-245-5281 fax	229-244-7170 phone
Public Defender Wade Kruger	229-245-5220 fax	229-671-2800 phone
Brooks County Clerk	229-263-8054 fax	229-263-4747 phone
Colquitt County Clerk	229-616-7029 fax	229-616-7420 phone
Echols County Clerk	229-559-5792 fax	229-559-5642 phone
Lowndes County Clerk	229-333-7637 fax	229-333-5127 phone
Thomas County Clerk	229-225-4110 fax	229-225-4108 phone