

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PICKENS COUNTY
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF FANNIN COUNTY
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF GILMER COUNTY
APPALACHIAN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**TO THE JUDGES AND CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT
TO THE JUDGE(S) AND CLERK OF MAGISTRATE COURT
TO THE JUDGE(S) AND CLERK OF PROBATE COURT
TO THE JUDGE(S) AND CLERK OF MUNICIPAL COURT
TO THE JUDGE(S) AND CLERK OF JUVENILE COURT**

ORDER

DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, a winter snowstorm struck Georgia on January 10, 2025. The Board of Commissioners in each county of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit (Pickens, Fannin and Gilmer) closed their county's courthouse on January 10, 2025, and schools were canceled. This court entered a Declaration of Judicial Emergency on January 9, 2025 for January 10, 2025;

WHEREAS this court has been notified that local schools are again closed on Monday, January 13, 2025, due to icy, impassable roads. Additionally, the Fannin and Pickens Board of Commissioners delayed the openings of their county's courthouses for two hours, and the Gilmer County Board of Commissioners has closed their courthouse for the entire day. Therefore, this court cancelled all Superior and Juvenile Court hearings of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit on January 13, 2025. The court finds the public may have difficulty accessing the courthouses due to impassable roads and have difficulties filing;

WHEREAS, per OCGA § 38-3-61, it has been determined that a judicial emergency exists in the Counties of Pickens, Fannin, and Gilmer. 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, or the ability of litigants or others to have access to the courts or meet scheduled or time deadlines imposed by the court order or rule, statute of administrative rule or regulation. **The judicial emergency that began on Friday, January 10, 2025, is hereby extended to cover Monday, January 13, 2025, and shall end at the start of business on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, unless otherwise extended by the court.**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-62, all court deadlines, time schedules or filing requirements are hereby suspended, tolled, or extended for the duration of the judicial emergency. To account for potential disruptions in communication by lawyers, parties, and others due to the snowstorm, it is hereby ordered that all filings with deadlines of Monday, January 13, 2025, are extended until Tuesday, January 14, 2025, unless otherwise ordered by the Court; and


IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Sheriff or his/her designee shall post a copy of this notice on the courthouse doors; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that anyone requiring the Court's involvement in an emergency situation on January 13, 2025, should email superiorcourttappalachian@gmail.com or call 706-253-8731.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the undersigned Judge's designee shall immediately notify the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Clerks of the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court by sending them a copy of this notice, in addition to posting a copy of this notice on the Appalachian Judicial Circuit website; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that each Clerk of Superior Court of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit, or her designee, shall post a copy of this notice and any subsequent modification or extension in accordance with O.C.G.A § 38-3-63 by publishing it on the county website or other appropriate public address system to reach affected parties, counsel for the affected parties, and the public.

SO ORDERED this 12th day of January, 2025, at 5:45 p.m., Jasper, Georgia.


Brenda S. Weaver
Chief Judge, Superior Court