

**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  
FOR GILMER AND FANNIN COUNTIES ONLY**

**WHEREAS**, a winter snowstorm struck Georgia on January 10, 2025. The Board of Commissioners in each county of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit (Fannin, Pickens, and Gilmer) closed their county's courthouse on January 10, 2025, and schools were canceled. Because conditions remained icy and impassable on backroads, this court entered a Declaration of Judicial Emergency on January 9, 2025 for January 10, 2025. On January 12, 2025, this court entered an extension of the Declaration of Judicial Emergency to include Monday, January 13, 2025. On January 13, 2025, the court entered an extension of the Declaration of Judicial Emergency to include Tuesday, January 14, 2025. This court has been notified that local schools in Fannin and Gilmer are again closed on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, due to icy, impassable backroads; therefore, this court cancels Superior, Juvenile, Probate, and Magistrate Courts in Gilmer and Fannin Counties on January 15, 2025. The Presiding Judges of Gilmer and Fannin shall contact the attorneys or parties as to any special set, virtual, or emergency hearings. The court finds the public in Fannin and Gilmer 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 Fannin and Gilmer Counties. 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 in Fannin and Gilmer Counties is hereby extended for Fannin and Gilmer Counties *only* until Wednesday, January 15, 2025, until 5:00 p.m., unless otherwise extended by the court.**

Pickens schools are not cancelled on January 15, 2025; therefore, the judicial emergency does not extend to Pickens for January 15, 2025, and court will preside as normally scheduled. Anyone having difficulty traveling to court shall contact their attorney or the Presiding Judge's Office.

**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 for Fannin and Gilmer. To account for potential disruptions in communication by lawyers, parties, and others due to the snowstorm, it is hereby ordered that all filings in Fannin and Gilmer with deadlines of Wednesday, January 15, 2025, are extended until Thursday, January 16, 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 in Fannin or Gilmer requiring the Court's involvement in an emergency situation on January 15, 2025, should email [superiorcourttappalachian@gmail.com](mailto: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 14<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025, at 4:45 p.m., Jasper, Georgia.

  
Brenda S. Weaver  
Chief Judge, Superior Court