

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PICKENS COUNTY
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF GILMER COUNTY
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF FANNIN 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 MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026

WHEREAS, it has been determined that Governor Brian P. Kemp issued a State of Emergency on Thursday, January 22, 2026, that will expire on Thursday, January 29, 2026, as a result of the National Weather Service issuing a Winter Storm Watch for North Georgia that predicts a winter storm will impact Georgia beginning late Friday night, January 23, 2026, to Monday, January 26, 2026. The Winter Storm Watch includes Pickens, Gilmer, and Fannin counties, and predicts power outages, tree damage due to ice, and states that travel could be impossible due to hazardous conditions during the Monday commute; and

WHEREAS, per OCGA § 38-3-61, it is hereby **ORDERED** that the Offices of the Superior Court Clerk and Offices of the Juvenile Court Clerk for Pickens, Gilmer, and Fannin Counties, are hereby **CLOSED** on Monday, January 26, 2026, and court scheduled in all classes of court is **CANCELED** on Monday, January 26, 2026; and

WHEREAS the court has found that a judicial emergency exists in Pickens, Gilmer and Fannin Counties in that the public may not be able to access the courthouses due to hazardous travel conditions, and the storm may cause power outages and difficulties in electronic filings. 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 shall begin on Monday, January 26, 2026, and shall end on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, when each courthouse opens for business, unless otherwise modified or extended by the court by separate order; and**

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 and due to the closure of the Clerks' offices on Monday, January 26, 2026, it is hereby ordered that all filings with deadlines on Monday, January 26, 2026, are extended until Tuesday, January 27, 2026, unless otherwise modified or extended 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 Monday, January 26, 2026, should email superiorcourtappalachian@gmail.com or call or text 706-299-1090; and

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.

The court recognizes that this is an evolving weather event, and this Declaration of Judicial Emergency may be modified or extended by separate order.

SO ORDERED this 22nd day of January, 2026, at 4 : 42 a.m./p.m.,
Jasper, Georgia.



Brenda S. Weaver
Chief Judge, Superior Court