

**MOUNTAIN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN RE:	Declaration of Judicial Emergency	* * * * *	Standing Order of the Courts
Date:	January 22, 2025		

WHEREAS, it has been determined that a circuit-wide judicial emergency exists due to a serious weather-related emergency. The National Weather Service has issued a Winter Storm Watch in effect from January 24, 2026 at 7:00 a.m. EST through January 26, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. EST. Although the current watch is set to expire on January 26, forecasted temperatures are expected to drop and remain below freezing into January 27, 2026, resulting in continued icy conditions and unsafe travel throughout the circuit.

WHEREAS, 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;

IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-61, the Courts of the Mountain Judicial Circuit (Banks, Habersham, Rabun and Stephens Counties) shall be closed from 8:00 a.m., January 26, 2026, through 5:00 p.m., January 27, 2026; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-62, all court deadlines, time schedules or filing requirements on January 26, 2026 and January 27, 2026 are extended until Wednesday, January 28, 2026, unless otherwise ordered by the Court; and

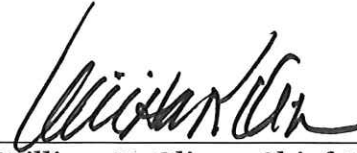
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Sheriff or his/her designee shall post a copy of this notice on the courthouse doors; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that anyone requiring the Court's involvement in an emergency situation may contact the office of the Chief Judge of Superior Court by calling and leaving a voicemail at (706) 960-9872 or by email to Court Administrator Maggie Rickman at mrickman@habershamga.com.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Chief Judge's Office will 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; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, the County Manager, or his/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 posting it on the county website or other appropriate public address system.

SO ORDERED this 22nd day of January, 2026.



William R. Oliver, Chief Judge
Superior Courts
Mountain Judicial Circuit

OR: Clerk, Banks County Superior Court
Clerk, Banks County Juvenile Court
Clerk, Banks County Magistrate Court
Clerk, Banks County Probate Court
Clerk, Habersham County Superior Court
Clerk, Habersham County Juvenile Court
Clerk, Habersham County State Court
Clerk, Habersham County Magistrate Court
Clerk, Habersham County Probate Court
Clerk, Rabun County Superior Court
Clerk, Rabun County Juvenile Court
Clerk, Rabun County Magistrate Court
Clerk, Rabun County Probate Court
Clerk, Stephens County Superior Court
Clerk, Stephens County Juvenile Court
Clerk, Stephens County State Court
Clerk, Stephens County Magistrate Court
Clerk, Stephens County Probate Court

CC: The Honorable Nels S. D. Peterson, Chief Justice, Georgia Supreme Court
Clerk, Georgia Supreme Court
Clerk, Georgia Court of Appeals
The Honorable B. Nichole Carswell
The Honorable Carlton H. Jones, III
The Honorable Lori Pearson
The Honorable Angela Cassise
The Honorable Ivan Mote
The Honorable Cameron Boswell
The Honorable M. Steven Campbell
The Honorable Tricia L. Hise
The Honorable Pamela Wooley
The Honorable James Blalock
The Honorable Savannah Dixon
The Honorable James T. Irvin
The Honorable Donald Tabor
The Honorable Chris Stephens
Carlton Speed, Sheriff, Banks County
Robin Krockum, Sheriff, Habersham County

Mark Gerrells, Sheriff, Rabun County
Rusty Fulbright, Sheriff, Stephens County
Taylor Griffith, Chairman, Banks County Commission
Tim Sims, County Manager, Habersham County
Darrin Giles, County Manager, Rabun County
Christian Hamilton, County Manager, Stephens County
Maggie S. Rickman, Court Administrator, Mountain Judicial Circuit
Grace McGowen, Ninth District Court Administrator