

**MOUNTAIN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

|               |                                              |             |                                     |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>IN RE:</b> | <b>Declaration of<br/>Judicial Emergency</b> | *<br>*<br>* | <b>Standing Order of the Courts</b> |
| <b>Date:</b>  | <b>January 22, 2025</b>                      | *<br>*      |                                     |

**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

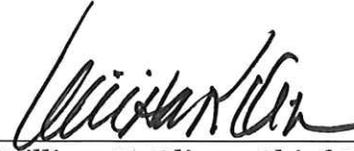
**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Sheriff or his/her designee shall post a copy of this notice on the courthouse doors; and

**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](mailto: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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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