

ORDER

The undersigned Chief Judge and Judge of Superior Court for the Southern Judicial Circuit of the State of Georgia, upon acting under the authority of O.C.G.A. §38-3-60, et. seq., hereby declares a judicial emergency in all counties of the Southern Judicial District Circuit. This emergency is due to Hurricane Helene which has impacted judicial operations in all counties of the Southern Judicial Circuit. The undersigned makes this declaration in conformance with the Order by Governor Brian Kemp, who has previously issued a state of emergency in the State of Georgia, including all counties in the Southern Judicial Circuit.

The undersigned Chief Superior Court Judge having consulted with all of the acting Superior Court Judges within the Circuit, all are in agreement that access to the courthouses of the Southern Circuit is impossible and/or impracticable during this judicial emergency.

An initial Judicial Emergency order concerning all counties in the Southern Circuit was put in place for Thursday, September 25, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. through Friday, September 27, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. This order has ended, but due to the devastation to large parts of the Southern Judicial Circuit a new order is required.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, all Court business within the Southern Judicial Circuit, including Superior Courts, State Courts, Magistrate Courts, Probate Courts and Juvenile Courts, be closed for business retroactively from September 28, 2024 at 12:00 a.m. to Monday, October 7, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. Due to the size of the Southern Judicial Circuit, the amount of damage and destruction within the Circuit, a daily evaluation shall be made to determine whether the Judicial Emergency shall be continued as to any particular office, courthouse or county. Different offices or courthouses may open for business while others may remain under the Emergency Order.

For the periods of the Judicial Emergency cited above, the undersigned Chief Judge of Superior Courts hereby suspended, tolls, extends or otherwise grants relief from all deadlines or other time scheduled or filing requirements imposed by otherwise applicable statutes, rules, regulations or court orders, whether in civil or criminal cases or administrative matters. This includes, but is not limited to:

(1) A statute of limitation: (2) The time within which to