

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CLARKE COUNTY  
WESTERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

STATE OF GEORGIA

Filed with the Clerk of Superior Court  
this 25th Day of January, 2026 at 12:07PM.

*Eliza Spate*

**TO THE JUDGES AND CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT  
TO THE JUDGE(S) AND CLERK OF STATE 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 JUVENILE COURT  
TO THE JUDGE(S) AND CLERK OF MUNICIPAL COURT**

**ORDER CLOSING COURTHOUSE AND  
DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY**

On January 22, 2026, Governor Brian Kemp declared a statewide State of Emergency, effective immediately, through January 29, 2026, in preparation for the approaching severe inclement weather expected to impact Georgia beginning late Friday January 23, 2026 and continuing through Monday January 26, 2026;

The Court has further determined that a judicial emergency exists in Clarke County, Georgia in that a Winter Weather Advisory, issued by the National Weather Service is in effect beginning late Friday January 23, 2026, and continuing through Monday January 26, 2026

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, and/or the ability of litigants or others to have access to the courts or meet deadlines imposed by court order or rule, statute, or administrative rule or regulation,

Pursuant to OCGA § 38-3-61, during the period of the Judicial Emergency, the Clarke County Courthouse shall be closed and will reopen on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 8:00 am; the civil and criminal matters on any calendar shall be continued.

Pursuant to OCGA § 38-3-62 (a), all court deadlines, other time schedules, or filing requirements imposed by applicable statutes, rules, regulations, or court orders, whether in civil or criminal cases or administrative matters, are hereby suspended, tolled, or extended until Tuesday January 27, 2026 at 8:00 am, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

Pursuant to OCGA § 38-3-63, the Sheriff or designee shall post a copy of this notice on the courthouse doors; the County Manager/Administrator or designee, shall post a copy of this notice and any subsequent modification or extension on the county website; the Clerk of Court shall provide notice of the closure in the same manner as they would for cancellation of any other court matter, including announcements on television, radio, and public address systems; and notice of this order and any extension shall be provided to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, to the judges and clerks of all courts sitting within the affected jurisdiction, and on the clerks of the Supreme Court of Georgia and the Court of Appeals of Georgia.

Anyone requiring the Court's involvement in an emergency situation may contact the office of the Athens-Clarke County Clerk of Court, Elisa Zarate, at the following number: 762-400-6497, or the Athens-Clarke County Sheriff's Office, Courthouse Division at the following number: 706-613-3250.

Filings may still be made remotely via the following websites:  
<https://peachcourt.com> and <https://accgov.com/324/Clerk-of-Superior-State-Courts>.

All after hours procedures involving CHINS, Delinquency and DFCS matters shall remain in full force and effect.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-62, all court deadlines falling on Monday, January 26, 2026 are hereby suspended, tolled or extended until and through Tuesday, January 27, 2026.

IT SO ORDERED this 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026 at 12:00 pm.



Judge Lisa Lott  
Chief Judge, Western Judicial Circuit