

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DEKALB COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**ORDER OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY
AT THE DEKALB COUNTY COURTHOUSE,
556 N. McDonough St, Decatur, GA 30030**

25AP1058

DURATION of COURTHOUSE OPERATIONS CLOSURE:

ALL DAY Tuesday, January 21, 2025

WHEREAS, the undersigned as Chief Judge of the DeKalb Superior Court has determined that, within the DeKalb County Courthouse located at 556 N. McDonough Street, Decatur, GA 30030, and ALL DEKALB COUNTY COURTHOUSES, including the Juvenile Court located at 4309 Memorial Drive, Decatur, GA 30032, and the 3630 Camp Circle, Decatur, GA 30032 location, due to impending severe and inclement weather resulting in extreme below freezing temperatures that substantially endangers and/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 to meet schedules or time deadlines imposed by court order or rule, statute, or administrative rule or regulation.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is ORDERED as follows:

1. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-61, Chief Judge Shondeana C. Morris of the Superior Court of DeKalb County, Georgia, which comprises the DeKalb Judicial Circuit, which includes ALL DEKALB COUNTY COURTHOUSES, including the DeKalb County Courthouse located at 556 N. McDonough Street, Decatur, GA 30030, Juvenile Court located at 4309 Memorial Drive, Decatur, GA 30032, and the 3630 Camp Circle, Decatur, GA 30032 location, THE CHIEF JUDGE DOES HEREBY DECLARE the existence of a Judicial Emergency at the DeKalb County Courthouse.

2. The jurisdiction affected by this Judicial Emergency comprises ALL DEKALB COUNTY COURTHOUSES and all courthouse based offices and related legal services.

3. The nature of the emergency necessitating this Order is impending severe inclement and extremely cold weather. Emergency closure for day ensures the safety of Courthouse staff, litigants, jurors, and the public.

4. The Chief Judge pronounced the Emergency closure for the entire day of Tuesday, January 21, 2025.

5. Other information relevant to the suspension or restoration of court operations:

a. **ALL judicial offices, clerk of court offices, and all other courthouse-based offices providing accountability court services, misdemeanor probation services, legal prosecution and defense representation, and courthouse security located at the DeKalb County Courthouse at 556 N. McDonough Street, Decatur, GA 30030, 4309 Memorial Drive, Decatur, GA 30032, and 3630 Camp Circle, Decatur, GA 30032 are AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED to CLOSE FOR BUSINESS, “with the exception of virtual proceedings, which may continue,” during the period of this Judicial Emergency, provided, however, that courthouse security measures deemed necessary in the sole discretion of the Sheriff of DeKalb County shall continue as directed by said sheriff or her authorized designee.**

b. All such offices named above **shall reopen to the public** at normal business hours on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, unless developing circumstances necessitate the extension of this Judicial Emergency.

c. Any extension of this Judicial Emergency beyond the expiration set forth herein will be disseminated by the same manner as this Judicial Emergency declaration.

6. 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 as noted above.

7. **Notice of this declaration** of Judicial Emergency **shall be disseminated** in accordance with OCGA § 38-3-63. Accordingly,

a. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the **Sheriff of DeKalb County or her designee** shall post a copy of this notice on all entrances to the Courthouse at 556 N. McDonough Street; and **ALL OTHER COURTHOUSES**.

b. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the **Clerk of the Superior Court for DeKalb County**, or her designee, **shall immediately notify** the Chief Justice of

the Supreme Court and the Clerks of the Court of Appeals and of the Supreme Court by sending them a copy of this notice; and,

c. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, the **DeKalb County CEO Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, 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 posting it on the DeKalb County website or other appropriate public address system; and,

8. Let the clerks of all courts of record in the DeKalb County Courthouse at 556 N. McDonough Street spread this Order upon the minutes of their courts.

Pursuant to OCGA § 38-3-63, anyone requiring the Court's involvement in the emergency should contact the DeKalb County Clerk of Courts at (404) 371-2836, DeKalb County Superior Court Administrator at (404) 371-4901, DeKalb County State Court at (404)-371-2261, DeKalb County Probate Court at (404) 371-2601, DeKalb County Magistrate Court at (404) 371-2261, or the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office at (404) 371-7050.

SO ORDERED this the 20th day of January, 2025. _____



Hon. SHONDEANA C. MORRIS
Chief and Administrative Judge of the Fourth
Judicial Administrative District
Superior Court of DeKalb County
DeKalb Judicial Circuit