

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

24AP1725

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

DURATION of COURTHOUSE OPERATIONS CLOSURE:

BEGINS: Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 10:15 AM
ENDS: Friday, December 13, 2024, at 7:30 AM

WHEREAS, the undersigned as Chief Judge of the DeKalb Superior Court has determined within the DeKalb County Courthouse located at 556 N. McDonough Street, Decatur, GA 30030, an unexpected and extended power outage results in an emergency 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 LaTisha Dear Jackson of the Superior Court of DeKalb County, Georgia, which comprises the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit DOES HEREBY DECLARE the existence of a Judicial Emergency at the DeKalb County Courthouse.
2. The jurisdiction affected by this Judicial Emergency comprises the DeKalb County Courthouse located at 556 N. McDonough Street, Decatur, GA 30030.
3. The nature of the emergency necessitating this Order is the extended power outage during extremely cold weather. The timeline for restoring reliable power to the Courthouse for the resumption of normal operations, including electronically dependent remote court services, cannot be determined, and because the power outage extends to the area around the Courthouse, it is not feasible for court personnel and citizens to wait outside exposed to the 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 at **10:15 a.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2024**, and it shall end at **7:30 AM on Friday, December 13, 2024**.

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** are **AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED to CLOSE FOR BUSINESS** 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 Friday, December 13, 2024, 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.

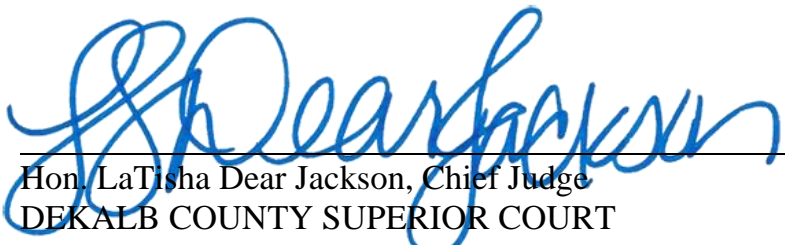
7. **Notice of this declaration** of Judicial Emergency **shall be disseminated** in accordance with OCGA § 38-3-63. Accordingly,

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

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 Michael L. Thurmond, or his 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.

SO ORDERED this the 12th day of December 2024.



Hon. LaTisha Dear Jackson, Chief Judge
DEKALB COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
STONE MOUNTAIN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT