

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURTS OF THE APPALACHIAN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

**STATE OF GEORGIA**

**INTERNAL OPERATING PROCEDURE 2000-43**

**IN RE: INCLEMENT WEATHER**

The following procedures will be followed in the event of hazardous weather:

1. In the event jury trials are scheduled to begin on Monday and local schools are closed due to weather conditions, jurors will not be required to appear on Monday but should be instructed to call in to the Clerk's office after 6:00 p.m. on Monday evening for instructions concerning the remainder of the week. The presiding judge and/or the Clerk shall contact the local radio station in the county and request that this announcement be broadcast over the radio several times for maximum coverage. The presiding judge, after consulting with the Sheriff, Clerk of Superior Court and the District Attorney (if criminal jury trials) will determine if jurors should report on Tuesday or later in the week. At all times the safety of jurors, court personnel, parties, attorneys and witnesses must be considered.
2. In the event non-jury trials are scheduled and hazardous weather occurs the *evening or night before* which requires the closing of local schools on the non-jury court date, all court hearings will be automatically canceled for that day. For all other days, attorneys, parties and witnesses are to listen to the local radio station for instructions and contact the office of Clerk of Superior Court. The chief judge, after consulting with other local court personnel and the other judge(s), will determine if court is to be canceled for all other court dates which do not fall on the *first day after hazardous weather* has occurred which required the closing of local schools.
3. In the event a special set hearing has been scheduled through the Judge's office and hazardous weather occurs during the *evening or night before* which requires the closing of local schools on the date of the hearing, said hearing is automatically canceled and must be rescheduled through the judge's office. For all other times, attorneys should contact the judge's office for instructions.

4. Court personnel, attorneys, parties, witnesses, etc. should never attempt to drive to court if they feel the road conditions in their area are unsafe regardless of whether court has or has not been canceled. In this event you are instructed to call the clerk's office and leave a message for the presiding judge concerning the road conditions in your area.

5. In the event local schools are closed due to hazardous weather, all hearings in Juvenile Court will be canceled. In the event that an emergency deprivation hearing is needed, the hearing shall be scheduled through the Juvenile Judges's office or if the office is closed by contacting the Juvenile Judge.

**So ORDERED**, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of March, 2000.

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Brenda S. Weaver, Chief Judge  
Superior Courts  
Appalachian Judicial Circuit

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Ronald J. Armstrong, Judge  
Superior Courts  
Appalachian Judicial Circuit

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William L. Reilly, Chief Judge  
Juvenile Courts  
Appalachian Judicial Circuit