

IN THE COURTS OF CHEROKEE COUNTY

BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

STATE OF GEORGIA

**ORDER CLOSING COURTHOUSE, DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY AND CREATION OF
ALTERNATE COURT LOCATIONS**

On August 21, 2026 at approximately 1:20 pm, the Frank C. Mills III Justice Center experienced a hazardous materials incident, contaminating the entire courthouse. The building has not yet been cleared for use and no official timeline for reopening is certain. Accordingly, the Court finds that the current condition of the justice center constitutes a health and safety concern to the public and employees such that the courthouse has to be closed until further notice.

Therefore, pursuant to O.C.G.A. 38-3-60 et seq. Chief Judge David L. Cannon, Jr. of the Superior Court of Cherokee County, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit, hereby ORDERS and DECLARES that the issues and conditions listed above constitute a serious emergency (O.C.G.A 38-3-60(2)(D) such that there is a Judicial Emergency within the Superior, State, Juvenile, Probate and Magistrate Courts of Cherokee County beginning August 21, 2026 through Aug 28, 2026. The nature of the emergency has so disrupted the functions of the Courts as to have substantially endangered or infringed upon the normal functioning of the judicial system, the ability of persons to avail themselves of the judicial system, and the ability of litigants or others to have access to the Courts or to meet schedules or time deadlines imposed by court order of rule, statute or administrative rule or regulation. The Chief Judge also believes that this emergency has raised serious due process and other constitutional concerns.

Therefore, having declared a Judicial Emergency for all courts effective August 21, 2026, at 1:20 through August 28, 2026 or until lengthened or shortened by further order. The Chief

Judge is authorized by O.C.G.A. 38-3-62 to suspend, toll, extend or to otherwise grant relief from all court deadlines, other time schedules or filing requirements imposed by applicable statutes, rules, regulations or court orders, whether in civil, criminal or administrative matters within all of courts within the Cherokee County until August 28, 2026, unless the emergency is extended or shortened by further order of the court.

IT IS ORDERED that pursuant to O.C.G.A. 38-3-61, the Justice Center of Cherokee County shall be closed until further notice. Court Operations will continue on a limited function as each class of court establishes. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 15-6-18, the Historic Courthouse located at 100 North Street, Canton, GA 30114 and the 94 North Building, Canton GA 30114 shall be used as temporary facilities for the courts. Courts are encouraged to utilize the protocols establish during COVID and conduct videoconference hearings via zoom when appropriate, that shall be streamed on the court administrators website. www.cherokeegacourts.com

All filings are to be completed online to the extent the clerk of a particular class of court has implemented online filing; however all deadlines shall be extended or tolled until this emergency ceases. The Clerk of Court Annex, located at 155 Towne Lake Parkway, Woodstock, GA 30188 will be open to accept most in-person business. Please check the Clerk of Court website <https://www.cherokeecourtclerk.com> or call 770-501-8904 to confirm that they can assist you at this location.

The trials that were interrupted on Friday, Aug 21 will recommence as follows:

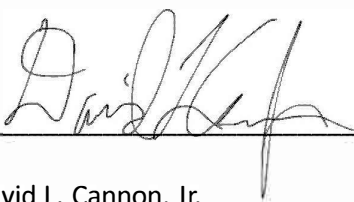
- Judge Cannon's jury trial that commenced on Friday, August 14, 2026, shall recommence at 9:30 AM at 94 North Street (old church).
- Judge Davis's jury trial that commenced on Friday, August 14, 2026, shall recommence at 9:00 AM at 100 North Street (Historic Courthouse).
- Juvenile proceedings are being conducted remotely via videoconference with public access at 94 North Street.

Additionally, the court administrator shall share information for hearings to be held remotely or at the temporary courtrooms will be posted at www.cherokeecourts.com. Employees may work remotely to the extent possible and allowed by their departments.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 38-3-63, the sheriff or designee shall post a copy of this notice on the doors of the Justice Center and the temporary designated court spaces at 94 North St. and 100 North St; the Clerk of Court shall provide notice of the closure in the same manner as they would for cancellation of any other court matter; 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 court administrator by email at courtadmin@cherokeeconomyga.gov by emailing the sheriff's office at pddowney@cherokeeconomyga.gov.

SO ORDERED this 23 day of August, 2026 at 10:00 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. Cannon, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

David L. Cannon, Jr.
Chief Judge, Superior Court
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit