The Supreme Court of South Carolina

RE: Tropical Storm Debby

ORDER

On Sunday, August 4, 2024, the Governor of South Carolina declared a state of emergency in anticipation of significant adverse weather due to Tropical Storm Debby.[1] On Monday, August 5, 2024, numerous counties announced the closure of county offices and courthouses through at least Thursday, August 8, 2024. More counties are expected to announce closures later in the week as the storm arrives in South Carolina.

The Governor and the South Carolina Emergency Management Division have cautioned citizens to expect potentially catastrophic rainfall not only on the coast, but also in inland areas. It is anticipated that flooding and power outages may cause road closures and other difficulties in travel. These issues will, in all likelihood, adversely affect the ability of many lawyers and litigants to comply with filing and service deadlines in various courts throughout the state.

Accordingly, this Court finds it is necessary to issue this order, pursuant to Rule 611 of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules, (SCACR) declaring Tuesday, August 6, 2024 through Friday, August 9, 2024 to be statewide filing "holidays" for the purpose of computing time under Rule 263 of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules; Rule 6 of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure; Rule 35 of the South Carolina Rules of Criminal Procedure; and Rule 3 of the South Carolina Rules of Magistrates Court.

The Supreme Court will evaluate conditions to determine whether the filing holiday declared in this order should be further extended. A copy of this order shall be provided to the Chairs of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees in accordance with Rule 611, SCACR.

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[1] https://www.scemd.org/news/gov-mcmaster-declares-state-of-emergency-for-south-carolina/.

s/ John W. Kittredge _____ C.J.

s/ John Cannon Few _____ J.

s/ George C. James, Jr. _____ J.

s/ D. Garrison Hill _____ J.

s/ Letitia H. Verdin _____ J.

Columbia, South Carolina
August 6, 2024