

**STANDING ORDER CONFERRING A LIMITED AUTHORITY ON DESIGNATED JUDGES
IN EACH REGION TO ALTER OPERATING HOURS
AT A COURT LOCATION**

Whereas, the Supreme Judicial Court and its Acting Chief Justice have, in accordance with 4 M.R.S. §§ 1, 101-A and 164, conferred on the Chief Justice of the Superior Court and the Chief Judge of the District Court the authority to alter normal hours of operation in individual court locations in certain circumstances through Administrative Order JB-21-01;

Whereas, the weather can vary greatly from one region to another, and weather conditions posing safety risks can change rapidly or unpredictably; and

Whereas, emergencies may arise in courthouses that require the immediate full or partial closure of a courthouse at times when neither of the Trial Court Chiefs is available for consultation,

NOW, THEREFORE, it is ORDERED, as follows:

The authority to make decisions about courthouse closures, delayed starts, and early closures related to inclement weather is delegated to the judges designated by the Chief Justice of the Superior Court and the Chief Judge of the District Court (the Trial Court Chiefs) to carry this responsibility for each of the judicial regions. *See* 4 M.R.S. § 19; Establishment of Judicial Regions, Me. Admin. Order JB-08-1 (effective July 1, 2008).

The judges responsible for each region may also make decisions about full or partial courthouse closures in an emergency when the authorization of the Trial Court Chiefs cannot be obtained in time to address an immediate need for full or partial closure. Absent such an emergency, any delegation of authority by the Trial Court Chiefs, or one of them, must be expressly stated in writing or otherwise directly communicated to the designee.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: January 8, 2021

_____/s/_____
Robert E. Mullen
Chief Justice
Maine Superior Court

Dated: January 8, 2021

_____/s/_____
Jed J. French
Chief Judge
Maine District Court