



## Area Courts Inclement Weather Policies

Inclement weather can cause transportation problems or hazardous conditions that can vary widely in our region. Winter storms will have an impact on our day-to-day operations and court appearances. The inclement weather policies are also available on the Court Directory section of the KBA website at [www.knoxbar.org](http://www.knoxbar.org).



The KBA Office follows the University of Tennessee and delays and cancellations are noted on our voicemail and on the website at [www.knoxbar.org](http://www.knoxbar.org).

## FEDERAL COURT

### **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT- EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE**

*(Updated December 2015)*

The United States District Court determines closings and delays on a case-by-case basis. All efforts will be made to contact attorneys with matters before the court that will be affected. Information will be posted on the court's website ([www.tned.uscourts.gov](http://www.tned.uscourts.gov)) and on the court's answering machine.

### **UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT - EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE**

*(Updated January 2016)*

Information concerning closings and delays will be recorded on the court's answering machine and posted on the court's web site.

## APPELLATE COURTS

### **TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT** *(Updated June 2016)*

Tennessee Appellate Court - Eastern Division Closing of the Supreme Court building in Knoxville due to inclement weather will be made by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Information concerning any closings will promptly be made available to the public and posted to the Court's website at [www.tncourts.gov](http://www.tncourts.gov).

### **TENNESSEE COURT OF APPEALS -EASTERN DIVISION** *(Updated June 2016)*

Tennessee Appellate Court - Eastern Division Closing of the Supreme Court building in Knoxville due to inclement weather will be made by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Information concerning any closings will promptly be made available to the public and posted to the Court's website at [www.tncourts.gov](http://www.tncourts.gov).

### **TENNESSEE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS - EASTERN DIVISION** *(Updated June 2016)*

Tennessee Appellate Court - Eastern Division Closing of the Supreme Court building in Knoxville due to inclement weather will be made by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Information concerning any closings will promptly be made available to the public and posted to the Court's website at [www.tncourts.gov](http://www.tncourts.gov).

## TN COURT OF WORKERS COMPENSATION CLAIMS

*(Updated June 2016)*

It shall be the policy of the state of Tennessee to make every effort to maintain normal working hours during periods of inclement weather in order to continue providing necessary services to the citizens of the State of Tennessee. Emergency conditions caused by extreme inclement weather may warrant the closing of some state offices. State office closures due to extreme inclement weather will be made on a county by county basis and will include all offices in each designated county. The decision to close state offices due to extreme inclement weather shall only be made by the Governor or his/her designee. In some extreme weather, a judge may not be able to safely travel to the court even if the state office is not closed. Notice of either situation will be timely given by placing an outgoing message on the main telephone number (865-594-5177) for the Knoxville Bureau Office and communicated by other means as appropriate. Any person who has a court date during inclement weather and is concerned for his or her safety will not be penalized if they are unable to make their court date and should contact the Knoxville Bureau Office at 865-594-5177.

# KNOX COUNTY

## **CHANCERY COURT** *(Updated June 2019)*

Please visit [www.knoxcounty.org/chancery/weather](http://www.knoxcounty.org/chancery/weather) for a full explanation of the Court's inclement weather policy, including both Chancery and Probate Divisions. Announcements of closing and delay are made as soon as possible on the following media outlets:

- [www.knoxcounty.org](http://www.knoxcounty.org)
- [www.wbir.com](http://www.wbir.com)
- WBIR-TV
- WVLT-TV
- WIVK-FM (radio)

To re-schedule a hearing or appointment due to inclement weather, please contact the appropriate administrative assistant.

- Part I, Chancellor Weaver—call Pam Jennings (865) 215-2561
- Part II, Chancellor Pridemore—call Jennifer White (865) 215-2560
- Part III, Chancellor Moyers—call Lisa Sharp (865) 215-2448
- Probate Court – call Betty Ensor (865) 215-2389

## **CIRCUIT COURT** *(Updated March 2015)*

The Circuit Court will not begin a jury trial if the Knox County Schools are closed or delayed. For jury trials already in session, they will be decided by the Judge on a case by case basis. For Non-Jury Dockets or Motion Docket, the Courts will not be in session if the offices of the Knox County Mayor are closed and will be delayed if the offices of the Knox County Mayor are delayed. Any person who has a court date during inclement weather and is concerned for his or her safety, will not be penalized if they are unable to make an appearance, however, they should notify the Court's Judicial Assistant of the concern as soon as possible by leaving a voice message or email.

**\*\*Fourth Circuit Court** will follow the University of Tennessee for closings or delays. Counsel should be advised to make certain that Ms. King (865-215-2399) has their email and cell phone numbers in case there is any question about the weather.

## **CHILD SUPPORT REFEREE (Magistrate Brenda Lindsay-McDaniel)** *(Updated March 2015)*

The fourth Circuit Court & Knox County Chancery Court will be closed or delayed according to the announcement made by Knox County Schools.

**CRIMINAL COURT** *(Updated June 2018)*

If Knox County schools are closed, court will close the first day. Each day after will be decided by the judge. The court will not open late if the schools open late. The attorneys scheduled to appear on days for which inclement weather is anticipated should call (865) 215-2173. Cancellations will be announced on local radio and television stations.

**GENERAL SESSIONS COURT** *(Updated June 2019)*

The Knox County General Sessions Courts will operate on the Knox County schools inclement weather schedule for calendar year 2019-2020. When Knox County schools are closed for road conditions due to snow and/or ice all General Sessions Courts will also be closed, this includes bonded arraignment/citation booking dockets. This policy does not apply to delayed school openings and is subject to revision by the Judges. Bonded arraignments/citation bookings will be reset one week. Civil suits, criminal and cited cases will be reset by the General Sessions Court Clerks' offices. The Clerk's Offices will maintain normal business hours.

**JUVENILE COURT** *(Updated March 2015)*

Juvenile Court will follow the Knox County School's closure or delay for the first day of the weather event. After the first day it is a decision announced by the Juvenile Judge. The court will announce the closure/delay status on both WBIR and WATE television and the station's webpage. An announcement of the court status on severe weather days will also be made on the court's main telephone number (865) 215-6400. In the event that the court is closed all cases will be reset.

## **CITY COURTS**

**CITY OF KNOXVILLE MUNICIPAL COURT** *(Updated June 2018)*

All City of Knoxville offices will remain in operation on all scheduled days, regardless of weather. Inclement weather does not warrant the closing of City offices at any time, unless authorized by the Mayor. City Court policy is to remain open regardless of the weather as well. Any person who has a court date during inclement weather and is concerned for his or her safety, will not be penalized if they are unable to make their court date and may appear in court on the next available date within 2 weeks. All scheduled court sessions will remain open. The City of Knoxville notifies "311" to inform anyone who calls that the Courts are open. Local media are advised of any closings and information is listed on the City's website.

**FARRAGUT MUNICIPAL COURT** *(Updated June 2016)*

The Farragut Municipal Court will remain open unless notified that the Town of Farragut will be closed or have a delayed opening due to inclement weather.

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## SURROUNDING COUNTIES

**ANDERSON COUNTY** *(Updated June 2016)*

Anderson County closings will be announced on WYSH AM 1380 and WBIR TV. Court closings do not coincide with school closings.

**BLOUNT COUNTY** *(last updated March 2015)*

The Blount County courts announce their inclement weather decisions independently, and those decisions are published to the three major television stations (WBIR, WATE, WVLT).

**CAMPBELL COUNTY** *(updated June 2019)*

The Campbell County Sessions, Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery Courts closures will be broadcast on local Radio WLAF AM 1450 and on Knoxville TV stations.

**CLAIBORNE COUNTY** *(Updated June 2016)*

For inclement weather information watch News Channels 8 WVLT and 10 WBIR for courthouse closings.

**GRAINGER COUNTY** *(last updated April 2012)*

Listen to WIVK 107.7 and/or WBIR Channel 10 for delays and closure announcements.

**HAMBLÉN COUNTY** *(last updated June 2019)*

Delays and closures are announced on local radio WCRK 1150 AM & WJDT and are sent via text alerts from the Citizen Tribune. Attorneys can sign up for Hamblen County Government text alerts at [citizentribune.com](http://citizentribune.com). Docket date, announcements, and delays and closures are also posted on [www.hamblencountychancery.org](http://www.hamblencountychancery.org).

**JEFFERSON COUNTY** *(last updated July 2017)*

If the courthouse is open and court personnel are at work, the Judge will hear any matters that can be heard, but will not default any party and/or attorney not able to get to court because of weather.

**LOUDON COUNTY** *(last updated June 2018)*

Loudon County Courts will be closed or delayed according to the determination made by Loudon County Courts. A recorded message will be on the office phone system and announced on WBIR Channel 10. Please refer to each Court's office number (General Sessions 865-986-3505, Chancery 865-458-2630, and Circuit 865-458-2042) for updated information.

**ROANE COUNTY** *(last updated April 2012)*

Closings and delays will be announced on WBIR Channel 10.

**SEVIER COUNTY** *(updated December 2015)*

The Sevier County Courts announce their inclement weather decisions independently, and those decisions are published to the three major television stations (WBIR, WATE, WVLT) and the local radio station 105.5. You may also check the Sevier County Government website for closings.

**UNION COUNTY** *(updated June 2016)*

The Union County Circuit, Criminal, General Sessions and Juvenile Court closings or delays will be announced on WBIR-TV and WATE-TV. The Court Clerk will also post closings on Facebook and notify the Union County Dispatch. Court closings do not coincide with school closings. The Union County Chancery Court will announce closings or delays due to inclement weather on WATE and WBIR.

**Knoxville Bar Association**

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