



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CHRISTIAN COUNTY

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER RE RETURN OF JUSTICE CENTER TO OPERATING PHASE 1

The Supreme Court issued its Order and Operational Directives effective August 1, 2020 stating the importance that the courts of Missouri remain open. The Christian County Circuit Court will remain open, while taking precautions to insure the safety of the public and staff. However, the Operational Directives require a court facility to return to Operating Phase One if a court employee working in that facility tests positive for COVID-19.

On November 7, 2020, the Presiding Judge learned that a court employee in the Justice Center has tested positive for COVID-19. Therefore, as of November 9, 2020, the Justice Center at 110 West Elm Street, Ozark, Missouri will be operating at Phase 1 for at least fourteen days or until further Order of the Court. Associate Circuit Divisions 3 (Judge Bacon) and 4 (Judge Kruse) are located in the Justice Center.

The Circuit Court Building at 102 West Walnut, Ozark, Missouri will continue to operate at Phase 3. Circuit Divisions 1 (Judge Johnson) and 2 (Judge Growcock) are located in the Circuit Court Building. At this time there are no changes to the schedules of Divisions 1 and 2.

In Phase 1, all in-person proceedings in the Justice Center are suspended except:

- Proceedings necessary to protect the constitutional rights of criminal defendants, including the right to a speedy trial, and the rights afforded under section 544.676.3;
- Proceedings pursuant to chapters 210 and 211 pertaining to juvenile delinquency and abuse, neglect, and termination of parental rights;
- Proceedings pursuant to chapter 453 pertaining to adoption;
- Proceedings pursuant to chapter 455 pertaining to orders of protection;
- Proceedings related to emergency child custody orders;
- Proceedings related to petitions for temporary restraining orders or other forms of temporary injunctive relief;
- Proceedings related to emergency mental health orders;

- Proceedings pursuant to Chapter 475 for emergency guardianship or conservatorship;
- Proceedings directly related to the COVID-19 public health emergency;
- Oral arguments regarding time-sensitive matters;
- Other exceptions approved by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; and
- Proceedings determined by the Judge presiding over the case to be most critical.

Notice will be filed in all cases being rescheduled. If you do not receive a new hearing date, please contact the Court.

Attorneys/Parties who believe they have a critical matter that requires an in-person hearing should notify the Court.

Attorney/Parties may request a remote hearing by video or telephone.

In Phase 1, the Justice Center will operate with the following restrictions:

- a. Members of the public who are not involved in a court proceeding will not be allowed in the Justice Center.
- b. The Justice Center will continue operating under social distancing and masking protocols.
- c. Individuals will continue to be screened for COVID-19 symptoms before entering the Justice Center.
- d. Only the most critical in-person proceedings will be held, with occupancy in the courtroom limited to 10 or less whenever possible.
- e. Available technologies such as teleconferences and video hearings will be used when appropriate. Attorneys are encouraged to schedule motion hearings and other matters by telephone or video conference.
- f. Large venues and common areas such as break rooms are closed. Occupancy rates in courtrooms, jury assembly rooms, and other areas in the court facility are limited to a rate of 10 or less whenever possible.
- g. Extra cleaning and disinfecting will continue to occur.

Municipal Courts

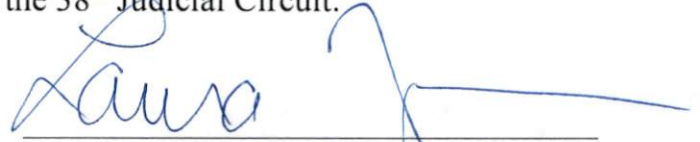
This Order does not cover the Municipal Courts in Christian County.

Questions

Please email questions to the clerks of Division 3 at ctn.filings@courts.mo.gov and Division 4 at ctn.division4@courts.mo.gov. The phone number for Division 3 is 417-582-5120 and for Division 4 is 417-582-5160.

This Order has been approved by all Judges of the 38th Judicial Circuit.

Date: November 9, 2020



Laura Johnson, Presiding Judge