



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CHRISTIAN COUNTY

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER RE RETURN TO OPERATING PHASE 2 AND CONTINUANCE OF JURY TRIALS SET IN FEBRUARY 2021

The Supreme Court issued its Order and Operational Directives effective August 1, 2020 stating the importance that the courts of Missouri remain open. Pursuant to the Operational Directives, the 38th Judicial Circuit returned to Phase 1 on December 21, 2020. As of January 4, 2021, the 38th Judicial Circuit will transition to Phase 2.

In Phase 2, the 38th Judicial Circuit 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 courthouses.
- b. The courts will continue operating under social distancing and masking protocols.
- c. Individuals will continue to be screened for COVID-19 symptoms before entering the courthouses.
- d. In-person proceedings will be held, as long as social distancing requirements can be met.
- 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. Occupancy rates in courtrooms, jury assembly rooms, and other areas in the court facility must comply with social distancing guidelines.
- g. Extra cleaning and disinfecting will continue to occur.

Jury Trials

All civil and criminal jury trials scheduled during the month of February, 2021 are continued to a date on or after March 1, 2021. Parties who currently have a jury trial scheduled in February, 2021 are directed to contact the division clerk via email by January 15, 2021, to reschedule. Cases in which the parties fail to contact the division clerk to reschedule February, 2021 jury trials will be set on a routine civil docket for trial setting.

The Court finds the continuance of February, 2021 jury trials to be necessary given the current prevalence of COVID-19 in the community, and the risk of infection to court personnel, trial participants, and members of the public during jury selection and trial.

All other matters currently scheduled in February, 2021 will proceed as scheduled unless the parties are contacted by the Court. Any party wishing to appear remotely should notify the Court.

Municipal Courts

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

Questions

Please email questions to the appropriate clerk as follows: Division 1 at cindy.childress@courts.mo.gov; Division 2 at jami.mcmurry@courts.mo.gov; Division 3 at ctn.filings@courts.mo.gov; and Division 4 at ctn.division4@courts.mo.gov.

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

Date: December 30, 2020

Laura Johnson, Presiding Judge