



TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT
en banc

March 16, 2020
Effective March 17, 2020

IN RE: COVID-19 – In-Person Proceedings
Administrative Order 20AO-04

ORDER

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Missouri has suspended all in-person proceedings in all appellate and circuit courts – including all associate, family, juvenile, municipal, and probate divisions, subject to the following exceptions:

- Proceedings necessary to protect the constitutional rights of criminal defendants and juveniles;
- Proceedings in which civil or criminal jury trials are already in progress as of March 16, 2020;
- 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; and
- Other exceptions approved by the Chief Justice of this Court; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Missouri has authorized the presiding judge of each circuit to determine the manner in which the listed in-person exceptions are to be conducted;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, effective Tuesday March 17, 2020, through Friday, April 3, 2020, which may be extended by subsequent Administrative Order as circumstances may warrant:

1. All in-person proceedings on case types or proceedings not falling within the exceptions denoted by the Supreme Court of Missouri are hereby continued and shall be reset at a later date.
2. The impaneling of all jurors for the dates of Tuesday, March 17, 2020, through Friday, April 3, 2020 is hereby suspended. All jury trials scheduled for the dates of

Tuesday, March 17, 2020, through Friday, April 3, 2020 are hereby continued and will be rescheduled to a later date.

3. In all criminal cases falling within the exception to in-person proceedings where the defendant is in detention in the County Jail or otherwise in custody at any other detention center or at any other prison, said defendants shall not be personally transported to or brought into court for any hearing. All hearings regarding any such defendants shall be conducted via videoconferencing, including initial appearance and arraignment hearings. Judges have the discretion to allow attorneys to appear by telephone if appropriate and continue hearings as appropriate consistent with this Administrative Order. Victims have a constitutional right to participate in hearings – that right is not changed by this Administrative Order. However, Judges are encouraged to identify alternative methods for victims to participate in any hearings.

4. Each judge has the discretion to hear motions or other routine matters via telephone or videoconferencing.

5. Each judge shall be responsible for re-scheduling new hearing dates.

6. All nonessential court related travel for staff and judges is canceled through April 3, 2020.

7. All municipal courts within the 12th Circuit are encouraged to take appropriate action consistent with this Administrative Order.

SO ORDERED:



JASON H. LAMB, Presiding Judge

DATE:

March 16, 2020
