

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ANDREW COUNTY and
BUCHANAN COUNTY, MISSOURI**

In Re: COVID-19

ORDER

WHEREAS, the existence and spread of the COVID-19 has resulted in the declaration of a world-wide pandemic; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to take steps to protect the health and safety of all employees of the 5th Judicial Circuit, all judicial officers, and all attorneys and parties who have court hearings or other business in this Judicial circuit, while also balancing the rights of all said individuals and parties to litigation; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate and necessary to take quick action to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the unprecedented circumstances existing at this time warrant this administrative action; and

WHEREAS, countless governmental entities and private businesses have implemented numerous immediate actions and modifications to their normal course or business; and

WHEREAS, Governor Michael L. Parson has declared a State of Emergency to allow officials to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of Missouri residents; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, a large gathering of individuals without necessary mitigation for the spread of infection may pose a risk of the spread of infectious disease; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that in-person events that consist of 50 people or more be cancelled or postponed; and

WHEREAS, the Court desires to employ all reasonable and prudent measures to help protect the general public, litigants, lawyers, and employees from the spread of COVID-19 creating this emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Presiding Judge of the 5th Judicial Circuit has the authority over dockets of this Circuit and the authority to enter Orders affecting the general scheduling of cases in this Circuit.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, effective Monday, March 16, 2020 and continuing through Friday, May 1, 2020, unless otherwise specifically set forth below or unless modified or extended in a subsequent administrative order, as follows:

1. The Jury Administrator is Ordered and authorized to suspend the impaneling of all jurors for the weeks of March 16, 2020 through April 27, 2020. All jury trials scheduled for the weeks of March 16, 2020 through April 27, 2020 are hereby continued and will be rescheduled to a later date.
2. Individual hearings on specific criminal, civil, domestic, juvenile, and probate cases will proceed as currently scheduled unless the specific Judge assigned to that case takes action pursuant to this Administrative Order. Judges are strongly encouraged to conduct any such hearings via videoconferencing if possible or consider alternative means to conduct said hearings. Additionally, Judges are strongly encouraged to continue such hearings consistent with the Administrative Order and guidelines from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention.
3. All non-essential court related travel for staff and judges is canceled through the end of March, 2020.
4. All municipal courts in Andrew and Buchanan County, Missouri are subject to this Administrative Order and are encouraged to take appropriate action consistent with this Administrative Order and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date: March 16, 2020



Daniel F. Kellogg, Presiding Judge