

**IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT OF MISSOURI**

**IN RE: COVID-19  
03/2020**

**ORDER**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Missouri Supreme Court has issued an order suspending in-person proceedings with a few exceptions;

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative to take steps to protect the health and safety of all employees of the Ninth 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 promote the health and safety of the citizens of the State of Missouri; 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 Court desired to employ all reasonable and prudent measures to help protect the general public, litigants, lawyers, and employees from the spread of the COVID-19 creating this emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Presiding Judge of the Ninth 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 March 17, 2020 and continuing through April 17, 2020, unless otherwise specifically set forth below or unless modified or extended in a subsequent administrative order, only the following cases will be heard:

- In custody initial appearances and arraignments within 48 business hours;
- Bond hearings as required pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 33;
- Any other in custody criminal cases that can be conducted by video;
- 96-hour hearings;
- Ex partes, temporary restraining orders, and preliminary injunctions;

- Juvenile detention hearings;
- Juvenile delinquency cases in custody that can be conducted by video;
- Abuse/neglect protective custody hearings;
- Emergency guardianships;
- Writ of habeas corpus hearings;
- Any additional case authorized to be heard by the Presiding Judge.

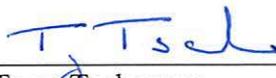
Pursuant to Section 455.040.1 RSMo. and for good cause as demonstrated in this Administrative Order, all hearings on full orders of protection that are scheduled during this time period will be continued for two weeks from the date of the currently scheduled hearing. All Ex Parte Orders of Protection currently in existence will be extended by operation of this Administrative Order until the new hearing date.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** all municipal courts in the Ninth Judicial Circuit 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;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Supreme Court Operating Rule 7 the Circuit Court Budget Committee has authorized Presiding Judges throughout the judiciary to authorize administrative leave for staff who are directed or allowed to be away from the office for reasons related to the COVID-19. The Presiding Judge may authorize such administrative leave by local administrative order to meet the essential needs of the court, their staff, and the public.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**, for those staff directed to be out of the office to assist with reasons related to COVID-19, Ninth Circuit state employees are directed to take administrative leave for those hours and shall not be required to charge the leave against the employee's accrued annual leave, sick leave, accrued compensatory time, or leave without pay.

Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020

  
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Terry Tschannen  
Presiding Judge  
Ninth Judicial Circuit