IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI
16TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, STATE OF MISSOURI

In Re: Continued Cancellation of Jury Trials Resulting from Impact of COVID-19

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-079

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have declared that the spread of COVID-19 has become a worldwide pandemic; and

WHEREAS, among other means, 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, notwithstanding the ending of various Stay at Home Orders and the "re-opening" of courthouses to the general public, social distancing guidelines which recommend, suggest or require a minimum separation distance of 6 feet between people as a way to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus remain in effect, and limitations on the size of groups that may gather at any one time and in any one location likewise remain in effect; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the fact that the Court has remained open and operating as an essential business throughout the Stay at Home Orders and the fact that the Court is now beginning the transition back to pre-COVID-19 operations, it remains imperative that the Court take steps to protect the health and safety of all employees of the Court, all judicial officers, all attorneys, all litigants, all victims, all witnesses, all prospective jurors, any other individuals or entities who have cases and hearings pending in Court and all members of the general public, while also balancing the rights of all said individuals to have their matters heard; and

WHEREAS, in various Orders entered by the Missouri Supreme Court, state courts have been directed to consider strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and respiratory germs; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Supreme Court has authorized the Presiding Judge of each Circuit to determine the manner in which hearings are to be conducted, including the discretion to excuse individuals from personally appearing; and

WHEREAS, the Court has employed and continues to employ necessary and reasonable measures to protect the general public, litigants, lawyers, employees and all other individuals from the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Presiding Judge of the Court has the administrative authority over dockets of the Court and the administrative and discretionary authority regarding the manner in which any hearings are conducted in the Court.

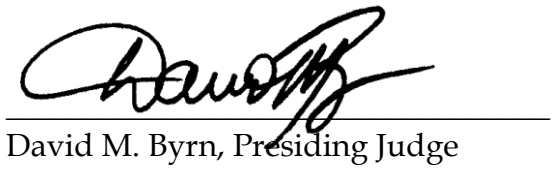
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, effective immediately and continuing through Friday, July 3, 2020, unless modified or extended in a subsequent Administrative Order, as follows:

1. The Court Administrator is Ordered and authorized to suspend the impaneling of all jurors. All jury trials scheduled through July 5, 2020 are hereby continued and will be rescheduled to a later date by the judicial officer presiding over said case.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that to the extent the directives and declarations set forth in this Administrative Order differ with the Court's prior Administrative Orders, including 2020-053 and 2020-064, this Administrative Order controls as to the specific terms set forth herein, *provided however* that all other provisions of said prior Administrative Orders which are not directly related to conducting jury trials, shall remain in effect.

THIS ORDER MAY BE AMENDED AS CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



May 4, 2020
Date

David M. Byrn, Presiding Judge

Certificate of Service

This is to certify that a copy of the foregoing was emailed to the following on May 4, 2020.

16th Circuit Court Judiciary and Staff
Frank White, County Executive
Troy Schulte, County Administrator
Darryl Forte, Sheriff
Theresa Galvin, Legislative Chair
Members of the Legislature
Mary A. Marquez, Court Administrator
Jean Peters-Baker, Prosecutor
Ruth Petsch, District Defender