

**NEWS RELEASE FROM THE PRESIDING CIRCUIT JUDGE PATRICIA JOYCE,  
19<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

**For Immediate Release**

Due to an employee testing positive for COVID-19, the Courthouse is returning to Phase 1. In order to maintain court operations and reduce exposure to court employees, attorneys, and parties who have court proceedings; the court has established the following measures:

Priority will be given to:

- Bond and release hearings for adult defendants
- Detention and protective custody hearings for juveniles
- Orders of protection cases
- Emergency child custody cases
- Petitions for temporary restraining orders or other forms of injunctive relief
- Emergency mental health orders
- Emergency guardianship and conservatorship proceedings in probate
- Proceedings directly related to the COVID-19 public health emergency
- Oral arguments regarding time sensitive matters which cannot be handled by phone or video conference.

Most matters will be continued to a future date. Parties are urged to check [CASENET](http://www.courts.mo.gov/caseset) (www.courts.mo.gov/caseset) for new court dates and to sign up for TRACK THIS CASE to get text message updates about their case. Instructions can be viewed [here](#).

Parties who have attorneys are requested to contact their attorneys to see if they need to come to court on a scheduled date. If a party does not have an attorney, they may contact the Circuit Clerk's office to see if they need to appear in person.

Filing deadlines are not suspended as the e-filing system will remain in full operation. If you do not have an attorney, please contact the Circuit Clerk's office for instructions on how to file documents.

If you need an order of protection, you may access the [form online](#). Anyone needing [orders of protection](#) or [continuances](#) are encouraged to fill out the form and submit by email to [COL.PRP@courts.mo.gov](mailto:COL.PRP@courts.mo.gov).

Parties are directed to contact the Circuit Clerk's office via email when at all possible, using the email address of [COL.PRP@courts.mo.gov](mailto:COL.PRP@courts.mo.gov). Please include your case number(s) when at all possible. Using email provides a record of your contact. If you do not have access to email, you may call 573-634-9171.

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Dated: August 26, 2020



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Patricia S. Joyce  
Presiding Judge