

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF LINCOLN COUNTY, MISSOURI
45TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

In Re: COVID-19

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-15

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER RE: SUPREME COURT ORDER
OF MAY 4, 2020 ON PHASES 1, 2, and 3 (eff. May 16, 2020)**

WHEREAS on March 13, 2020, the Governor of Missouri declared that a state of emergency exists in the state of Missouri to address the spread of COVID-19 and to prevent a substantial risk to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS to combat the spread of COVID-19 in Missouri, Missouri Governor Parson issued a "Stay Home Missouri" Order effective April 6, 2020, through May 3, 2020. On April 27, 2020, Governor Parson announced that Missouri would enter an initial recovery phase beginning May 4, 2020 and issued the Show Me Strong Recovery Order, effective until May 31, 2020, requiring persons and businesses to comply with social distancing requirement, including maintaining six feet of space between individuals, but otherwise allowing all businesses to reopen with recommended safety precautions.

WHEREAS the Circuit Court has been operating in Phase 0 consistent with the Supreme Court's April 17, 2020 Order.

WHEREAS the Supreme Court issued an Order on May 4, 2020, effective May 16, 2020, whereby the Presiding Judge of each circuit court will determine, based on certain Gateway Criteria, when that circuit will progress to Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3; and

WHEREAS the Court will progress to Phases 1, 2, and 3 only if local COVID-19 conditions continue to stay the same or improve, and it can implement sufficient procedures to ensure the safety of every litigant, juror, witness, victim, judicial employee, attorney and other individual involved in judicial proceedings; and

WHEREAS if it is determined in the future that local COVID-19 conditions are worsening or that there is a resurgence of COVID-19 cases in the community, the Presiding Judge may return to a lower Operating Phase including, when necessary and appropriate, returning to Operating Phase 0.

WHEREAS, the Court entered Operating Phase One on June 8, 2020.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, having consulted with local health authorities, the Court makes the following findings:

1. There have been no confirmed COVID-19 cases in any court facility to date.
2. COVID-19 health conditions have been stable over a 14-day period in the community. There has been no evidence of community spread of COVID-19 in Lincoln County.

3. Local government authorities have found that the public health system has the hospital resources, testing resources, and public health containment resources to begin the process of safely re-opening the local economy.
4. Local health officials approve of changes to levels of court and courthouse activities consistent with restrictions on occupancy and social distancing requirements.

Based on these findings, the Presiding Judge finds that local conditions are improving sufficiently to allow the Court to progress to Phase 2 effective June 22, 2020.

However, if it is determined in the future that local conditions are worsening or that there is a resurgence of COVID-19 cases in the community, the Court may return to Operating Phase 0 or 1.

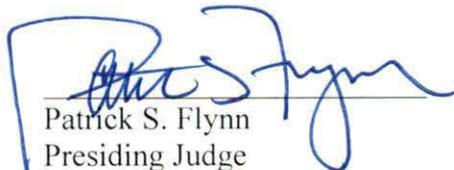
Operating Phase 2 Effective June 22, 2020

In Phase 2, the Court will operate with the following restrictions:

1. Members of the public who are not involved in a court proceeding will not be allowed in the courtrooms.
2. Social distancing is required of court staff, attorneys, parties and witnesses.
3. Individuals will not be allowed access to a court facility who have been exposed to or are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.
4. The use of masks or face coverings by attorneys, parties, witnesses, victims and courtroom staff is required. Those who do not have a mask will be provided a mask.
5. Increased in-person pressing proceedings will be held, with occupancy in the courtroom limited to 24 or less whenever possible. Staggered docketing shall be utilized.
6. Continue to use available technologies such as teleconferences and video hearings in all cases. Attorneys are encouraged to schedule motion hearings and other matters by telephone or video conference.
7. Jury trials will not be held through July 15, 2020
8. Extra cleaning and disinfecting will occur throughout each day and hand sanitizer will be required by all persons entering the Lincoln County Justice Center

The Court will remain in Operating Phase 2 until further order of the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED: June 19, 2020


Patrick S. Flynn
Presiding Judge