

**TWENTY-SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT
STATE OF MISSOURI**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING BATES COUNTY TO
OPERATIONAL PHASE ZERO RESPONSIVE TO SUPREME COURT ORDERS OF
MAY 4, 2020 (eff. May 16) AND JULY 24, 2020 (eff. August 1)

On May 4, 2020, the Missouri Supreme Court entered an Operational Directives Order effective May 16, 2020, and outlined Gateway Criteria and an Operational Phase (Zero, One, Two and Three) Approach which indicates, in part, the following:

A. Gateway Criteria

If these Gateway Criteria suggest local conditions are worsening or that there is a resurgence of COVID-19 cases in the community, a presiding judge or chief judge should move to a lower Operating Phase including, when necessary and appropriate, returning to Operating Phase Zero.

B. Operating Phase Approach

1. Based upon the Criteria above, a presiding judge or chief judge may order a change of Operating Phase for each locality either up or down.

On July 24, 2020, the Missouri Supreme Court delivered to the Presiding Judges an Amended Operational Directives Order effective August 1, 2020, (*Current Order*) which inserted a new aspect into Paragraph A which indicates, in part, the following:

A. Gateway Criteria

If any court employee, bailiff, or other court personnel currently working in a court facility tests positive for COVID-19, the presiding or chief judge shall move that court facility to Operating Phase One or Zero.

This Court is to follow the Operational Directives of the *New Order* which indicates the following:

A court may revert back immediately to a prior Operating Phase when local conditions and circumstances require it.

This Court is currently operating under the directives of the *Current Order* and the Order the undersigned executed July 21, 2020. This County is and has been operating under the operational directive of Phase Three since August 4, 2020.

The Gateway Criteria under the *Current Order* indicates the following:

B. Operating Phase Approach

3.h. In any order or decision moving and adopting courthouse operations from one Operating Phase to another, the terms and conditions of the Operating Phases set out below can be modified by a presiding or chief judge to be made more stringent than these Operating Directives provide, but not less stringent.

This Court has confirmed this date that an employee of the Bates County Circuit Clerk's office has tested positive for COVID-19. Accordingly, the Court, after consultation with judicial partners, Orders that all Court facilities of the Bates County Courthouse return to Operational Phase Zero. A copy of the *New Order* is attached hereto for reference. This Order shall include the Bates County Municipal Division.

A copy of this Order and Exhibit A is ordered delivered via email to the Missouri Supreme Court, the judges of the Circuit, the Bates County Circuit Clerk, the Bates County Clerk's Office, the City of Butler Municipal Court Administrator, Mid America Live and to the regularly practicing attorneys of the 27th Circuit as required by the *New Order*.

Questions

If you have any questions please contact my office or the Circuit Clerk of your county.

This Order has been approved by all Judges of the 27th Judicial Circuit.

Entered this 16th day of October, 2020



M. Brandon Baker, Presiding Judge
27th Judicial Circuit, State of Missouri