



16<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court, Jackson County  
415 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, Missouri

For Immediate Release:  
April 17, 2020

Contact: Valerie Hartman, PIO  
816-881-3552

## News Release

Jackson County Circuit Court acts to extend time lines regarding court operations,  
including limits on in-person hearings and housing evictions  
and provides bond modifications

The Presiding Judge of the 16<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court in Jackson County issued new administrative orders on April 16, 2020 extending the time line for modification of certain court matters due to on-going concerns regarding the spread of COVID-19. The Court has been and continues to remain open during the entirety of the stay at home orders, although some Court functions have been modified, such as a limitation on in person hearings.

Through May 31, 2020, law enforcement agencies will not be transporting defendants with bonds of \$5,000.00 or less to the Jackson County Detention Center. In those situations, law enforcement officers are advised to release the defendant on their own recognizance. The defendant will be given a next court date of approximately 90 days from the time indicated on the warrant.

“Transportation of such defendants to the Jackson County Detention Center and the detention of such defendants pending release hearings, increases the risk of the transmission of the COVID-19 virus to defendants, law enforcement, corrections officers, and other defendants detained in the facility,” stated Presiding Judge David M. Byrn.

In addition, the new orders extend Judge Byrn’s previous order of March 19 that delays the issuance of writs and the execution of pending writs in landlord-tenant cases, and other types of writs such as garnishments, through Monday, May 18, 2020.

The Court also announced that jury trials will not be held through May 31, 2020. Those effected cases will be rescheduled.

Although the Court continues its mission to provide access to justice, it is doing so in alternative ways at this time. Hearings are taking place by teleconference or videoconference rather than in-person through May 15, unless they are of an emergency nature, and alternative methods of holding the hearings have not worked out.

Hearings can be held for full orders of protection if all parties are available by teleconference or video conference. Otherwise, hearings on full orders of protection will be continued and ex parte orders will remain in effect.

Litigants without attorneys can call the Court for assistance or find information on the Court’s website at [www.16thcircuit.org](http://www.16thcircuit.org) regarding additional options for filing lawsuits or  
(more)

documents so a visit to the courthouse is not required. Alternative methods for filing lawsuits or documents include e-mail, fax, mail or lobby drop box. Parties involved in a court case are encouraged to check Missouri case.net for their next scheduled hearing date.

Administrative Orders 2020-071, and Order 2020-072, and Order 2020-073, and Family Court Order 20-06 provide additional details and are attached.

###