



Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri
415 East 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

For immediate release:
August 13, 2020

Contact: Valerie Hartman
Public Information Officer
816-881-3552

COURT STATEMENT
IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST TO REINSTATE EVICTION MORATORIUM
FOR AT LEAST 6 MONTHS

Today, a request was made to the 16th Judicial Circuit Court to reinstate a moratorium on evictions for at least six months. The Court, as the Judicial Branch of government, has the obligation and responsibility to enforce *all* laws and statutes of the State of Missouri and is compelled to protect the rights of *all* litigants, by enforcing the law through procedures that are currently in place. The Court cannot selectively choose which laws and statutes are to be enforced and which laws and statutes can be ignored.

There are long-standing laws, statutes and procedures in place regarding possible evictions after a landlord-tenant lawsuit has been processed through the court system. If the Executive Branch of government (either the President or the Missouri Governor) executes a valid Executive Order creating a moratorium on evictions, the Court will enforce and give effect to such valid Order. If the Legislative Branch of government (Congress or the Missouri Legislature) decides to change existing laws, statutes or procedures, the Court will enforce and give effect to those new laws, statutes and procedures. However, without action from either the Executive Branch or the Legislative Branch, the Court will enforce and give effect to existing laws and procedures.

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