



16th Circuit Court
Jackson County, Missouri

For immediate release:
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COURT STATEMENT

Today, protesters assembled at the Jackson County Courthouse downtown to again demand the suspension of all landlord-tenant cases in Jackson County. In addition to those protesting peacefully outside the building, however, several members of the group attempted to disrupt scheduled court hearings by chanting over the judge, the plaintiffs and the defendants who were talking during their hearings.

Today, the Court issued the following statement:

At this time, our community is subject to a variety of executive and other orders which dictate the gradual reopening of society, including businesses, government, and the courts. As a part of the judicial branch of our government, and under these circumstances, our Court is compelled to protect the rights of *all* parties in cases filed here, by enforcing the law through procedures that are currently in place. If the executive or legislative branches of government decide to change those existing laws or procedures, the Court will enforce and give effect to those new laws and procedures, too.

All members of the public have the right to contact their elected officials, to gather, and to demand action when they believe it is necessary to protect the rights of citizens. However, those persons who disrupted today's court proceedings, although ultimately unsuccessful in their attempt to keep the hearings from occurring, actually *interfered* with the rights of the parties who were attempting to participate in those proceedings – including attorneys who were there representing the rights of the very tenants for whom those protesters were purportedly advocating.

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