

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI
16TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, STATE OF MISSOURI**

**In Re: Updated Court Operations under Missouri Supreme Court Operational Directives and Related Governmental Guidelines
- Effective January 8, 2021**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021-004

WHEREAS, this Administrative Order updates Administrative Order 2020-201 which was entered on November 18, 2020, with an effective date of November 20, 2020. It also updates Administrative Order 2020-207 which was entered on December 1, 2020 and effective that same date. All terms, conditions, provisions and requirements of Administrative Orders 2020-201 and 2020-207 which are not specifically modified herein shall remain in full force and effect; and

WHEREAS, Administrative Order 2020-207 suspended the impaneling of all jurors through January 31, 2021 and continued all jury trials scheduled through January 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the most recent information regarding the existence and spread of COVID in Jackson County, Missouri continues to indicate a precipitous increase in the number of individuals who have contracted COVID; and

WHEREAS, circumstances regarding COVID continue to evolve and change, frequently on a daily or weekly basis, including the recent significant increase in COVID cases in Jackson County, resulting in continuing re-evaluation and modification of court operations; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Supreme Court has continued to authorize the Presiding Judge of each Circuit to facilitate local solutions regarding the continuation and/or restoration of court operations, while also considering and maintaining a certain degree of uniformity; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 478.240.2 R.S.Mo. and Section 15 of the Missouri Constitution, the Presiding Judge has general administrative authority over all judicial personnel and court officials in the Circuit as well as administrative authority over dockets of the Court and administrative and discretionary authority regarding the manner in which any hearings are conducted in the Court.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, effective immediately and continuing until rescinded, amended, modified or extended in a subsequent Administrative Order, as follows:

1. All terms, conditions, provisions and requirements set forth in Administrative Orders 2020-201 and 2020-207 which are not specifically modified herein, shall remain in full force and effect.

2. **The prior suspension of jury trials as set forth in Administrative Order 2020-207 is hereby extended.** Effective immediately, notwithstanding the fact that the Court *could potentially*, under proper circumstances, conduct jury trials while in Phase 1 or in Phase 2 for “extraordinary, pressing, and urgent cases”, the Court Administrator is Ordered and authorized to suspend the impaneling of all jurors through February 28, 2021. All jury trials scheduled from the

date of this Order through February 28, 2021 are hereby continued and will be rescheduled to a later date by the judicial officer presiding over each said case.

THIS ORDER MAY BE AMENDED, RESCINDED, MODIFIED OR EXTENDED AS CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

January 8, 2021

Date



J. Dale Youngs, Presiding Judge

Certificate of Service

This is to certify that a copy of the foregoing was emailed to the following on January 8, 2021.

Missouri Supreme Court
Frank White, County Executive
Darryl Forte, Jackson County Sheriff
Mary A. Marquez, Court Administrator
Ruth Petsch, District Public Defender
Bar Associations located within the 16th Judicial Circuit

16th Circuit Court Judiciary and Staff
Troy Schulte, County Administrator
Captain Robert Tuttle, Sheriff's Dept.
Jean Peters-Baker, Prosecutor
All Municipal Courts