

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

**In Re: Temporary Suspension of Certain Proceedings and Actions in Cases Filed Under Chapters 534 and 535 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri
- Effective January 11, 2021**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021-006

WHEREAS, over the last several months, there has existed in the country and in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area – including within Jackson County – significant, and at times violent, social and political unrest, and

WHEREAS, this recent social and political unrest has combined with the societal stress associated with the ongoing spread of COVID-19, and has created a current circumstance in which the risks Court personnel face in simply carrying out their duties is high, as when the Court’s Civil Process Deputies are attempting to serve process and writs of restitution in cases filed under Chapters 534 and 535, and when court personnel are attempting to assist in the preparation for and carrying out of Court hearings in those cases; and

WHEREAS, the risks facing Civil Process Deputies serving writs of restitution were recently evidenced on January 8, 2021 when two Deputies were confronted by an armed tenant on whom they were serving such a writ; and

WHEREAS, the 16th Judicial Circuit must always look to the safety and welfare of its employees and should, when necessary, consider pausing and/or temporarily suspending those Court procedures in which – because of current events – it is reasonably believed the risk to the safety and welfare of those employees is high, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 478.240.2, RSMo and Article V, 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 and other proceedings are conducted,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, effective immediately and continuing through **January 24, 2021** or until rescinded, amended, modified or extended in a subsequent Administrative Order, as follows:

1. The Court Administrator shall temporarily suspend issuance of all writs of restitution in all actions filed under Chapters 534 and 535 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri.
2. The Department of Civil Process shall temporarily suspend service of writs of restitution in all actions filed under Chapters 534 and 535 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri.
3. The Court Administrator shall temporarily suspend issuance of summons in all actions filed under Chapters 534 and 535 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri.

4. All Court proceedings in cases filed under Chapters 534 and 535 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri are temporarily suspended, and court hearings currently scheduled between the effective date of this Order and January 24, 2021 shall be continued, to be reset at the discretion of the judicial officers presiding over such matters.

5. The provisions of Administrative Orders 2020-154 and 2020-221 shall otherwise remain in effect, subject to the temporary provisions of this Order.

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

IT IS SO ORDERED.

January 11, 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 11, 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