



16th Judicial Circuit Court of Missouri

For immediate release:
February 29, 2024

Valerie Hartman
Public Info Officer
816-881-3552

News Release

The 16th Judicial Circuit Court has learned that this afternoon a court employee was shot during an eviction. Two Independence Police Department officers were also shot.

It is our understanding that the Civil Process server was shot by someone inside the house at 1111 N. Elsea Smith Road in Independence.

“We are devastated that a court employee, who is a public servant, was shot by a member of the public while performing their job,” said Presiding Judge Jalilah Otto. “Our hearts are heavy and our thoughts are with our employee, our entire Court family, and the Independence Police Department.”

As this is an evolving situation, we have limited information and are relying upon law enforcement as they investigate what happened.

###