

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI

**IN RE: CLOSING OF JUDICIAL OFFICES ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024,
PURSUANT TO COR 7, SECTION C 12.2(b)**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO 2024-003

ORDER

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has issued a Winter Storm Warning for the Kansas City Metropolitan Area – including the area served by the 16th Judicial Circuit – effective from 12:29 PM January 8, 2024, until 6:00 PM January 9, 2024, with expected accumulations of snow of between four and seven inches, and high winds gusts creating possible blizzard like conditions; and

WHEREAS, these weather events and the potential hazards they will create for travel on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 – as well the timing of their anticipated impact on the area served by the Court – impede the ability of the Court to conduct most regularly scheduled in-person business in a manner that is safe for Court staff and members of the public; and

WHEREAS, Court Operating Rule 7, Section C 12.2(b) authorizes the Presiding Judge to close judicial offices due to unsafe conditions that impede the ability of the judicial offices to conduct business, as follows:

C.12.2 Presiding Judge

(b) The presiding judge may authorize a judicial office within the circuit to close for all or part of the day to any unsafe office condition, which impedes the ability of the office to conduct business, or pursuant to authorization by the Chief Justice.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that all judicial offices located in the 16th Judicial Circuit shall be **CLOSED** for in-person hearings, trials and other Court business on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, **PROVIDED**, as follows:

1. Jury trials currently in progress in Divisions 5 and 8 may, in the discretion of the Judge sitting in that Division, proceed as regularly scheduled, with such accommodations made for litigants, counsel, jurors, and other interested parties as that Judge may deem appropriate; and
2. Judicial Officers may, in their discretion and where possible, conduct hearings and trials remotely through the use of approved video and telephone conferencing technologies; and
3. This Administrative Order shall be deemed to authorize, but not compel, Municipal Divisions within the 16th Judicial Circuit to suspend operations on those dates or to take such other actions deemed appropriate by those Divisions in accordance with their evaluation of their particular circumstances.

4. Employees who are required to work as directed by their Department Directors shall report to work as instructed.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

January 8, 2024


JUDGE JALILAH OTTO, Presiding Judge

cc:

Betsy AuBuchon, Clerk of the Supreme Court
Kathy S. Lloyd, State Courts Administrator
All Judges and Commissioners
Bev Newman, Court Administrator
Theresa Byrd, Deputy Court Administrator - Family Court
Tracy L. Smedley, Deputy Court Administrator - Circuit Court
All Directors
All Staff
All Municipal Divisions
Frank White, Jr., Jackson County Executive
Troy Schulte, Jackson County Administrator
Darryl Forte', Jackson County Sheriff
Jackson County Legislature