



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CHRISTIAN COUNTY

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER RE RETURN TO OPERATING PHASE 2 AND RESUMPTION OF JURY TRIALS ON MARCH 1, 2021

The Supreme Court issued its Order and Operational Directives effective August 1, 2020 stating the importance that the courts of Missouri remain open. Pursuant to the Operational Directives, the 38th Judicial Circuit returned to Phase 1 on January 6, 2021. Effective February 16, 2021, the 38th Judicial Circuit will transition to Phase 2. Under current conditions, the Court intends to transition to Phase 3 effective March 1, 2021.

In Phase 2, the 38th Judicial Circuit will operate with the following restrictions:

- a. Members of the public who are not involved in a court proceeding will not be allowed in the courthouses.
- b. The courts will continue operating under social distancing and masking protocols.
- c. Individuals will continue to be screened for COVID-19 symptoms before entering the courthouses.
- d. In-person proceedings will be held, as long as social distancing requirements can be met.
- e. Available technologies such as teleconferences and video hearings will be used when appropriate. Attorneys are encouraged to schedule motion hearings and other matters by telephone or video conference.
- f. Occupancy rates in courtrooms, jury assembly rooms, and other areas in the court facility must comply with social distancing guidelines.
- g. Extra cleaning and disinfecting will continue to occur.

Remote Proceedings

In Phase 2 the Court will be able to conduct more proceedings in person. However, if you and/or your client wish to appear remotely for any non-evidentiary proceeding, please notify the Court.

Jury Trials

All civil and criminal jury trials scheduled during the month of February, 2021 were cancelled. Jury trials will resume on March 1, 2021 with offsite jury selection and continued safety precautions.

Municipal Courts

This Order does not cover the Municipal Courts in Christian County.

Questions

Please email questions to the appropriate clerk as follows: Division 1 at cindy.childress@courts.mo.gov; Division 2 at jami.mcmurry@courts.mo.gov; Division 3 at ctn.filings@courts.mo.gov; and Division 4 at ctn.division4@courts.mo.gov.

This Order has been approved by all Judges of the 38th Judicial Circuit.

Date: February 8, 2021

Laura Johnson, Presiding Judge