

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF GREENE COUNTY
STATE OF MISSOURI
THIRTY-FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

In Re: COVID-19

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-AO27

Order Regarding Issuance and Service of Process

WHEREAS the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have declared that the outbreak of COVID-19 is a worldwide pandemic; and,

WHEREAS the President of the United States and the Governor of the State of Missouri have declared a state of emergency, and the Mayor of the City of Springfield has issued a proclamation of emergency. Each have mandated measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of citizens; and,

WHEREAS the Mayor of the City of Springfield and the Greene County Commission have each issued a “Stay at Home” order; and,

WHEREAS the Missouri Supreme Court has instructed courts in this state to “prepare for potential infection in their community;” and,

WHEREAS the Missouri Supreme Court has directed its courts to “consider strategies to prevent the spread of respiratory germs into, within, and between facilities;” and,

WHEREAS the Missouri Supreme Court has issued an Order suspending in-person proceedings in Missouri Courts, subject to exceptions; and,

WHEREAS it is imperative that the Court take steps to protect the health and safety of all persons associated with the 31st Judicial Circuit, including all judicial officers, all employees, all parties with business before the Court and all members of the general public; and,

WHEREAS, employees and deputies of the Greene County Sheriff’s Office, and the Civil Process Department who execute all manner of civil process necessarily come in close contact with members of the general public in executing those duties; and,

WHEREAS, directives from many levels of government have determined that it is not in the interest of public health to displace persons from their residence during this COVID-19 emergency, including the federal government having authorized a moratorium on foreclosure and eviction actions for homeowners with mortgages backed by FHA, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac to allow them to face the hardship caused by the coronavirus with fear of losing their homes; and,

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 478.240.2 RSMo and Section 15 of the Missouri Constitution, the Presiding Judge has the general administrative authority over all judicial personnel and court officials in the Circuit.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

The Greene County Circuit Clerk is directed to delay issuing writs of restitution, writ, writs of replevin, writs of attachment, writs of eviction, and any other civil process that would ordinarily mandate service of that process by the Greene County Sheriff's Office. Civil summons, Garnishments and Liens may be issued and retrieved by the filer, but shall not be delivered to the Sheriff's Office for service.

The Greene County Sheriff's Office is directed to refrain from, and is excused from serving or executing any pending writs, summons or garnishments or liens as described in the previous paragraph.

This Order shall not apply to Orders of Protection, whether adult, child, ex -parte or permanent or Motions to Modify or Terminate same; Child Support Orders; or, Family Access Motions.

This Order shall remain in effect for the period time in which in-person proceedings are suspended by the Missouri Supreme Court – currently May 1, 2020. This Order shall be automatically extended if the Supreme Court extends its suspension order unless otherwise modified by this Court. If the Supreme Court extends its current order of suspension, this court will notify the Greene County Circuit Clerk and the Greene County Sheriff.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

April 3, 2020



Michael J. Cordonnier
Presiding Judge
Greene County Circuit Court