



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

In Re: OPERATING PHASE ONE – COURT NORMALIZATION ORDER
Notification to the Public

Administrative Order 2020-AO58

WHEREAS in response to the declaration of national and state emergencies following the classification of COVID-19 as a pandemic, this Court, and the Supreme Court of Missouri have entered several orders directing the operation of court proceedings during the crisis; and

WHEREAS the Supreme Court issued its Order, and Operational Directives Effective August 1, 2020. The Order provides the Missouri Judicial Circuits with “Operational Directives” governing a plan for normalization of court operations and supersedes all previous orders; and

WHEREAS it has been, and remains the sincere desire of this Court to continue to conduct important and most often essential court operations and meet all constitutional obligations to the citizens of our community while at the same time taking all reasonable and necessary measures to protect the health and safety of court employees, attorneys, parties and citizens; and

WHEREAS in compliance with the Order of the Supreme Court, the Presiding Judge of the Thirty-first Judicial Circuit has given notice to the Supreme Court that the application of the Gateway Criteria require that the Circuit Court in Greene County will continue operations under the guidelines of “Operating Phase One;” and

WHEREAS this Order does not change the Operating Phase guidelines currently in place in each of the Municipal Divisions of this Court, or in the Juvenile Division to the extent those court operations are conducted in court building facilities separate from the Greene County Justice Center, and

WHEREFORE, the Presiding Judge hereby enters the following order:

1. Effective October 7, 2020, this Court will decrease and limit in-person court proceedings to only those matters considered exceptions under Operating Phase Zero, and only those proceedings considered most critical. The determination of what cases qualify for an in-person proceeding is to be made by the judge presiding over the case.
2. Jury proceedings will be limited to only the most extraordinary, pressing, and urgent cases.
3. The Court will continue to operate under the current masking and social distancing protocols. In addition, common areas such as break rooms will be closed. Courtrooms and other areas in the court facility should be limited to an occupancy of 10 persons or less wherever possible.
4. The Court will continue the cleaning procedures at the Judicial Courts Facility and Juvenile Facility.
5. The Court will continue the current protocol for screening persons prior to admission to the Judicial Courts Facility and Juvenile Facility.
6. Judges and court staff are encouraged to utilize all available technologies, including teleconferencing and video conference, whenever possible to limit in-person courtroom appearances to the extent not prohibited by constitutional or statutory provisions.
7. All non-essential travel by judicial employees for work related functions is suspended.
8. Judges and employees will work from home, and work in shifts whenever possible and feasible to keep staffing levels appropriate to reduce unnecessary contact and mitigate the spread of the virus, while at the same time supporting all court activity.
9. Judicial employees will be subject to quarantine or isolation based on various circumstances. Any employee who experiences symptoms they think might be related to COVID, or who has had a known exposure to another person that is symptomatic or COVID positive, should immediately report that circumstance to their supervisor for further instructions.

This Administrative Order shall remain in effect until rescinded or superseded by subsequent order of this court. It is hoped and anticipated that community circumstances and court circumstances will improve. Depending on those circumstances, and the level of success of court operations, the Court will consider a future move [back] to Operating Phase Two. If the Gateway Criteria are met, the Court will issue a further Court Normalization Order, but in no event will it be sooner than October 22, 2020.

Dated: October 6, 2020



Michael J. Cordonnier
Presiding Judge
Thirty-first Judicial Circuit