



**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF GREENE COUNTY, MISSOURI  
31ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

**Administrative Order 2020-AO62**

In Re: Jury Trials – Court Normalization Order

Notification to the Public

**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 outbreak of COVID-19 has become more severe in the United States and in Greene County, Missouri than at any previous point. *See generally:*

*Show Me Strong Recovery Plan*, Missouri Department of Health,  
<https://showmestrong.mo.gov/data/statewide-publichealth/> , and

Springfield - Greene County Health Department *Website*  
<https://www.springfieldmo.gov/5068/Coronavirus>; and

**WHEREAS** despite the carefully constructed safety protocols previously ordered and employed by the 31<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit Court, the outbreak has reached a point such that the Court cannot currently draw a venire panel, select a jury or conduct a trial to completion in a manner consistent with safeguarding the health and safety of the public who serve on juries, the court staff, the parties and their attorneys, and all other persons involved in a jury trial, and

**WHEREAS** this Order does not change the Operating Phase One guidelines currently in place in the 31<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit, nor those guidelines in place in each of the Municipal Divisions of this Court or in the Juvenile Division of the Court.

**WHEREFORE**, the Presiding Judge hereby enters the following order:

1. Effective November 17, 2020 all civil and criminal jury selections and jury trials scheduled to commence before any judge of the 31<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit Court from the effective date through January 6, 2021 are by this order CONTINUED;
2. In ordering this continuance, the Court now finds that the health concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic dictate that gatherings of people be limited to such an extent that mitigates against summoning citizens for jury service;
3. The Court further finds that summoning citizens for jury service during this period of increased COVID outbreak would negatively impact the fair administration of justice and the rights of those citizens;
4. The Court further finds that each of those interests and concerns, coupled with the general public health interest at stake, outweigh the interest of each and any individual party or defendant's right and the public's interest in a speedy trial;
5. This Order does not affect the Court's consideration of criminal or civil motions, bench trials and evidentiary hearings and matters that may be resolved without oral argument, or that may be considered via telephone or audiovisual conference, or in compliance with the Phase One guidelines for in-court proceedings.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: 11/17/2020



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Michael J. Cordonnier  
Presiding Judge  
31<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit Court