

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI
16TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, STATE OF MISSOURI**

In re: Suspension of Issuance and Enforcement of Writs of Restitution, Writs of Replevin, Writs of Attachment, Writs of Garnishment and any other Writs of Execution

Administrative Order No. 2020-072

ORDER

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

WHEREAS, the Missouri Governor, Jackson County Executive and Mayors/Executives of cities and counties in the Kansas City metropolitan area have declared a State of Emergency and have issued Stay-at-Home Orders requiring residents to remain at home except for activities essential to health and safety, and requiring businesses to cease operations unless they are considered essential businesses; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the Court take steps to protect the health and safety of the 16th Judicial Circuit, all judicial officers, all employees, all parties with business before the Court and all members of the general public; and

WHEREAS, among other means, the COVID-19 virus spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, medical guidelines and Stay-at Home Orders recommend, suggest or require social distancing of people, requiring a minimum separation distance of 6 feet between people as a way to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, employees of the Court's Civil Process Department who execute writs of restitution, writs of replevin, writs of attachment and writs of garnishment 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 interests of public health to displace persons from their residences at this time during this COVID-19 emergency, including the federal government authorizing 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 hardships caused by the coronavirus without fear of losing their homes; and

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

WHEREAS, circumstances regarding COVID-19 have changed dramatically since the Court's issuance of Administrative Order 2020-062 on March 19, 2020, with resulting increased risks to court personnel and the public. These changes include but are not limited to additional information and understanding of the manner of possibly spreading the COVID-19 virus, additional directives from the Federal Government regarding best practices to avoid the continuing spread of the COVID-19 virus, entry of updated and revised Orders of the Missouri Supreme Court, the issuance of a Stay-at-Home Order by the Missouri Governor and the Shelter-in-Place Order by the Jackson County Executive.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED THAT:

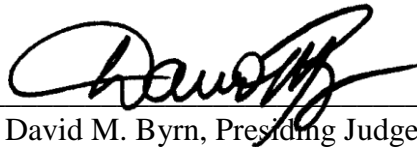
1. The Court Clerk is directed to delay issuing writs of restitution, writs of replevin, writs of attachment, writs of garnishment and any other writ of execution not specified in this Order up through and including the end of the business day on Monday, May 18, 2020, and the Director of Civil Process is directed to refrain from executing any pending writs of restitution, writs of replevin, writs of attachment, writs of garnishment and any other writ of execution not otherwise specified in this Order up through and including that same date.

2. This Administrative Order supersedes Administrative Order 2020-062.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

April 16, 2020

Date



David M. Byrn, Presiding Judge

cc: Court Administrator
All 16th Circuit Judges and Commissioners
Deputy Court Administrator - Family Court
Deputy Court Administrator – Circuit Court/Jury Supervisor
Director, Civil Process
Director, Civil Records
Legal Counsel
County Executive
County Legislators
County Administrator