Administrative Order

WHEREAS, The Missouri Supreme Court on May 28, 2021 issued Revised COVID-19 Directives dealing with the operation of the Court's which supersedes the March 26, 2021 Order and Rescinds the May 13, 2020, May 20, 2020 and April 6, 2021 Orders, and

WHEREAS, The May 28, 2021 Order provides for the Presiding Judge to exercise discretion in determining precautionary measures dealing with COVID-19, and

WHEREAS, the current transmission rate of COVID-19 in Clay County, mainly pursuant to the Delta strain of COVID-19 is listed at the highest level per CDC tracking, and

WHEREAS, the current vaccination rate in Clay County is below 50%.

WHEREAS, there have been multiple positive covid test within the Rooney Justice Center.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

All trials and hearings shall be continued/postponed. Counsel shall contact the Court Clerk in the future to reschedule any trial or hearing when the Court resumes operation.

The suspension of in-person trials and hearings are subject to the following exceptions:

Proceedings to protect the Constitution rights of criminal defendants.

Proceedings pertaining to juvenile delinquency and abuse, neglect and termination of parental rights.

Proceedings for adoption.

Proceedings for any jury trial in progress, at the discretion of the trial Judge.

Proceedings for Orders of Protection.

Proceedings for emergency child custody Orders.

Proceedings for TROs or other temporary injunctive relief requests.

Proceedings for emergency mental health Orders.

Any other proceeding determined by the Court to be necessary to conduct.

Counsel may coordinate with opposing counsel to conduct Webex hearings with input from the Court Clerk in which the case is assigned.

All pro se or self represented litigants will be notified of their new court date once it their case is rescheduled.

Everyone in the Rooney Justice Center shall wear a mask in all areas of the Courthouse.

Social distancing is highly recommended.

Access to the private areas of the Rooney Justice Center shall be restricted. Only those individuals who have received Judicial approval shall be allowed in the private areas.

This Order shall apply to the Juvenile Court Building.

The Municipal Court Judge of all Municipal Courts within the 7th Circuit shall make their own independent determination to take any precautionary measures to protect the safety of their staff and the individuals conducting business in their Courts.

This Order is effective on Aug. 18, 2021, until further Order of the Court.

David P. Chamberlain

Presiding Judge