

# OZARK MUNICIPAL COURT

## City of Ozark, Missouri



102 West Brick  
Ozark, Missouri 65721

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*Honorable Jason W. Johnson*  
*Municipal Court Judge*

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CHRISTIAN COUNTY, MISSOURI,  
OZARK MUNICIPAL DIVISION

### MUNICIPAL COURT OPERATING ORDER

Effective Date May 5, 2021

**WHEREAS**, in response to the Declaration of National, State, and local Emergencies following the classification of COVID-19 as a pandemic, this Court, in conjunction with the Supreme Court of Missouri, has entered orders directing the operation of Court proceedings during the crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court of Missouri issued its Order and Operational Directives effective August 1, 2020, providing Missouri judicial circuits with operational directives governing a phased plan for normalization of court operations; and

**WHEREAS**, after operating at Operating Phase One for fourteen (14) days, this Court will transition to Operating Phase Two pursuant to the Supreme Court Order and Operational Directives.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, effective **Wednesday, May 5, 2021**, and until further order of this Court, that:

This Court is in **Operating Phase Two** which means this court shall:

1. Continue to consult with local judiciary partners and rely on local health officials or departments and CDC guidance to adapt court operating decisions to local health conditions.
2. Reexamine and update local court orders and COVID-19 Notices as appropriate.
3. Increased in-person court proceedings, including the most extraordinary, pressing, and urgent grand and petit jury proceedings, can begin where they can safely be conducted in compliance with social distancing protocols and occupancy rate limitations applicable to the local community.
4. Based on the size of the Ozark Municipal Courtroom, the occupancy shall be fifteen (15) people or less to provide social distancing protocols.
5. Face masks or coverings shall be worn in all public court areas and during all court proceedings. Continue to allow vulnerable litigants, witnesses, victims, attorneys, and other individuals involved in court proceedings to participate in the proceedings remotely or postpone their required presence at the

court facility.

5. Continue to encourage judges and court staff to utilize all available technologies –including teleconferencing and video conferencing – whenever possible to limit in-person courtroom appearances to the extent practicable and not prohibited by constitutional or statutory provisions.
6. Continue to suspend any non-essential travel by judicial employees for work-related functions.
7. Continue to implement appropriate levels of screening at court facility entrances to mitigate against individuals experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19 from entering court facilities. Such screening may include temperature checks and screening questions.
8. Continue increased cleaning and disinfection of common areas and consider providing hand sanitizers and wipes.
9. Face masks or coverings shall be required except when an individual is alone in a private office.
10. Continue to allow vulnerable judicial employees to work with supervisors to establish reasonable accommodations for those vulnerabilities.
11. Judicial employees, when in the court facility, should continue to maximize physical distance from others. Six-foot distancing should continue to be observed in all offices, meetings, and court proceedings. Require tape or other visible means be used to demark six-foot distances where practical.
12. Continue to allow judicial employees to work in shifts whenever possible and feasible to keep staffing levels to a bare minimum to support increased court activity.

A court cannot proceed to Operating Phase Three until it has completed at least fourteen (14) days in Operating Phase Two. Before proceeding to Operating Phase Three, a court must reevaluate the Gateway Criteria to ensure readiness to progress to the next Operating Phase.

**UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE** shall the following persons enter this courthouse:

1. Persons who have traveled to any foreign country within the last fourteen (14) days.
2. Persons who reside or have had close contact with someone who has travelled to any foreign country within the last fourteen (14) days.
3. Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital, or health agency until the conclusion of that quarantine period.
4. Persons who have been diagnosed with, or have had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 until the conclusion of the appropriate isolation/quarantine period.
5. Persons with fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, flu-like symptoms, or new loss of taste or smell; persons who are considered high risk based on local or state health official or department criteria for contracting COVID-19, or is living with or caring for such an individual; persons experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking medical diagnosis, or is living with or caring for such an individual.

**ANYONE ATTEMPTING** to enter this courtroom in violation of these protocols will be denied entry by

court security.

**THESE RESTRICTIONS** shall remain in place until further notice. Persons who think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider immediately.

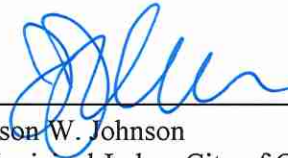
**FOR THOSE WISHING TO MAKE PAYMENTS:** No-contact payment options are provided by this court including:

- Online at [www.courts.mo.gov/casenet](http://www.courts.mo.gov/casenet) (if your case does not appear please call the Municipal Court at 417-582-5883),
- By mailing plea of guilty form and payment in the forms of either check or money order to 102 West Brick, Ozark, Missouri 65721,
- Or in person at the Municipal Court at 201B East Brick, Ozark, Missouri 65721.

If you have any questions regarding this Order, please contact the Ozark Municipal Court at 417-582-5883.

In the event that an address is not correct, please update the mailing address immediately with court personnel so that proper notification may be given.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**



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Jason W. Johnson  
Municipal Judge, City of Ozark, Missouri

Dated: May 5, 2021