

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI**

**In re: Suspension of Enforcement of Certain Writs of Restitution, Writs of Replevin,  
Writs of Attachment and any other Writs of Execution**

**Administrative Order No. 16**

**ORDER**

**WHEREAS**, County Executive Sam Page has declared a State of Emergency to allow St. Louis County to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of St. Louis County residents; and

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative that the Court take steps to protect the health and safety of the 21st 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**, employees of the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office who execute writs of restitution, writs of attachment, writs of execution and writs of replevin come into 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 RSMo and section 15 of the Missouri Constitution, the Presiding Judge has general administrative authority over all judicial personnel and court officials in the Circuit;

**IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED THAT:**

The Sheriff's office and employees therein are directed to refrain from executing any writs of restitution, writs of replevin, writs of attachment, writs of partition and any other writs of execution that require them to come into direct contact with the general public until further order of this court.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

March 20, 2020

  
Michael D. Burton, Presiding Judge

cc: Court Administrator  
All 21st<sup>th</sup> Circuit Judges and Commissioners  
Deputy Court Administrator - Family Court  
Sheriff  
Circuit Clerk  
County Executive  
County Legislators  
County Administrator