MISSOURI CIRCUIT COURT
TWENTY-SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
(City of St. Louis)

In re:	)	
	)	**COVID-19 ORDER 16**
COVID-19	)	
	)	**Division No. 1**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

Pursuant to the Order of the Supreme Court of Missouri, en banc, entered on April 1, 2020, this Order is hereby in effect until further order of this Court.

1. Civil cases may be noticed for hearing with participants attending remotely via telephone or remote video or internet access. Oaths may be administered remotely by a person authorized to administer an oath. Testimonial evidence given under oath via telephonic or technological means, regardless of the location of the witness, shall not be deemed inadmissible by the Court, solely on the basis that the witness was remotely administered an oath. Except for good cause shown, it shall not be grounds for a motion to continue or delay a hearing that counsel or any other person wishes or desires to attend in person. Jury trials are not subject to this provision.

2. Depositions may be noticed to proceed remotely, via telephone or remote video or internet access. The notice shall advise of the location of the witness, the court reporter and the noticing counsel. It shall notify all counsel of record of their ability to participate remotely and the information necessary to do so. The witness may be sworn in and administered an oath remotely by a person authorized to administer an oath. Except for good cause shown, the desire of counsel, or a party or interested person, to appear in person, shall not be sufficient grounds to quash a deposition notice or to refuse to provide availability for a witness to be deposed.

3. Any party filing a motion to quash a deposition is responsible for ensuring that a hearing is calendared at the Court's earliest convenience, and such a motion shall not stay the deposition unless the parties were unable to procure a hearing date prior to the deposition.

SO ORDERED:

Rex M. Burlison
Presiding Judge
22nd Judicial Circuit

Date: April 8, 2020