

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CHRISTIAN COUNTY, MISSOURI

ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE FOR CRIMINAL DEFENSE COUNSEL

The Supreme Court's March 22, 2020 Order has further restricted the use of in-person hearings until April 14, 2020. The Circuit Court of Christian County intends for the restrictions it currently has in place to be effective until May 15, 2020. Understanding that the lack of in-person hearings creates issues for criminal defense attorneys representing in-custody defendants, the Circuit Court of Christian County provides the following guidance for representing clients incarcerated in the Christian County jail through May 15, 2020.

1. Attorneys are not allowed to enter the jail to visit with incarcerated clients. Attorneys can visit with their clients by video by accessing homewav.com. After setting up an account, an attorney designates himself or herself as the attorney and which inmates he/she represents. Each attorney will be approved by the Captain of the Jail. Once approved an attorney can schedule virtual meetings with his/her in-custody client. Those meetings are not recorded. This program is currently being offered for free. At some time in the future, there will be a charge for using the program.

2. When your client decides to accept a plea offer, please notify the assistant prosecuting attorney so that the plea paperwork can be prepared. The Court is suspending use of the Petition to Enter a Guilty Plea. Email the Notice of Rights, if necessary, to the Jail at rfloyd@christiancountysheriff.net or kbone@christiancountysheriff.net for signature by your client. The plea paperwork must be emailed to the Jail at least 24 hours before the plea hearing.

3. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office will email a copy of the plea agreement to you and to the jail. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office will email a copy of the Judgment to you and to the Clerk's Office. You will have to review all plea paperwork with your client by video.

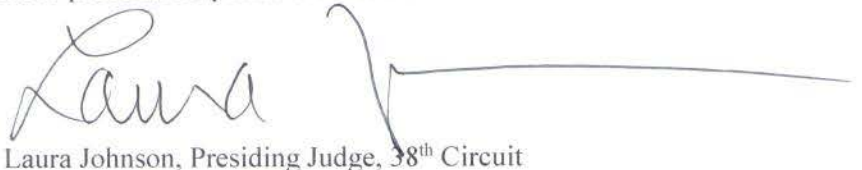
4. File a notice of hearing for a plea and provide your email address in the notice. The plea hearings may be set at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

5. Probation violation cases will be heard on Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. Please file an entry of appearance at least 24 hours before a probation violation hearing so that you will be included in the scheduling of the hearing.

4. All hearings will be by video. The Clerk's office will schedule the hearing on Scopia. Prior to the hearing you will receive an email for the scheduled hearing with a meeting ID and password. Go to the link provided and follow instructions. Please ensure prior to the hearing that you have a working camera and microphone on your computer.

5. Bond hearings will also be held by video. Notice a bond hearing at least 48 hours in advance. The hearing will be held via Scopia.

If you have any questions about these procedures, please contact the Clerk's office.



Laura Johnson, Presiding Judge, 38th Circuit

March 24, 2020