

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY
STATE OF MISSOURI**

In re: Establishment of Juvenile Justice
Preservation Fund (JJP Fund)

Administrative Order No. 21- 26

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 53 (S.B. 53), signed into law on July 14, 2021, established a Juvenile Justice Preservation Fund (JJP Fund) in each county's circuit court for the purpose of implementing and maintaining the expansion of the juvenile court jurisdiction to eighteen years of age. RS. Mo. §211.435.1.; and

WHEREAS, S.B. 53 includes an emergency clause requiring immediate implementation but does not contain explicit instruction as to the manner in which the JJP Fund is to be established in each circuit court, and

WHEREAS, in response to the emergency clause, and in order to comply therewith, the Office of the State Court Administrator (OSCA) swiftly established a debit account for each county circuit court statewide; and

WHEREAS, while the circuit court debit account established by OSCA may effectively be utilized by some circuit courts of this State, requiring utilization of this JJP Fund debit account in the Circuit Clerk's Office of St. Louis County Circuit Court would hinder its efforts to implement best accounting practices to track said deposits and expenditures, and would also require a cumbersome procedure for processing expenditures from the JJP Fund by the Juvenile Office for the circuit¹;

WHEREAS, in the interest of implementing best accounting practices and of streamlining the process of obtaining expenditures by the Juvenile Office from the Fund, this Circuit has determined that establishing a JJP Fund for this Circuit in the Registry of the St. Louis County Treasurer would best accomplish these important accounting practices and disbursement procedures²; and

WHEREAS, the St. Louis County Circuit Court will maintain complete control over the JJP Fund to be established in the County Registry, and the Circuit Clerk will make monthly payments into the St. Louis County Registry as required by law; and

WHEREAS, the circuit court Juvenile Officer, will be able in its discretion to make expenditures from the JJPF located in the County Registry for the purpose of implementing and maintaining the expansion of juvenile court jurisdiction;


¹ The Juvenile Office of St. Louis County is a County funded and partially State reimbursed division of this Circuit, and is bound by St. Louis County procurement ordinances for expenditures of public funds. If the JJP were maintained in a debit account by the Circuit Clerk, the County would have to pay in advance the Juvenile Office Services provided by S.B. 53, and then seek reimbursement of the expenditures from the Circuit Court debit account, which would ultimately lead to more difficulty in tracking said expenditures as well as delays in disbursements from the JJP.

² This Circuit has previously established other statutorily mandated funds in the County Registry including, for example, in connection with the Family Services and Justice Fund created in RS Mo 488.2300.

ORDER AND DECREE

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the Circuit Clerk's Office is authorized and instructed to establish this Circuit's JJP Fund in the Registry of the Office of the St. Louis County Treasurer for the collection and deposit of money received by the St. Louis County Circuit Clerk, pursuant to Senate Bill 53, to ensure that best accounting practices are followed and that the most streamlined, efficient process for securing expenditures therefrom by the Juvenile Office is implemented in the Circuit Court of St. Louis County, Missouri.

SO ORDERED:

7  *9.23.2021*
(Presiding Judge - 21st Circuit)