



St. Louis County Circuit Court
105 S Central Ave
Clayton, MO 63105

CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

BELLEFONTAINE MUNICIPAL COURT

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the fact that the municipal divisions are required to remain open, as directed by the Missouri Supreme Court, it is imperative that the municipal divisions take steps to protect the health and safety of all employees of the municipal courts, all judicial officers, all attorneys, all litigants, all victims, all witnesses and any other individuals or entities who have cases and hearings pending in these divisions, while also balancing the rights of all said individuals to have their matters heard; and

WHEREAS, the 21st Circuit Court has prohibited the municipal divisions from proceeding with “in person” hearings until the Circuit enters into Phase Three (as described in the Supreme Court’s July 24, 2020 Operational Directives); and

WHEREAS, each municipal division must present and have approved a Continuity of Operation Plan that demonstrates how its court can safely proceed with “in person” hearings when the Circuit reaches Phase Three; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Supreme Court’s “Minimum Operating Standard #10 for Municipal Divisions and Municipal Division Judges” provides that the “circuit court presiding judge of the judicial circuit” has oversight of municipal division operations,

IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED that this municipality's Continuity of Operations Plan is approved as a plan that adequately protects all judicial officers, all attorneys, all litigants, all victims, all witnesses, all employees and any other individuals or entities who have cases and hearings in this municipal division. This will be the plan that the municipal division will follow when proceeding with “in person” hearings when the 21st Circuit enters Phase Three.

Signed:

Celestine Dotson
Municipal Monitor

SO ORDERED:

Michael D. Burton, Presiding Judge
Twenty-First Judicial Circuit
St. Louis County, Missouri

Date: 4/13/21