

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

In re:

Justice Center Access to Counsel

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Division No. 1

FILED
APR 23 2024
22ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
CIRCUIT CLERK'S OFFICE
BY _____ DEPUTY

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

TO: Jennifer Clemons-Abdullah, Commissioner of Corrections

Vernon Betts, Sheriff of the City of Saint Louis

WHEREAS, a criminal defendant has a constitutional right to meaningful access to the courts, which may be achieved through experienced and knowledgeable counselors; and

WHEREAS, the Court has a responsibility, pursuant to §545.820 RSMo to ensure that criminal defendants have meaningful access to counsel; and

WHEREAS, it has come to the Court's attention that the Justice Center and/or Sheriff's Department has implemented policies restricting detainees' access to counsel by:

1. Limiting items that attorneys can carry into contact and non-contact visits with detainees;
2. Prohibiting cell phone usage by attorneys during detainee visits; and
3. Prohibiting the passing of papers and other documents during non-contact visits;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, effective immediately, that:

Detainees shall have access to items needed for note-taking during visits with counsel;

Attorneys shall be permitted to bring to a client visit items that are necessary for the adequate representation of that client, including, but not limited to: computers, cell phones, documents, books and writing utensils;

The "paper pass" shall not be locked during non-contact visits with attorneys and defendants permitted to sign necessary paperwork.

Date: April 23, 2024

SO ORDERED:



Elizabeth Byrne Hogan

Presiding Judge
Div. 1