

IF THE CIRCUIT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE GOES DARK FOR TWO WEEKS

TWO WEEKS DARK. THE RIPPLE.

A prosecutor's office is a **clock**, not a filing cabinet. Missouri's 24-hour rule, bond and preliminary-hearing calendars, discovery deadlines and victim-notice duties all keep running whether the office can reach its files or not. Take the network away for 14 days and the ripple moves outward in three rings — faster if the word is already out.

ASSUMPTION 1

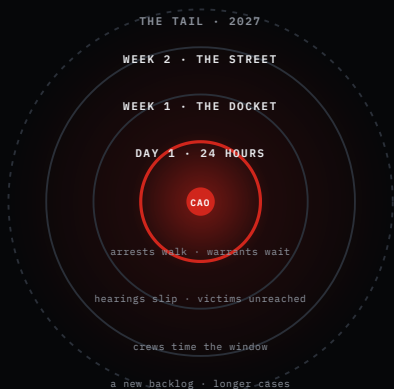
Fourteen days with no network: no email, no case system, no warrant intake, no desk phones. Staff still come to work; they can't reach anything.

ASSUMPTION 2

The rumor is out. The defense bar, repeat offenders and organized crews know the window — the dates, not just the fact.

ASSUMPTION 3

Everything else stays up: the courts (state systems), police dispatch and the jail. The weak link is the one office that decides who gets charged.



~135

FELONY CHARGING DECISIONS
STALL IN 14 DAYS

24h

TO CHARGE OR RELEASE
A WARRANTLESS ARREST

294d

CHARGE TO SENTENCE TODAY —
BEFORE ANY NEW BACKLOG

Where the numbers come from: the office charged more than 3,500 felony cases in the year to June 2026, about 67 a week; it reaches a charging decision within 24 hours on more than 90% of warrant applications; it has 49 trial attorneys and just cleared a 7,000-case backlog. The 24-hour rule is RSMo 544.170. The ripple below is a model built on those figures, not a forecast.

01 DAY ONE · THE 24-HOUR CLOCK

RING ONE

ARRESTS WALK.

Anyone arrested without a warrant must be charged or **released within 24 hours**. With no intake, warrant applications pile up unread — and the people they describe go home at hour 24, evidence in hand.

WARRANTS WAIT.

Detectives can't get search warrants reviewed. Phones get wiped, cars get moved, and many camera systems **overwrite in days to weeks**. Evidence that exists on day one is gone by day ten.

THE DESK GOES SILENT.

Police, victims, defense counsel and the courts all reach the office by phone and email. Both are down. Nobody can tell a victim what happened to their case — or that it didn't happen.

02 WEEK ONE · THE DOCKET

RING TWO

HEARINGS SLIP.

Bond reviews, preliminary hearings and pleas need the file, the evidence and the victim's position. **Continuances stack**; defendants in custody wait longer, defendants out of custody get further from trial.

DEADLINES DON'T.

Discovery obligations and speedy-trial demands keep their dates. A two-week hole in disclosure becomes a defense motion in every case that was live that fortnight.

VICTIMS GO UNREACHED.

Missouri requires victims be notified of hearings, releases and dispositions. No system, no notices — and witnesses who feel abandoned **stop showing up**.

03 WEEK TWO · THE STREET

RING THREE · THE RUMOR IS OUT

CREWS TIME THE WINDOW.

Retail-theft rings, car-break crews and fencing operations work on risk math. A known 14-day gap in charging is a **sale on consequences**, and they'll plan inventory around it.

PRESSURE ON WITNESSES.

Fourteen days with no prosecutor contact is fourteen days for a defendant's friends to find a witness first. Intimidation works best when the office can't answer the phone.

THE TAIL RUNS INTO 2027.

The office that just cleared 7,000 cases restarts a backlog on day 15: two weeks of charging decisions, hearings and notices, on top of a docket already 294 days deep.

04 WHAT HOLDS IT TOGETHER

A BRIDGE, NOT A BACK DOOR

KEEP THE 24-HOUR DESK ON.

Fifty people on hotspots behind an emailed-code login can take warrant applications by phone and email from the first hour. **That one desk stops ring one.**

KEEP THE PHONES ANSWERED.

A push-to-talk line and a reachable inbox for victim services, the courts and the police. Ring two shrinks to the cases that were already in trouble.

KEEP THE CITY HOLDING THE SWITCH.

Built in the City's own account, shut off with one press, every sign-in logged. Nothing touches City servers. Free for 50. Offered at no cost — citybridge.9brt.com.

Sources: Circuit Attorney's Office news release, June 4 2026 (3,500+ felony cases; 90% charged within 24 hours) · St. Louis Public Radio, June 4 2026 (49 trial attorneys; 7,000-case backlog cleared; 294 days charge to sentence) · RSMo 544.170 (24-hour rule) · RSMo 595.209 (victim notification). Scenario and arithmetic are Race Terminal's.