{{p include\_docx\_template('include\_caption.docx',caption\_title = "Defendant’s Motion to Continue") }}

The Defendant requests the Court continue this case to a future date convenient for the Court. In support, Defendant states:

1. The first hearing of this case is on {{ original\_hearing\_date }} {{ original\_hearing\_time }} in {{ trial\_court.division }}.
2. Defendant requests a continuance of this case to another date.
3. This request for continuance is made on or before the first hearing of the case. Associate circuit rules require this Court grant a continuance as of right “upon the request of any party made **on or before** the return date of the summons.” RSMo. §517.071.1 (emphasis added).
4. A Court’s failure to grant a party’s request for continuance prior to or on the date of the return date is reversible error. See *Darby v. Mason,* 568 S.W.3d 35, 37 (Mo. Ct. App. 2019) (citing *Boehm v. Allen*, 524 S.W.3d 542, 544 (Mo. Ct. App. 2017).

For these reasons, the Defendant requests the Court continue the case to a future date convenient for the Court, and requests any further relief the Court deems proper.

{{p include\_docx\_template('include\_signature.docx') }}