

**IN THE TRIAL COURTS FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

In the Matter of:

Proceedings in the Sitka court,

First Judicial District.

PRESIDING JUDGE ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 21-15

Due to decreasing COVID-19 case counts, the prohibition against in-person proceedings – including trials and grand jury – was recently relaxed. However, the presiding judge of each district has the authority to limit or suspend proceedings for any location if the average daily case rate over 14 days as reported by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services rises above 20-30 cases per 100,000 population or if the local risk level is otherwise seriously elevated.

The current situation in Sitka warrants a suspension of all in-person proceedings, including trials and grand jury. As of July 23, 2021, Sitka's average case rate per 100,000 over 14 days was 201.1 and over 7 days was 271.5 as reported by the Department of Health and Social Services.

IT IS ORDERED:

1. All attorneys, parties, witnesses, and other participants are required to appear by telephone or videoconference for all civil proceedings.
2. Attorneys, witnesses, and other participants are required to appear by telephone or videoconference for all criminal and delinquency proceedings, except defendants in criminal cases, and juveniles in delinquency proceedings, may choose to

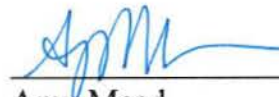
appear in person for sentencings and disposition hearings. If a defendant or juvenile chooses to personally appear in court, a person who qualifies as a victim under Alaska statute and a reasonable number of family and/or other supporters may also attend the proceeding in person.

3. Persons without access to a device capable of video or telephonic communication who want or need to attend a hearing may appear in person at the Sitka court and the Clerk of Court will provide them with a communication device.

4. Visitors to the courthouse must continue to comply with Special Order of the Chief Justice No. 8275.¹

5. This order will be reviewed on or before August 6, 2021.

DATED at Juneau, Alaska on July 26, 2021.



Amy Mead
Presiding Judge
First Judicial District



Distribution: Chief Justice Daniel Winfree; Stacey Marz, Administrative Director; First District Judges; First District Magistrates; First District Clerks of Court; Lesa Robertson, Executive Administrator; James Kwon, ACA; Clayton Jones, Rural Court Training Assistant; SBA; JBA; KBA.

¹ <https://courts.alaska.gov/covid19/docs/socj-2021-8275.pdf>