

IN THE TRIAL COURTS FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

In the Matter of:

The Suspension of Jury Trials and In-Person Grand Jury Proceedings in the City and Borough of Sitka,

First Judicial District.

PRESIDING JUDGE ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 21-17

As authorized by the Alaska Supreme Court¹ and Chief Justice², the presiding judge of each district may limit or suspend jury trials and in-person grand jury 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. As of July 30, 2021, Sitka's average daily case rate over 14 days was 222.1 and the community's risk level designation was "High."

IT IS ORDERED:

1. Criminal jury trials and grand jury proceedings are suspended through August 31, 2021. This suspension will be reviewed on or about August 27, 2021.
2. The time limit for preliminary examination under Alaska Criminal Rule 5(e) is extended through September 17, 2021.
3. All attorneys, parties, witnesses, and other participants are required to appear by

¹ Supreme Court Order No. 1974.

² Special Order of the Chief Justice No. 8259.
(Cont'd)

telephone or videoconference for all civil proceedings.³

4. 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.⁴
5. 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.

DATED at Juneau, Alaska on August 2, 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; Sitka District Attorney's Office, Public Defender Agency, and Office of Public Advocacy; Court Rules Attorney

³ Supreme Court Order No. 1957.

⁴ *Id.*