IN THE TRIAL COURTS FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

In the Matter of:	)	Presiding Judge
	)	Administrative Order No. 22-01
The Suspension of Jury Trials at	)	
the Kotzebue Trial Courts	)	
	)	

ORDER SUSPENDING JURY TRIALS IN KOTZEBUE

On December 2, 2021, the Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court issued Order No. 8352[1]. This order allows suspension due to extraordinary circumstances, including school closures. The Northwest Arctic Borough has seen a rapid and unprecedented spike in Covid cases over the past several days. Dozens of village travelers have tested positive for Covid and are isolating in Kotzebue before they are able to travel to their home villages. The local schools have experienced a shortage in staff and teachers from the increase in covid positive cases forcing the school to operate at only half days for students. Multiple high school sports teams have had members test positive for Covid. The Kotzebue Court has also experienced shortages in staff from positive Covid cases and related isolation and quarantine periods during the time jury trials were scheduled. These events represent extraordinary circumstances requiring the suspension of jury trials.

Pursuant to the authority granted the presiding judge in Special Order of Chief Justice 8352, jury trial proceedings are suspended immediately for Kotzebue Court through January 31, 2022. This suspension will be reviewed the week of January 24 to determine if further extension of this order is necessary. Rule 45 is tolled during this time.[2]

Dated at Kotzebue, Alaska this 14th day of January, 2022.

PAUL A. ROETMAN
Presiding Judge
Second Judicial District

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[1] Special Order of the Chief Justice 8333.
[2] Supreme Court Order No. 1974.