IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SPECIAL ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE
ORDER NO. 8394

Update regarding COVID-19 and Presumptive Jury Trial Sites

During the pandemic, the chief justice issued three special orders – 8259, 8289, and 8290 - regarding the need to relocate some presumptive jury trial sites due to social distancing related size restrictions in courtrooms.

For misdemeanor trials, this included:
- Angoon trials would occur in Sitka;
- Hoonah and Yakutat would occur in Juneau;
- Kake trials would occur in Petersburg;
- Unalakleet trials would occur in Nome; and
- St. Paul and Sand Point trials would occur in Anchorage.

For felony trials, this included:
- Petersburg trials would occur in Ketchikan;
- Wrangell trials would occur in Ketchikan;
- Naknek trials would occur in Dillingham;
- Cordova and Glennallen trials would occur in Valdez;
- Unalaska trials would occur in Anchorage or Dillingham;
- Seward trials would occur in Kenai;
- Delta Junction trials would occur in Fairbanks; and
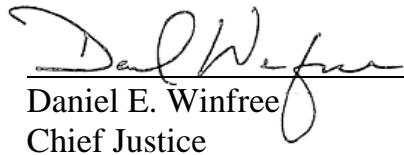- Tok trials would occur in Fairbanks.

IT IS ORDERED:

When the COVID-19 DHSS alert levels come down below the high level, those communities no longer need to socially distance and jury trials can occur in the

presumptive jury trial sites.[1] Generally, a court location should have two consecutive weekly readings below the DHSS high alert level for the trial to occur in the above locations. See the "Cases Summary List" for the current alert levels at https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/af2efc8bffbf4cdc83c2d1a134354074/.

Regardless of the DHSS alert level, the presiding judge has discretion to continue to suspend a location as a trial site based on local conditions or courtroom specific issues.

DATED: March 31, 2022

_____
Daniel E. Winfree
Chief Justice

Distribution:
Supreme Court Justices
Presiding Judges
Area Court Administrators
Administrative Director
Clerk of the Appellate Courts

---

[1] To learn more about the DHSS COVID-19 alert levels, see https://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/alertlevels.aspx