

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

In the Matter of:) Presiding Judge
) Administrative Order No. 21-11
Resuming Jury Trials in) (UPDATED 12/29/21)
the Second Judicial District)
_____)

ORDER RESUMING JURY TRIALS

On September 20, 2021, the Chief Justice issued Order No. 8333¹ which imposed a presumption for a two-week suspension of jury trials in any court location when the number of reported COVID-19 cases per 100,000 over the past 7 days reaches 100 or more. Because case counts were significantly above this threshold, trials in the Second Judicial District were suspended for the months of October through December. In early December, the Chief Justice issued Order No. 8352² adopting a new presumption that to the greatest extent possible, criminal jury trials would proceed absent extraordinary circumstances on January 10, 2022. As support for convening jury trials, the order summarized the evolution of the pandemic and its effect on Alaskans, the court system, and the progress of effective treatments and testing.

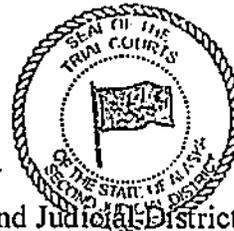
During the past month, in the Second Judicial District, COVID-19 case counts have dropped significantly to levels measured before trials were suspended. The district also now has the ability to utilize on-site COVID-19 rapid testing for all persons reporting for jury service. This testing is in addition to the Second Judicial District's Jury Protocols (e.g., masking and social distancing). Given these developments and since no extraordinary circumstances exist that would otherwise prevent jury trials from restarting, beginning January 10, 2022, the Kotzebue, Nome, and Utqiagvik trial courts shall resume in-person jury trials.³ The time for trial under Alaska Criminal Rule 45(d) remains tolled through January 31, 2022.⁴

Ordered December 29, 2021 at Kotzebue, Alaska.

PA R T

PAUL A. ROETMAN

Presiding Judge, Second Judicial District



¹ Special Order of the Chief Justice No. 8333.

² Special Order of the Chief Justice No. 8352.

³ Trials that would have been held in Unalakleet will continue to be held in Nome.

⁴ PJA0 21-11 (updated 12/29/2021).

Distribution:

2nd Judicial District Clerks of Court – for distribution to local agencies

2nd Judicial District Judicial Officers

Melissa Samuels, RCA

Brodie Kimmel, ACA

Stacey Marz, Administrative Director