

IN THE TRIAL COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF:

In-Person Grand Jury Proceedings
Held At Fairbanks

February 2, 2021 to February 8, 2021

Presiding Judge's Administrative Order
21- 02

**PRESIDING JUDGE'S ORDER RE: IN-PERSON GRAND JURY PROCEEDINGS
HELD AT FAIRBANKS**

Special Order of the Chief Justice No. 8234 permits in-person grand jury proceedings to commence beginning February 8, 2021. Until that date, Special Order of the Chief Justice No. 8213 permits in-person grand jury proceedings "in exceptional circumstances" and provides a number of factors to consider in making the determination as to whether to proceed with in-person grand jury.

The most recent COVID-19 case counts and trends for the Fairbanks region have dropped significantly to 16.83 cases per 100,000 as of the date of this order with a continuing downward trajectory. The Fairbanks court previously conducted in-person grand jury proceedings using mitigation protocols when case counts were nearly twice the current totals. The Fairbanks court has already selected a February 2021 grand jury panel and has screened those jurors telephonically.

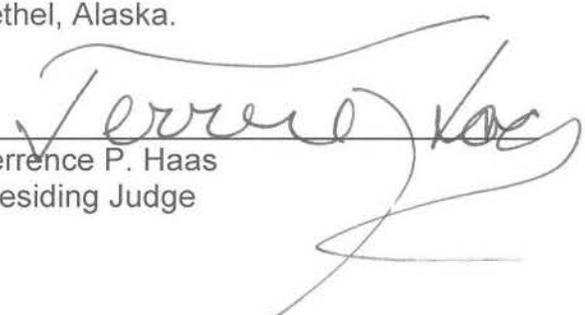
The Fairbanks courthouse facility and staff are capable of processing grand jurors into the courthouse and ensuring proper distancing and procedures. The grand jury courtroom is large enough to ensure that grand jurors can maintain appropriate physical distance.

Presiding Judge's Order
Opening Fairbanks In-Person Grand Jury

Given the growing number of unindicted felony cases waiting to appear before the grand jury and the existence of safe procedures to conduct in-person grand jury as described above, the undersigned hereby finds that extraordinary circumstances support beginning in-person grand jury in Fairbanks starting February 2, 2021.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 1st day of February, 2021 at Bethel, Alaska.


Terrence P. Haas
Presiding Judge

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Rural Court Administrator
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