

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SPECIAL ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE
ORDER NO. 8280

Update regarding COVID-19 remote participation rules

Supreme Court Order No. 1957 modified court rules to encourage remote participation by attorneys and parties during the pandemic. Likewise, a March 23, 2020 statewide administrative order from the four presiding judges required attorneys, parties, and witnesses to appear by telephone or videoconference for nearly all civil and criminal proceedings. Recently, the statewide decline in case counts will allow relaxation of these orders. Therefore, under the authority of Supreme Court Order No. 1957,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. In view of the lowering case counts, judges may allow or require attorneys and parties to appear in person when personal appearance is necessary.
2. Judges should continue to liberally allow remote participation in regions with high average daily case rates as reported by DHSS.
3. Judges should also continue to liberally allow remote participation by the parties for all pretrial hearings where personal appearance is not necessary. And judges should avoid requiring the parties to attend large block hearings where they cannot enforce social distancing.
4. This order supercedes prior orders requiring remote participation. But the presiding judges may issue orders regulating remote participation and personal attendance to address local conditions or to promote consistency.

DATED: June 7, 2021


Joel H. Bolger
Chief Justice

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