

In the Matter of:)
)
 Anchorage District Court)
 In-person Hearings)
 _____)

ORDER REGARDING IN PERSON HEARINGS AND PROVISION OF CHARGING DOCUMENTS IN ANCHORAGE DISTRICT COURT

IT IS ORDERED:

- Arraignments – In addition to TrueFiling charging documents, prosecutors shall provide a hard copy to the in-court clerk at the assigned courtroom prior to the start of the arraignment block hearing.³
- Change of Plea, Trial Status hearings, Bail Hearings, Rule 5 Hearings - For bail hearings, proposed third-party custodians and other witnesses must appear in person;

³ The expectation that prosecutors will provide copies of the charging documents for defendants is not new. The amendment to this order deletes the requirement that prosecutors appear 30 minutes early. Counsel are still expected to provide the documents as soon as possible so that Defendants may have a reasonable opportunity to review the charges before being arraigned.

- Wellness Court, Veterans Court, and CRP court, including pre-meet;
- Representation Hearings, Evidentiary Hearings, and other special sets, including contested adjudications, SEJs, and DSAs;

(2) In the following hearings, Defendants may appear by phone or waive their appearance as provided, so long as counsel is present in person:

- Trial Call - Defendants may appear telephonic;
- Pretrial Conferences and Motion Call - Defendants in good contact with their attorney or with a consent to proceed may waive their appearance;
- Pre-indictment Hearings – Defendants in good contact with their attorney or with a consent to proceed may waive their appearance, except as follows:
 - Out-of-custody defendants with a case number of 2022 or older are required to appear in person. *See PJO 3AN-AO-24-05.*
 - Starting **March 1, 2025**, out-of-custody defendants with a case number of 2023 or older will be required to appear in person.

(3) The following hearings in criminal cases are **presumptively-remote**:

- Uncontested Probation Hearings –Consistent with SCOP 2012, the current practice will continue.

(4) The following hearings in civil cases are **presumptively in-person**:

- Small claims
- Damage phase of FED Hearings
- Judicial Settlement Conferences

(5) Possession phase of FED hearings and all other civil hearings are **presumptively-remote** unless otherwise ordered.

(6) Telephonic participation (for all hearing types civil/criminal)- Absent exceptional circumstances, or as noted above, parties/attorneys required to appear in court shall do so

in person. However, a party or attorney located outside the Municipality of Anchorage may appear by telephone for a block hearing without filing a request for telephonic participation.

DONE this 1st day of October, 2025, at Anchorage, Alaska.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Matthews', written over a horizontal line.

Thomas A. Matthews
Presiding Judge
Third Judicial District

Distribution

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