

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

In the Matter of:	)	
	)	Presiding Judge Administrative Order
Criminal Case Pretrial Continuance Policy	)	No. 26-02
_____	)	

CRIMINAL CASE CONTINUANCE POLICY

As of June 1, 2026, there are at least 193 criminal cases pending in the Second Judicial District trial courts that have been pending for more than one year. To address this backlog, the Alaska Supreme Court¹ has directed Presiding Judges to adopt policies to reduce the number of aged pending cases. The following procedures **are adopted beginning September 15, 2026:**

1. A felony case should generally be resolved within one year of arraignment and a misdemeanor case should generally be resolved within six months of arraignment.
2. A felony case older than two years from its arraignment date and a district court misdemeanor older than one year from its arraignment date will be considered a priority case.
3. Priority cases will not be granted continuances absent good cause. Generally good cause will not include lack of an offer, ongoing plea negotiations, new charges, or the fact of other pending cases. The court shall place findings on record.
4. Priority cases will be set for trial with priority given to the oldest case by case number. A defendant who is in custody will have priority for trial over a defendant who is not in custody. A case short on Rule 45 time will also be given priority considerations for trial.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated at Kotzebue, Alaska this 7th day of July 2026.


DAVID L. ROGHAIR
Presiding Judge
Second Judicial District

¹ *Supreme Court Order No. 2038*

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