



Alaska Court System
303 K Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

Press Release

Contacts: Jeannie Sato, Director of Access to Justice Services, jsato@akcourts.gov, 907-264-0877
Rebecca Koford, Public Information Officer, rkoford@akcourts.gov, 907-264-0570

Court System Launches New AI Chatbot to Help Alaskans Navigate Probate

Anchorage, Alaska, March 2, 2026 – The Alaska Court System is introducing a new generative artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot designed to help Alaskans find clear, reliable information about what to do when a loved one dies. [AVA \(Alaska Virtual Assistant\)](#) is a chatbot that guides customers through common questions about probate—the court process for distributing a person’s estate (dealing with the assets and debts) after their death.

Most people handle probate without an attorney, and it can be difficult to know where to begin. AVA helps users understand the steps involved, identify the forms they may need, and reduce the stress families often experience during an already challenging time.

Using court-approved information, the chatbot answers questions about probate procedures and provides links to the Court System’s self-help webpages. While it does not provide legal advice, it offers helpful explanations and directs customers to trustworthy resources. Topics include:

- Types of probate cases to deal with an estate,
- Wills and trusts,
- Personal representatives and their responsibilities,
- Options for distributing property without opening an estate, and
- Court forms and filing requirements.

“This tool represents an important step forward in making the justice system more accessible,” said Stacey Marz, Administrative Director of the Court System. “Families facing the loss of a loved one need clear information during an often very challenging time in their lives. By using innovative technology, we hope to help people get the guidance they need in a streamlined way.”

The chatbot is part of the Court System’s broader effort to expand access to justice and improve customer service. The project was made possible through a grant from the [National Center for State Courts](#), in partnership with [LawDroid](#). Over the past year, the Court System worked closely with project partners to customize and train the chatbot on Alaska’s probate processes.

[Learn more about AVA](#)

About the Alaska Court System: The mission of the [Alaska Court System](#) is to provide an accessible and impartial forum for the just resolution of all cases that come before it, and to decide such cases in accordance with the law, expeditiously and with integrity.