

IN THE SUPREME COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA

ORDER NO. 501

Amending Paragraphs 1 and 8 of
the Plan for Media Coverage of
Supreme Court, Court of
Appeals, and Trial Courts of
the State of Alaska.

IT IS ORDERED:

The Plan for Media Coverage governing media activity in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and Trial Courts of the State of Alaska is revised by amending and relettering paragraph 1, and by amending and relettering paragraph 8, as set forth below:

PLAN FOR MEDIA COVERAGE OF JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

This plan for media coverage of judicial proceedings applies to proceedings conducted by the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Superior Courts, and District Courts in Alaska.

1. Equipment and Personnel.

(a) No television, radio, or still camera equipment shall be allowed in a courtroom during a civil proceeding before a trial court [PROCEEDING] unless prior permission has been obtained from [COUNSEL FOR ALL PARTIES AND] the judge presiding at the proceeding.

(b) No television, radio or still camera equipment shall be allowed in a courtroom during a criminal proceeding before a trial court unless prior permission has been obtained from the defendant and the judge presiding at the proceeding.

~~[(b)]~~ (c) No television, radio, or still camera equipment shall be allowed in a courtroom during an appellate proceeding in the supreme court or court of appeals unless prior permission has been obtained from the [SUPREME] court.

(d) Media coverage is prohibited in proceedings involving juveniles, divorce, dissolution of marriage, domestic violence, child support, child custody and visitation, adoption, paternity, and other family matters. For media coverage of proceedings which deal with sexual offenses, the permission of the victim, the defendant and the judge shall be required.

[(c)] (e) Not more than two portable television cameras (or 16 mm. sound or film cameras), operated by not more than one camera operator each, shall be permitted in any trial court proceeding. In Anchorage, not more than one such camera operated by one camera operator shall be permitted in the hearing room adjacent to the traffic courtroom on the first floor of the "old" court building and in Courtrooms "B", "D", "H", and "K" in the "new" court building unless the judge presiding at a proceeding held in one of these rooms specifically authorizes an additional camera and operator. Not more than two television cameras (or 16 mm. sound or film cameras), operated by not more than one camera operator each, shall be permitted in any court of appeals or supreme court proceeding.

[(d)] (f) Not more than two still photographers operating not more than two still cameras each shall be permitted in any trial court proceeding. Not more than two still photographers operating not more than two cameras each shall be permitted in any court of appeals or supreme court proceeding.

[(e)] (g) Not more than two audio systems for radio broadcast purposes shall be permitted in any proceeding in a trial court, court of appeals, or supreme court proceeding.

[(f)] (h) Audio pickup for all media purposes shall be accomplished from existing audio systems present in the court facility. The court will provide audio connections for the media at line level output and limited in trial court proceedings to the microphones located at the witness chair and the jury box.

[(g)] (i) "Pooling" arrangements among the media required by these limitations on equipment and personnel shall be the sole responsibility of the media without calling upon the court or court personnel to mediate any dispute as to the appropriate media representative or equipment authorized to cover a particular proceeding. In the absence of media agreement on disputed equipment or personnel issues, the court shall exclude all contesting media from a proceeding.

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8. Procedures for Obtaining Approval.

(a) Media personnel desiring to cover a civil proceeding before a trial court [PROCEEDING] shall submit a request to the Area Court Administrator on a form provided by the [ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR'S] Area Court Administrator's Office. The Area Court Administrator shall immediately forward the request to the judge assigned to the proceeding. If no judge has been assigned to the proceeding at the time the request is submitted, the request shall be forwarded immediately after assignment is made. [IT SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MEDIA PERSONNEL TO OBTAIN WRITTEN CONSENT FROM COUNSEL AND TO SUBMIT SUCH CONSENT AS PART OF THE REQUEST FORM.]

(b) Media personnel desiring to cover a criminal proceeding before a trial court shall submit a request to the Area Court Administrator on a form provided by the Area Court Administrator's Office. The Area Court Administrator shall immediately forward the request to the judge assigned to the proceeding. If no judge has been assigned to the proceeding at the time the request is submitted, the request shall be forwarded immediately after assignment is made. It shall be the responsibility of media personnel to obtain written consent from the defendant and to submit such consent as part of the request form.

[(b)] (c) Media personnel desiring to cover a supreme court or court of appeals proceeding shall submit a request to the [SUPREME] court through the office of the clerk of the [SUPREME] appellate courts on a form to be provided by the Administrative Director's Office.

[(c)] (d) Television and radio media personnel shall contact the Audio-Visual staff in the Administrative Director's Office at least one day in advance of proposed coverage to insure that all equipment will be set up in accordance with this plan and will meet the sound and light criteria set forth herein.

DATED: January 11, 1982

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 1, 1982

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Effective date February 1, 1982

/s/ Edmond W. Burke
Chief Justice

/s/ Jay A. Rabinowitz
Justice

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Justice

/s/ Warren W. Matthews, Jr.
Justice

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Justice

*Justice Connor dissents from this order.

**Justice Compton dissents from this order and would permit media coverage in all matters open to the public.

Usual distribution

[The Plan for Media Coverage, amended by this order, is contained in Supreme Court Order No. 386, dated September 27, 1979.]