

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

ORDER NO. 502

Amending Canon 3(A)(7)(c) of the Code of Judicial Conduct, Relating to Media Coverage of Proceedings in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and Trial Courts of Alaska.

IT IS ORDERED:

Canon 3(a)(7)(c) of the Code of Judicial Conduct is amended by revising subparagraph (ii), by adding a new subparagraph (iii), and by renumbering existing subparagraphs (ii) through (vi), to read as follows:

(ii) that in civil proceedings other than those listed in subparagraph (iii) permission shall [JUST] have been expressly granted by the judge [AND BY COUNSEL FOR BOTH PARTIES TO THE PROCEEDINGS], and that in criminal proceedings other than those listed in subparagraph (iii) permission shall have been expressly granted by the judge and the defendant. [, EXCEPT THAT FOR] For media coverage of Supreme Court and Court of Appeals proceedings only the permission of the Court shall be required;

(iii) that the media coverage provisions set forth in subparagraph (ii) shall not apply to matters involving juveniles, divorce, dissolution of marriage, domestic violence, child support, child custody and visitation, adoption, paternity and other family matters. Media coverage of these proceedings is prohibited. For media coverage of proceedings which deal with sexual offenses, the permission of the victim, the defendant, and the judge shall be required;

[iii] (iv) that the media activity will not distract the participants, impair the dignity of the proceedings, or interfere with the achievement of a fair and impartial hearing or trial;

[iv] (v) that in trial court proceedings, no witness, juror, or party who expresses to the judge any prior objection shall be photographed by any camera, nor shall the testimony of such a witness, juror or party be broadcast or telecast;

[v] (vi) that participating members of the media shall agree to abide by the provisions of this subsection and any approved plan for media coverage; and

[vi] (vii) that each judge shall provide the administrative director on request information concerning any media coverage of proceedings before that judge, including written reasons for any denial by the judge of permission for media coverage.

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.