

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA  
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT PALMER**

In the Matter of:

All Criminal Matters Coming  
Before the Palmer Superior Court

**Procedural Order No. 3PA-20-02**

In response to the public health emergency caused by the coronavirus pandemic and pursuant to the various orders governing the suspension and relaxation of certain court rules, the Palmer Superior Court hereby orders and clarifies as follows:<sup>1</sup> **This order applies to all Superior Court criminal matters.**

1. All hearings other than sentencing<sup>2</sup> or evidentiary hearings will be held by phone or video unless the court grants “a timely request ... for good cause shown.”<sup>3</sup> A request is not “timely” if it is made within 72 hours of a hearing date and time.
2. Change of Plea/Sentencing Hearings
  - a. A defendant may waive his or her personal appearance for a change of plea/sentencing hearing and shall indicate at the time such hearing is requested whether he/she intends to appear in person.
  - b. An out-of-custody defendant who is required to be fingerprinted at the time of the sentencing hearing may only appear by phone if arrangements are in place for fingerprinting to occur in defense counsel’s presence at the time of the hearing.
  - c. In any case where probation conditions are part of a Criminal Rule 11 agreement, parties shall file stipulated probation conditions no later than 48 hours prior to the hearing date and time. Within the filing, defense counsel shall affirm he/she has reviewed the stipulated conditions with the defendant.
3. Evidentiary Hearings
  - a. A defendant may waive his or her personal appearance for an evidentiary hearing and shall indicate at the time the hearing is requested whether he/she intends to appear in person.
  - b. For all evidentiary hearings conducted by telephone/video, exhibits must be:

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<sup>1</sup> Supreme Court Order No. 1957; Special Order of the Chief Justice No. 8131 (Amended); Special Order of the Chief Justice No. 8135; Special Order of the Chief Justice No. 8144; Amended Second Updated Presiding Judges’ Statewide Administrative Order Governing Relaxation and Suspension of Various Court Rules Based on the COVID-19 Pandemic; Third Presiding Judges’ Statewide COVID-19 Pandemic Administrative Order.

<sup>2</sup> Including combined Change of Plea/Sentencing hearings.

<sup>3</sup> Third Presiding Judges’ Statewide COVID-19 Pandemic Administrative Order, May 29, 2020, Paragraph 16.

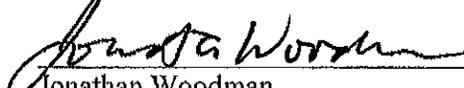
- i. Submitted with a complete exhibit list (Form No. TF-200 ANCH);
- ii. Submitted in person or by U.S. Mail if they total more than 30 pages, including the exhibit list. Otherwise, they may be submitted by fax or email<sup>4</sup>;
- iii. Received by the court no later than 48 hours prior to the hearing date and time.

4. Any party requesting a hearing by video must file a request at least 14 days prior to the hearing date.

Failure to comply with these procedures may result in the hearing being rescheduled.

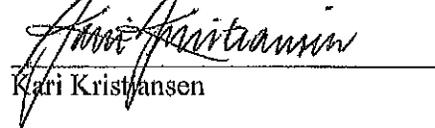
DATED at Palmer, Alaska, this 12 day of August, 2020.

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

  
Jonathan Woodman

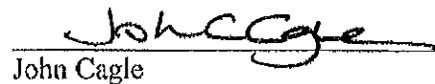
DATED at Palmer, Alaska, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020.

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

  
Kari Kristhansen

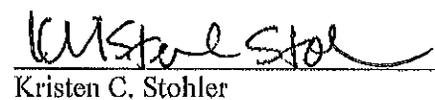
DATED at Palmer, Alaska, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020.

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

  
John Cagle

DATED at Palmer, Alaska, this 12 day of August, 2020.

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

  
Kristen C. Stohler

Distribution:

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Alaska Bar Association - 3rd District

<sup>4</sup> See [courts.alaska.gov/courtudir/efiling.htm](http://courts.alaska.gov/courtudir/efiling.htm) for a directory of e-filing addresses.