

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

In the Matter of the: )  
)  
Temporary Palmer Courthouse Policies )  
In Response to COVID-19 Pandemic ) \* **Amended**  
) DPJ Order # 3PA-20-02  
)  
)  
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On March 11, 2020, Governor Dunleavy issued a Public Health Disaster Emergency in the State of Alaska due to the coronavirus pandemic. On March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a national emergency. Also on March 13, 2020, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough took action to close all public buildings, including Borough government buildings and other public facilities from Monday, March 16, 2020 through April 1, 2020. All schools statewide will be closed through March 30, 2020. On March 15, 2020, the Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court issued a Special Order (No. 8130) suspending all jury trials the week of March 16-20.

The Palmer Trial Courts are instituting the following policies in an effort to prevent the potential spread of coronavirus in our communities:

1. All litigants and parties in non-criminal matters are required to participate in hearings by telephone unless otherwise ordered. The Palmer court telephone hearing number is 1-800-768-2983. Conference codes are:
  - Courtroom 1 (Magistrate Condie) – 74601#
  - Courtroom 2 (Judge Traini) – 74602#
  - Courtroom 3 (Judge Estelle) – 74603#
  - Courtroom 4 (Judge Woodman) – 74604#
  - Courtroom 5 (Judge Zwink) – 74605#
  - Courtroom 6 (Judge Stohler) – 74606#
  - Courtroom 7 (Judge Cagle) – 74607#
  - Courtroom 8 (Judge Kristiansen) – 74608#
  - Hearing Room 9 – 74609#
  - Hearing Room 10 – 74610# **\*amended**
  - In-Custody Docket (Daily 1:00 p.m. hearings, holiday and weekend hearings) – 7468181#

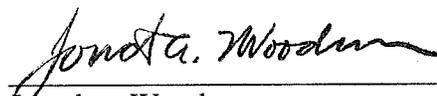
Parties and counsel who appear by telephone for a hearing are expected to call in by its scheduled start time. Please plan to be on hold for extended periods for larger “block hearings” where numerous cases are scheduled for the same time.

2. Parties are encouraged to move to continue any non-emergency evidentiary hearings. Continuances will be liberally granted and, in some cases, may be ordered on our own initiative. Requests to continue can be made by fax at the following numbers:
  - Magistrate Condie – 746-8152
  - District Court – 746-8151
  - Woodman/Stohler – 746-8150
  - Kristiansen/Cagle – 746-8149
  
3. All felony criminal defendants may waive their presence at any hearing other than an evidentiary hearing, trial, change of plea, or sentencing by consenting to proceed pursuant to Alaska Rule of Criminal Procedure 38(b)(1). All misdemeanor criminal defendants may waive their presence at any hearing pursuant to Alaska Rule of Criminal Procedure 38(b)(2). The court will consider allowing felony criminal defendants to participate by telephone at evidentiary hearings, changes of plea, and sentencing on a case-by-case basis.

Any transport order issued prior to March 16, 2020 is hereby modified to require telephonic participation. Attorneys shall make arrangements for any in-custody client who has not waived his or her presence to appear by phone.

The situation regarding the coronavirus pandemic is changing rapidly. The court will issue further orders as necessary.

DATED at Palmer, Alaska this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020



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Jonathan Woodman  
Deputy Presiding Judge, Palmer Trial Courts