

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SPECIAL ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

ORDER NO. 8168

AMENDED

Presumptive Death Videoconference Proceedings

Under the authority of Supreme Court Order No. 1957,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. Trial courts may conduct presumptive death proceedings (under AS 09.55.020-.060) by videoconference;¹
2. At the presumptive death trial, the trial judge may allow witnesses, interpreters, attorneys, jurors, and other required participants to participate by videoconference, but the trial judge must be personally present at the courthouse;²
3. The trial judge shall ensure that all jurors can see, hear, and communicate with the other participants; and
4. At the conclusion of deliberations, the jury may deliver the verdict appearing by videoconference. The foreperson shall state the verdict on the record; the verdict need not be in writing. The court may poll the jury as to the verdict by asking each juror if it is the juror's verdict.

DATED: August 3, 2020



Joel H. Bolger
Chief Justice

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¹ No. 1 expands the authorization to conduct presumptive death trials by videoconference to all trial court locations (instead of only the Third Judicial District).

² No. 2 was edited to remove language referencing the pilot project because presumptive death trials are now authorized in all locations.