



Press Release

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Beginning July 1, 2016 Court System to Close Courts Statewide on Fridays at Noon to Help Reduce Operating Costs

Anchorage, Alaska, June 15, 2016: Beginning July 1, 2016, the Alaska Court System will close courts and court offices statewide at noon every Friday to reduce operating costs. Some designated courts will be open for certain emergency and time-critical proceedings. These proceedings include petitions for domestic violence protective orders and other emergency protective orders, petitions for involuntary mental health commitments, and petitions for an emergency guardianship or conservatorship. Local signage and the court system web page will have information on where and how these matters will be handled at courts throughout the state. The Anchorage Jail Court will also operate on Friday afternoons for in-custody arraignments.

Any filing that is due on a day that the court is closed for either a full day or a partial day will be considered timely filed if it is filed by close of business on the next regular business day. See [SCO 1875](#) (amending Civil Rule 6(a), Criminal Rule 40(a), and Appellate Rule 502(a) on a temporary basis).

During these closures, court system staff will be on unpaid furlough. This statewide reduction in staff hours will save approximately \$2 million per year, and will result in a 4 percent salary reduction for employees. In order to adapt to the state's current fiscal challenges, the court system has implemented a number of other cost saving measures, including reducing its workforce by 9 percent by not filling positions as they become vacant. All cost-saving measures are designed to generate savings while minimizing the impact on access to justice.