IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

ORDER NO. 8189

Update Regarding COVID-19 and Jury Trials

As the court system begins to open up additional court proceedings, questions have arisen about the requirements of face coverings and social distancing. This order is intended to update Order No. 8149 and Order No. 8183 and similar previous orders. Accordingly, under the authority of Supreme Court Order No. 1957,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. During courtroom proceedings, the judge may authorize removal of masks or face coverings as necessary, including for purposes of witness testimony, defendant identification, or making an appropriate record, provided that appropriate social distancing or other protective measures are followed.

2. Likewise, with the consent of the affected participants, the judge may authorize participants who have an ongoing professional relationship to sit or confer without maintaining the usual social distancing. This includes criminal defendants and their attorneys and prosecutors and their case officers. But the participants shall continue to wear their masks or face coverings unless the judge authorizes removal for purposes of witness testimony, defendant identification, making an appropriate record, or similar necessity.

DATED: September 2, 2020

Joel H. Bolger
Chief Justice

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