IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SPECIAL ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE
ORDER NO. 8130

On March 11, 2020, Governor Dunleavy issued a Public Health Disaster Emergency due to the potential spread of the novel coronavirus disease. On March 13, President Trump declared that the novel coronavirus outbreak constitutes a national emergency. On March 13, Governor Dunleavy issued a mandate closing all public schools statewide until March 30.

These emergency declarations may affect the availability of court staff, attorneys, and jurors to begin new jury trials. The Second and Third Judicial Districts have already cancelled new jury trials for the coming week. On March 19, the Alaska Supreme Court is scheduled to consider an emergency order relaxing court rules in response to this potential outbreak. In the meantime, these circumstances provide good cause under Alaska Criminal Rule 45(d)(7) to postpone impending trials.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the court system will stop beginning new jury trials statewide for the week of March 16-20 and thereafter pending further order.

DATED: March 15, 2020

Joel H. Bolger
Chief Justice

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