IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

ORDER NO. 8131

AMENDED[1]

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and under the authority of Supreme Court Order No. 1957,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. Beginning March 23, 2020, all superior court and district court proceedings are suspended through April 3, except the following priority hearings:

    a. Arraignments;
    b. Felony first appearances;
    c. Bail hearings;
    d. Change of plea and sentencing hearings;
    e. Adjudication and disposition hearings on petitions to revoke probation;
    f. Habeas corpus applications;
    g. CINA temporary custody and permanency hearings;
    h. CINA hearings for review of secure residential psychiatric placement;
    i. Mental health evaluation, involuntary commitment, and psychotropic medication proceedings;
    j. Domestic violence proceedings;
    k. Alcohol and drug commitment proceedings;
    l. Quarantine and isolation proceedings;
    m. Juvenile delinquency arraignment and detention hearings;
    n. Search warrant and arrest warrant proceedings; and
    o. Temporary guardianship and conservatorship proceedings.

[1] The initial order inadvertently stated the incorrect year for the start date in No. 1. The list of priority proceedings now includes arrest warrants and permanency hearings.

2. The active district court judges throughout the state are appointed to serve pro tempore as superior court judges for all of the foregoing proceedings except sentencing proceedings in class A and unclassified felony cases.

3. Judges shall not begin any new jury trials in criminal and civil cases through April 3. The period of this delay will continue to be excluded in computing the time for trial under Alaska Criminal Rule 45(d).

4. Grand jury proceedings are also suspended beginning March 23 through April 3. The time limits for preliminary examination under Alaska Criminal Rule 5(e) are extended for this period. A presiding judge may call the grand jury or grant a preliminary examination in an individual case in the interest of justice.

DATED: March 19, 2020

Joel H. Bolger
Chief Justice

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