# IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

# SPECIAL ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

# ORDER NO. 8149

Regarding COVID-19 Visitor Health Precautions

Under the authority of Supreme Court Order NO. 1957,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. All visitors to Alaska Court System courthouses must take precautions to keep other members of the public and court staff safe.

2. Visitors may be required to undergo a screening protocol, which may include questions about:

    a. whether the visitor has recently suffered flu-like symptoms;

    b. whether the visitor has travelled on an in-state or interstate flight in the last 14 days;

    c. whether the visitor has been directed to quarantine, isolate or self-monitor at home for the COVID-19 by a medical provider; and

    d. whether the visitor has been diagnosed with or had close contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19.

3. The screening protocol may include body temperature screening using a non-contact thermometer.

4. Visitors are strongly encouraged to wear a mask or other face covering.

5. 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.

6. The presiding judge may make these policies mandatory for any court location or district. Court officers or employees may exclude visitors who refuse to cooperate, those who fail the screening protocol, and those who refuse to wear a mask or face covering in violation of a presiding judge's order.

DATED: May 20, 2020

Joel H. Bolger
Chief Justice

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