

IN THE TRIAL COURTS FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA

In the Matter of:

Media Coverage of Court Proceedings.

**PRESIDING JUDGES' SECOND AMENDED¹ STATEWIDE
ORDER ON THE PROTOCOL FOR PHOTOGRAPHING, RECORDING, OR
STREAMING A COURT PROCEEDING IN COURT LOCATIONS WHERE SOCIAL
DISTANCING IS REQUIRED**

On April 22, 2022, the Chief Justice issued Special Order of the Chief Justice [8397](#), specifying that the risk assessment tool utilized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention² would be used to determine when masking and social distancing would be required in Alaska's courthouses.

Under Chief Justice Special Order 8397, strict social distancing is only required in those communities with a designated CDC Community Level of "high," (or in those court locations where the presiding judge has used relevant local data to make a different decision regarding social distancing).³ In any community with a CDC Community Level of "medium," the trial court judge will determine whether to require social distancing or masking, but will not require both.

In those communities where social distancing is required, the following statewide media protocol for the photographing, recording, and streaming of court proceedings must be followed.

IT IS ORDERED:

1. Media coverage of court proceedings will be by remote participation. Remote participation may be by streamed video or telephonic conference, depending on the judge and

¹ The purpose of this amendment is to substitute references to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services alert levels with references to the CDC Community Level

² <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

³ Special Order of the Chief Justice [8397](#) at ¶12.

proceeding. Information or access to livestreamed hearings can be found at <https://stream.akcourts.gov/>. Information about trials or hearings where the public can listen by phone can be found at: <https://courts.alaska.gov/covid19/index.htm#telephonic>.

2. Recording or taking a screenshot from a livestreamed hearing is prohibited absent specific permission to do so from the court. Such requests may be made by completing an Application for Photographing, Filming, Recording, or Streaming a Court Proceeding (form [TF-945](#) Application - Approval - Media Coverage).⁴ Completed forms should be forwarded to the Area Court Administrator for the appropriate judicial district.

3. Notwithstanding this temporary exception, Administrative Bulletin 45 and Administrative Rule 50 remain in full force and effect.

Dated May 19, 2022.

/s/ Amy Mead
Amy Mead
Presiding Judge First Judicial District

/s/ Paul Roetman
Paul A. Roetman
Presiding Judge Second Judicial District

/s/ William Morse
William F. Morse
Presiding Judge Third Judicial District

/s/ Terrence Haas
Terrence Haas
Presiding Judge Fourth Judicial District

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⁴ <https://public.courts.alaska.gov/web/forms/docs/tf-945.pdf>. In order to request permission to take a screenshot or record a livestream, check “other” and write in “screenshots,” “video recording,” or “audio recording” on form TF-945.