

**IN THE TRIAL COURTS FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA  
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**In the Matter of:**

**Ketchikan Trials and In-Person Grand  
Jury**

**First Judicial District.**

**PRESIDING JUDGE ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 21-07  
RE: KETCHIKAN**

On February 1, 2021, in-person grand jury proceedings were authorized to resume as of February 8, 2021 per Special Order of the Chief Justice No. 8234. Similarly, on March 1, 2021, Special Order of the Chief Justice No. 8242 allowed misdemeanor jury trials to resume as of April 19, 2021. Both orders authorize the presiding judge of each district to limit or suspend proceedings for any location if the average daily case rate over 14 days as reported by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services rises above 20-30 cases per 100,000 population or if the local risk level is otherwise seriously elevated.<sup>1</sup>

The current situation in Ketchikan necessitates suspending both misdemeanor trials and grand jury at this time. On May 4, 2021, the community risk level was changed to “high” after 31 new cases were reported over the preceding week. According to the most recent data from the Department of Health and Social Services, Ketchikan’s average case rate over 14 days is 18.3 (per 100,000) and 23 (per 100,000) over the last 7 days. The case rates are expected to continue to escalate.

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<sup>1</sup> See also Special Order of the Chief Justice No. 8259 dated April 6, 2021.

IT IS ORDERED:

1. Ketchikan trials and in-person grand jury proceedings are suspended until May 21, 2021. Whether it is necessary to continue the suspension beyond May 21, 2021 will be reviewed on Monday, May 17, 2021.

2. The time limits for preliminary examination under Alaska Criminal Rule 5(e) are extended through May 21, 2021.<sup>2</sup>

Dated at Juneau, Alaska on May 5, 2021.

  
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Amy Mead  
Presiding Judge  
First Judicial District



**Distribution:** Chief Justice Joel Bolger; Stacey Marz, Administrative Director; First District Judges; First District Magistrates; First District Clerks of Court; Lesa Robertson, Executive Administrator; James Kwon, ACA; Clayton Jones, Rural Court Training Assistant; SBA; JBA; KBA.

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<sup>2</sup> See Special Order of the Chief Justice No. 8234; Supreme Court Order No. 1957.