

IN THE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT ANCHORAGE

In the Matter of:)
)
Anchorage District Court)
In-person Hearings)
_____)

AMENDED
PJ ORDER #1051

ORDER REGARDING IN PERSON HEARINGS IN ANCHORAGE DISTRICT COURT

Prior to the COVID pandemic, the Anchorage District Court required all participants to appear in person unless a motion requesting telephonic participation was filed and granted. The intent of this Order is to return the Anchorage District Court to pre-COVID status with certain exceptions consistent with SCO No. 2012. This order does not apply to Traffic or civil Domestic Violence hearings.

IT IS ORDERED:

(1) The following hearings in criminal cases (in-custody and out of custody) are **presumptively in-person**¹ as provided in Criminal Rules 38 and 38.1 and below:

- Arraignments – In addition to TrueFiling charging documents, prosecutors shall provide a hard copy to the in-court clerk at the assigned courtroom prior to the start of the arraignment block hearing.²
- Change of Plea, Bail Hearings, Rule 5 Hearings - For bail hearings, proposed third-party custodians and other witnesses must appear in person;
- Wellness Court, Veterans Court, and CRP court, including pre-meet;
- Representation Hearings, Evidentiary Hearings, and other special sets, including contested adjudications, SEJs, and DSAs;

¹ "Presumptively in-person hearing" means a proceeding conducted in a courtroom or other designated site, and attended in-person by all parties who can reasonably do so, unless otherwise permitted by the hearing judge or district presiding judge order. SCO No. 2012 at p. 1

² The expectation that prosecutors will provide copies of the charging documents for defendants is not new. The amendment to this order deletes the requirement that prosecutors appear 30 minutes early. Counsel are still expected to provide the documents as soon as possible so that Defendants may have a reasonable opportunity to review the charges before being arraigned.

(2) In the following hearings, Defendants may appear by phone or waive their appearance as provided, so long as counsel is present in person:

- Trial Call and Trial Status hearings - Defendants may appear telephonic;
- Pretrial Conferences and Motion Call - Defendants in good contact with their attorney or with a consent to proceed may waive their appearance;
- Pre-indictment Hearings – Defendants in good contact with their attorney or with a consent to proceed may waive their appearance, except as follows:
 - Out-of-custody defendants with a case number of 2022 or older are required to appear in person. See *PJO 3AN-AO-24-05*.
 - Starting **March 1, 2025**, out-of-custody defendants with a case number of 2023 or older will be required to appear in person.

(3) The following hearings in criminal cases are **presumptively-remote**:

- Uncontested Probation Hearings –Consistent with SCOP 2012, the current practice will continue.

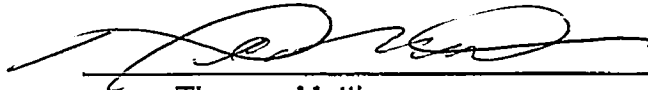
(4) The following hearings in civil cases are **presumptively in-person**:

- Small claims
- Damage phase of FED Hearings
- Judicial Settlement Conferences

(5) Possession phase of FED hearings and all other civil hearings are **presumptively-remote** unless otherwise ordered.

(6) Telephonic participation (for all hearing types civil/criminal)- Absent exceptional circumstances, or as noted above, parties/attorneys required to appear in court shall do so in person. However, a party or attorney located outside the Municipality of Anchorage may appear by telephone for a block hearing without filing a request for telephonic participation.

Date: 2/27/25



Thomas Matthews
Presiding Judge
Third Judicial District

Date: 2/27/25



Pamela Scott Washington
Deputy Presiding Judge
Anchorage District Court

- Distribution
Chief Justice
Administrative Director
Area Court Administrator, 3rd District
Anchorage Clerk of Court
Anchorage Judges
Anchorage MJ's
Court Rules Attorney
District Attorney's Office
Municipal Attorney's Office
Public Defender Agency
Office of Public Advocacy
Denali Law Group
Private Attorneys