



Press Release

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Palmer Court Re-Starting Jury Trials in April *Grand Jurors Returned in March; Telephonic Hearings Continue*

Palmer, AK, March 25, 2022 - Beginning the first week of April, the Palmer court will hold the first criminal jury trial in courtroom 7 since the extreme weather event in early January caused extensive damage to the courthouse. Beginning in May, two more courtrooms – 6 and 8 - will also be functional for jury trials, and by summer all courtrooms should be re-opened. Telephonic hearings in all criminal and civil case types continue to occur in courtrooms 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10. These include felony, misdemeanor, and delinquency cases, and civil matters – including Child in Need of Aid (CINA), domestic relations, domestic violence, probate, small claims, minor offense, and general civil cases.

The Palmer court will join the rest of Alaska state courts which [began hearing jury trials again on January 10, 2022](#) after COVID-19 related suspensions were lifted. Since then, seventy-nine jury trials have been held statewide. This is significantly more trials than occurred before January despite the fact that in individual cases, parties could ask for trials during the periods of general jury trial suspensions.

For jury trials, the court system is implementing an array of measures to ensure the safety of everyone involved – jurors, court staff, the general public, defendants, attorneys and judicial officers. More details on the safety measures courts are taking including bringing in smaller groups of jurors, holding fewer trials at once, social distancing, and larger spaces for deliberations, are described in the [juror safety guide](#).

The Palmer court continues to have grand jury since March 2. The court system released a grand jury video on [social media platforms](#) featuring Palmer Superior Court Judge Cagle which provides jurors with a preview of what they can expect when they come to the courthouse.

The court system would like to thank the community for its support and understanding as we work to remediate and repair the damage from the storm, and re-start trials.

For updates, please check the Alaska Court System [Facebook page](#) or [Twitter account](#).

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