

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

In the Matter of:

Jury Trials in the First Judicial District.

PRESIDING JUDGE ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 21-34

Chief Justice Special Order 8352 provides that criminal jury trials will resume on January 10, 2022, absent extraordinary circumstances.¹ In anticipation of trials, the presiding judge of each district has been directed to consider imposing mitigation measures – beyond those already required – to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

IT IS ORDERED:

1. Trials shall be conducted in accordance with the guidance set out in the Alaska Court System publication *Conducting Criminal and Civil Jury Trials, and Grand Jury During the COVID-19 Pandemic* (March 4, 2021)² and in Chief Justice Special Order 8194 at sections C and D.³
2. In Ketchikan, only one felony trial may proceed at any given time.
3. In Juneau, only one in-custody felony trial may proceed at any given time.
4. In both Ketchikan and Juneau, only one trial may proceed with in-person jury

¹ “Criminal jury trials will proceed unless a trial court is unable to socially distance all participants, enforce masking, or provide a sufficient number of jurors because of local COVID-19 outbreaks reflected by school closures, hospital alerts, stay-at-home ordinances, or travel restrictions.” Chief Justice Special Order 8352.

² <https://courts.alaska.gov/covid19/docs/conducting-trials-gj-pandemic.pdf>; see Chief Justice Special Order 8331.

³ Chief Justice Special Order 8331.

selection at any given time in either court location.

5. COVID-19 testing shall be made available to all prospective jurors during in-person jury selection and at regular intervals during trial.

6. Movement of jurors through the courthouses shall be kept to a minimum. This may require that jurors remain in the courtroom during breaks and for deliberation.

7. Public access to trial shall be by online audio or video streaming, absent extraordinary circumstances.

8. Prior to the start of any trial, the trial court judge shall consider whether additional mitigation measures are necessary to protect public health given current conditions.

Dated at Juneau, Alaska on December 31, 2021.



Amy Mead, Presiding Judge
First Judicial District

Distribution: Chief Justice Daniel Winfree; 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; Juneau District Attorney's Office, Public Defender Agency, and Office of Public Advocacy; Sitka District Attorney's Office, Public Defender Agency, and Office of Public Advocacy; Ketchikan District Attorney's Office, Public Defender Agency, and Office of Public Advocacy; CBJ Law Department and Public Defender; Court Rules Attorney; Office of Special Prosecutions.