

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

In the Matter of:)
)
Anchorage Jail Court) PJ ORDER # 925
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_____)

Prior to the COVID pandemic the Anchorage district court held arraignments, bail hearings, and Rule 5 hearings at the court facility in the Anchorage Correctional Center on mornings and afternoons. Judges, in-court clerks, prosecutors, defense counsel, and members of the public attended those hearings in person. Most defendants also appeared in person, some having been transported to the Anchorage Correctional Center from other facilities. A few defendants participated by telephone.

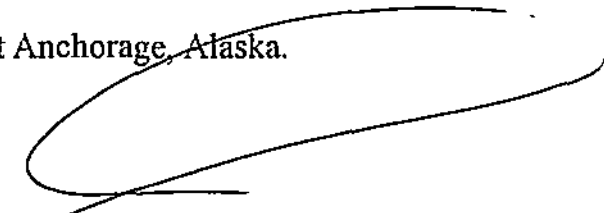
Because of the COVID pandemic the district court has held these hearings remotely since late November 2020. A judge and an in-court clerk attended from a courtroom in the Boney or Nesbett courthouse. All other participants attended by telephone. Defendants attended from the facility where they were housed. This required the in-court clerk to make a telephone call for each defendant from the various facilities. Charging documents were emailed to the in-court clerk, requiring them to print them for the files and often distribute them to the facilities where each defendant was incarcerated. This arrangement caused the hearings to take far longer than when held in person.

With the easing of the pandemic it is appropriate and possible to return to in-person court hearings at the Anchorage Correctional Center.

1. Effective 9 May 2022 district court arraignments, bail hearings, COPs, and Criminal Rule 5 hearings for in-custody defendants shall be held at the Anchorage Correctional Center. The judge and in-court clerk shall appear in person.

2. Prosecutors and defense counsel must appear in person.
3. Defendants incarcerated at the Anchorage Correctional Center (both facilities) and Hiland Mountain Correctional Center shall be transported to the hearings. Defendants incarcerated at the Goose Creek Correctional Center shall attend the hearings by telephone.
4. Prosecutors shall provide charging documents (an original and two copies, all in hard copy) to the in-court clerk at the Anchorage Correctional Center no later than 30 minutes before the start of the arraignment block hearing. Failure to provide the documents in a timely manner may result in sanctions, including the release of the defendant.
5. Requests for bail hearings must be provided to the court and the prosecutor at least 48 hours before the start of the block bail hearing. Failure to provide the documents in a timely manner may result in sanctions, including having the hearing continued.
6. The proponent of the bail hearing shall be responsible for generating the bail order.

DONE this 26th day of April 2022, at Anchorage, Alaska.



William F. Morse
Presiding Judge
Third Judicial District

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