IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, ANCHORAGE

ORDER

Regarding Criminal Superior Court Hearings in June

IT IS ORDERED:

- 1. Beginning June 1, 2020, we may now calendar evidentiary hearings and sentencing hearings, with parties and defendants coming to court if necessary. Telephonic participation is preferred. If the parties elect to have in person sentencing and evidentiary hearings, all parties and defendants must wear a mask and practice social distancing while in court. If the parties anticipate additional individuals wanting to participate in these hearings, they must notify chambers indicating how many people they anticipate wanting to attend the hearings so that accommodations can be made.
- 2. Beginning June 1, 2020, we will be conducting out-of-custody felony change of plea hearings. Again, defendants may come to the court but must wear a mask. The hearings will be limited to accommodate social distancing. If parties want to move up any out-of-custody felony change of plea hearings currently set for July 17, 2020, please contact Lynn Perez in Judge Easter's chambers and she can calendar those hearings.
- 3. Beginning June 1, 2020, we will be conducting pre-trial conferences for felony criminal cases. The goal is to look at every case currently set for a pre-trial conference hearing in June. They will be telephonic hearings. The procedures at the hearings will be as follows:
 - a. Defendants in custody will not be transported to court nor will they be telephonic unless requested by their attorney 48 hours before the hearing. If in-custody defendants wish to appear telephonically for their pre-trial conference hearing, please be advised that there will be no opportunity to speak confidentially with the defendants at the hearing. Out-of-custody defendants do not need to call in for the hearing.
 - b. The court will inquire regarding the status of discovery, whether the parties anticipate filing motions in the case and if so whether an evidentiary hearing needs to be scheduled.
 - c. As much as possible the assigned district attorney and defense attorney should participate in the hearing. If this is not possible, the attorney covering the hearing must have detailed notes regarding discovery issues and motions.
 - d. All pre-trial conferences from June will be continued to July through August 6, 2020 with Rule 45 tolled pursuant to the Supreme Court's April 24, 2020 Administrative Order. The parties may continue to a date past August 6, 2020 with a Rule 45 waiver.
 - e. There will be no off record continuances unless the defense attorney files notice with the court and district attorney indicating that they have complete discovery and that

- they do not intend to file any motions. The hearing may also be continued if the case is scheduled for a change of plea hearing.
- f. Each Judge will set their own schedule regarding their pre-trial conference hearings on the day their pre-trial conferences are typically held.

DATED: May 19, 2020

William Morse

Presiding Judge Third Judicial District

Catherine M. Easter

Deputy Presiding Judge Anchorage Superior Court