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

In the Matter of the:)	
Suspension of Certain Hearings,)))	PJ ORDER # 847
)	

Effective 18 March 2020, the following prioritization of court hearings will take effect in Anchorage, Palmer, and Kenai.

- 1. In-custody arraignments and bail hearings (both criminal and juvenile) shall proceed. If possible, defendants, counsel, and others shall attend by video or telephone.
- 2. Change of plea hearings shall proceed. Parties may schedule bail and change of plea hearings by email or fax.
- 3. Pretrial conferences, trial calls, adjudications of petitions to revoke probation, and omnibus hearings are suspended.
- 4. Change of pleas and sentencings of defendants likely to be released from custody soon will be given priority over those cases with likely lengthier sentences. Individual judges shall make the determination of what changes of plea and sentencings should be held.
- Anchorage pre-indictment hearings are suspended. However, on 19 March 2020 the PIH shall proceed, but only for those defendants who were arrested since 12 March 2020 and are still in custody. Subsequent PIHs shall be limited to those defendants who were arrested since the previous PIH and are still in custody. Preliminary hearings in Palmer and Kenai are suspended. Time is tolled in all suspended cases. Criminal Rule 5(e).
- 6. Therapeutic courts and the PACE hearings are suspended.
- 7. Competency hearings are suspended. However, hearings may proceed telephonically, if the defendant waives his or her in-person presence.
- 8. Police officials may submit applications for search warrant by telephone or affidavit. If submitted by affidavit, the application shall include a telephone number at which the officer may be reached.

- 9. Time is tolled in all criminal and traffic cases. Criminal Rule 45(d)(7).
- 10. Hearings on petitions for domestic violence, stalking orders (both ex parte and long term), and for testing/isolation/quarantine orders shall proceed.
- 11. Hearings on petitions for Title 47 involuntary commitment or medication orders shall proceed.
- 12. Hearings on temporary custody petitions in CINA and juvenile delinquency cases and CINA .087 hearings shall proceed.
- 13. All traffic, change of name, FED, and small claims cases and marriage ceremonies are suspended.
- 14. All domestic relations hearings are suspended, except litigants may seek to have hearings on emergency child custody issues.
- 15. All other civil case hearings are suspended, except litigants may seek to have hearings on emergency issues.
- 16. To the extent possible litigants and counsel shall attend hearings by video or telephone. A request to attend a civil hearing or non-jury trial in person shall be addressed to the assigned judge.
- 17. This Order and the suspensions will be revisited no later than 31 March 2020 as the results of the quarantines are evaluated.
- 18. The possible application of this Order or a variant of it to other court locations within the Third Judicial District is being evaluated.

DONE this 17th day of March 2020, at Anchorage, Alaska.

William F. Morse Presiding Judge Third Judicial District **Distribution**

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