

Chambers of
Joel H. Bolger
Chief Justice

Supreme Court
State of Alaska

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Dear Prospective Jurors,

As Alaska is opening up in phases, we will start up some jury-related processes. Our primary concern is with the health and safety of jurors, witnesses, parties, employees, and judges, and we have been consulting with Dr. Anne Zink, Chief Medical Officer for the State of Alaska about what safeguards should be in place.

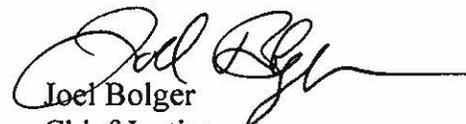
Some planned measures to ensure your safety when coming to an Alaska courthouse:

- **Health screenings.** Jurors will be screened before coming to the courthouse and upon arrival for COVID-19 risk factors. If you know you have been exposed to COVID-19 or have COVID-19 like symptoms, do not come to the courthouse, but call to let us know your situation.
- **Face coverings** may be required for visitors to the courthouse, so please bring your own. Wearing a face covering reduces the possibility of transmitting the virus to others.
- **Pre-service questions.** Potential jurors will be asked some preliminary questions online and by phone so the attorneys can decide whether each juror needs to come in for further questions.
- **Social distancing.** Jurors will come to courthouses in much smaller groups to larger spaces than was the practice before, so that everyone is able to maintain at least six feet of separation.
- **Enhanced hygiene protocols** as recommended by the CDC are in place statewide in all court locations including: Cleaning of common areas frequently with bleach wipes, hand sanitizer at public counters, and plexiglas screens at customer service counters.

If serving at the assigned time would be inconvenient, you can ask to postpone your service to a better time within the next 10 months. If service would be a substantial hardship due to medical or significant financial problems, you can request to be excused for up to one year. If your doctor certifies in writing that you have a permanent disability, or if you are 70 or older, you will be excused permanently from further jury service upon request.

We appreciate that the uncertainty surrounding jury service right now may be weighing on you. Please know that we will not ask you to serve unless we can do so safely.

Sincerely,


Joel Bolger
Chief Justice