

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

In the Matter of:

Palmer Court Trial Priority

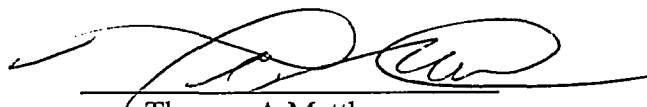
PJ Order #1063

Effective May 16, 2025, Supreme Court Order No. 2038 modifies Criminal Rule 45 to limit the number of additional continuances in criminal cases filed in 2022 or earlier. Criminal Rule 45 also requires courts to give scheduling preference to criminal trials.

The Palmer court continues to experience the highest number of filed cases per judicial officer in Alaska. A significant flooding event in 2022 further impacted operations at the Palmer courthouse, compounding delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and contributing to a substantial backlog of unresolved criminal cases.

In light of Supreme Court Order No. 2038 and the court's obligation to prioritize criminal proceedings, Palmer judicial officers may vacate certain previously scheduled civil matters to allow for the scheduling and resolution of older criminal cases. This measure is necessary to comply with Supreme Court Order No. 2038 and to avoid dismissal of unresolved criminal cases. Parties with civil matters affected by this scheduling reprioritization will receive notice by separate order. The court thanks all affected parties for their patience and understanding. This is a temporary measure as the court continues to work towards resolving the backlog of criminal cases that fall under SCO 2038.

DATED this 21st day of May, 2025 at Anchorage, Alaska.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas A. Matthews', is written over a horizontal line.

Thomas A Matthews
Presiding Judge
Third Judicial District

Distribution:

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