

IN THE TRIAL COURTS FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA

In the Matter of:

Media Coverage of Court Proceedings.

**PRESIDING JUDGES' AMENDED STATEWIDE  
ORDER ON THE PROTOCOL FOR PHOTOGRAPHING, RECORDING, OR  
STREAMING A COURT PROCEEDING IN COURT LOCATIONS WHERE SOCIAL  
DISTANCING IS REQUIRED**

By their January 19, 2022 Statewide order, in recognition of the then-current Covid-19 conditions which required social distancing without exception, the presiding judges established a statewide media protocol for the photographing, recording, and streaming of court proceedings. Given that in most court locations around the State the courtrooms are only large enough to accommodate required trial participants, the January 19<sup>th</sup> order limited media coverage of court proceedings to occur by remote participation.

Since then, the rate of transmissibility in some communities has begun to trend down, warranting a relaxing of the mitigation measures previously put in place to protect public health. In recognition of the changing circumstances around the State, Special Order of the Chief Justice [8387](#) specifies that only those communities designated by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) as having a “high” alert level (defined by 100+ Covid-19 cases per 100,000) must continue to socially distance.<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, in those locations designated with a high alert level according to DHSS (or in those court locations where the presiding judge has used relevant local

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<sup>1</sup> Given the unpredictability of the virus, no modification to court procedure – including the need to socially distance - will occur until a community’s alert level falls below “high” for at least two consecutive weeks. The presiding judges will work with the local courts in each district to modify social distancing requirements as warranted.

data to make a different decision regarding social distancing requirements than the DHSS alert information system provides),<sup>2</sup> the following mitigation measure remains in place:

**IT IS ORDERED:**

1. Media coverage of court proceedings will be by remote participation. Remote participation may be by streamed video or telephonic conference, depending on the judge and proceeding. Information or access to livestreamed hearings can be found at <https://stream.akcourts.gov/>. Information about trials or hearings where the public can listen by phone can be found at: <https://courts.alaska.gov/covid19/index.htm#telephonic>.
2. Recording or taking a screenshot from a livestreamed hearing is prohibited absent specific permission to do so from the court. Such requests may be made by completing an Application for Photographing, Filming, Recording, or Streaming a Court Proceeding (form [TF-945](#) Application - Approval - Media Coverage).<sup>3</sup> Completed forms should be forwarded to the Area Court Administrator for the appropriate judicial district.
3. Notwithstanding this temporary exception, Administrative Bulletin 45 and Administrative Rule 50 remain in full force and effect.

Dated April 11, 2022.

/s/ Amy Mead  
Amy Mead  
Presiding Judge First Judicial District

/s/ Paul Roetman  
Paul A. Roetman  
Presiding Judge Second Judicial District

/s/ William Morse  
William F. Morse  
Presiding Judge Third Judicial District

/s/ Terrence Haas  
Terrence Haas  
Presiding Judge Fourth Judicial District

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<sup>2</sup> See Special Order of the Chief Justice [8387](#) at ¶7.

<sup>3</sup> <https://public.courts.alaska.gov/web/forms/docs/tf-945.pdf>. In order to request permission to take a screenshot or record a livestream, check “other” and write in “screenshots,” “video recording,” or “audio recording” on form TF-945.

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