



## **Press Release**

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### **Court System to Close the Day after Thanksgiving and the Day before Christmas to Help Address Cuts to Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget**

**Anchorage, Alaska, November 18, 2015.** To help address a \$3.4 million dollar cut to its Fiscal Year 2016 operating budget, the Alaska Court System will close courts statewide on certain days. During this calendar year, all courts statewide will be closed to normal business the day after Thanksgiving (Friday, November 27, 2015) and the day before Christmas (Thursday, December 24, 2015). The court will continue to conduct arraignments and emergency proceedings on these days, but most judicial officers and court staff will be on unpaid leave. Courts will remain open and accessible for emergency proceedings on November 27, 2015 and December 24, 2015. Closing court on these two days will generate significant cost savings with the lowest possible impact on the public and court staff.

The closures are among many measures that the court will take to assist it in dealing with the cuts to its budget while upholding its constitutional responsibilities and avoiding layoffs of current employees. Early in calendar year 2016, the court system will review the savings generated through the two planned court closure days and other cost-saving measures to assess whether additional closure days will be needed. The court system will examine the option of closing additional full or partial days to generate cost-savings in an effort to minimize the negative impact on the public and court employees.

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