

# **Memorandum** **Alaska Court System**

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**TO:** Representative Andy Josephson  
Chair, House Finance Committee

**DATE:** February 17, 2026

**FROM:** Noah Klein  
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**SUBJ:** Court System Budget Hearing

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During the February 16, 2026 House Finance Committee meeting Representative Stapp asked whether a person who lives in Palmer can participate in the Veteran's therapeutic court in Anchorage?

Assuming the person has a criminal case pending in Palmer, and that the case would otherwise qualify as one that could be handled in the Anchorage veteran's court (i.e., the person is in fact a veteran eligible for VA benefits, the crime does not disqualify his or her participation from a therapeutic court, etc.), the person may ask to have their case transferred to Anchorage. The case would then proceed through the Anchorage Veteran's court just as if the person resided in Anchorage. The defendant would need to attend the court proceedings in Anchorage, and attend all treatment and other meetings in Anchorage.

Alternatively, the Palmer veteran may be accepted into the existing Palmer therapeutic court (not a veteran-specific court), and can receive substance abuse treatment near Palmer through a provider who is a VA partner. The person also then may connect virtually with a veteran's group in Anchorage that is run by an active veteran's court alumni group.

Committee members also asked questions about the capacity and use of the Boney Parking Garage.

The Boney Parking Garage has 178 total spaces. 46 spaces are reserved for judges, handicap parking, and two administrative staff members. The other 132 spaces are used by Court System employees working in the trial courts, guardianship, therapeutic courts, and Access to Justice, as well as six Judicial Services administrative employees.

I hope this answers the Committee's questions. Please let me know if you would like any additional information.