

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

ORDER NO. 1389

Amending Criminal Rule 37(e)
concerning confidentiality of search
warrant records.

IT IS ORDERED:

Criminal Rule 37(e) is amended to read as follows:

(e) **Confidentiality of Warrant Information.**

(1) The record of proceedings under this rule and all documents related to those proceedings, including search warrants, affidavits, receipts, and inventories, must be kept sealed until charges related to the warrant have been filed or four years have elapsed since the issuance of the warrant. However, the court may order prior release of these documents for good cause shown.

(2) After charges related to the warrant are filed, the record of proceedings and all related documents shall be open to public inspection unless the court, for good cause shown, orders that the documents remain sealed for a further period. The initial charging document in all prosecutions must be accompanied by a listing of the numbers of all warrants issued in relation to the case unless the court waives this requirement for good cause shown.

(3) If four years have elapsed since the issuance of the warrant and no charges related to the warrant have been filed, the record of proceedings and all related documents shall

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be unsealed and shall thereafter be deemed "confidential" as defined in the Administrative Rules and Bulletins. For good cause shown, the court may delay the unsealing.

DATED: February 3, 2000

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 15, 2000

Chief Justice Matthews

Justice Eastaugh

Justice Fabe

Justice Bryner

Justice Carpeneti