



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Public Safety

DIVISION OF ALASKA STATE TROOPERS
Alaska Bureau of Investigation

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July 21, 2026

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On July 6, 2026, Philip T. Phillips dismissed his attorney and elected to represent himself during his jury trial. Prior to trial, Phillips had requested numerous continuances. Due to an Alaska Supreme Court order requiring older cases to be resolved, and because this case had been pending for approximately six years, the Superior Court denied several of Phillips' requests for continuance.

A jury was selected on July 6, and the trial was scheduled to begin on July 7, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. Before court adjourned on July 6, Phillips advised the court that he intended to deliver his opening statement the following morning.

On July 7, 2026, Phillips failed to appear for the start of his jury trial. Personnel from Mat-Su Pretrial determined through Phillips' court-ordered electronic monitoring device that after leaving court on July 6, he traveled to Anchorage, making several stops before continuing to Whittier, where he had a sailboat. The last electronic monitoring signal was received from Whittier Harbor.

Investigators contacted the locations Phillips had visited, and the court determined that he had voluntarily chosen not to appear for trial. A \$50,000 cash arrest warrant was issued for Failure to Appear.

As the investigation continued, assistance was provided by AKCIC, the Alaska State Troopers (AST), Alaska Bureau of Investigation (ABI), Department of Corrects (PED), Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT), Judicial Services (JS), and the United States Coast Guard (USCG).

On July 8, 2026, the jury trial continued in Phillips' absence while law enforcement agencies continued their efforts to locate him.

On July 9, 2026, a Palmer jury found Philip T. Phillips guilty of Sexual Abuse of a Minor in the First Degree (SAM I), Sexual Abuse of a Minor in the Second Degree (SAM II), and Harassment in the First Degree. Following the verdict, a no-bail arrest warrant was issued.

Investigators obtained a photograph of the sailboat Phillips was believed to be operating and received information indicating he might be armed. Numerous search warrants were written. Alaska Wildlife Troopers located the sailboat, and the Alaska State Troopers Special Emergency Reaction Team (SWAT/SERT) responded. Philip T. Phillips was located.

The Alaska State Troopers would like to thank the following personnel and agencies for their outstanding assistance throughout this investigation:

- **United States Coast Guard**
 - LT Isaac LaLonde, Enforcement Division Chief, Sector Western Alaska and U.S. Arctic
 - LTJG Siobhan Conyne Sector Western Alaska and U.S. Arctic
 - LTJG Aaron Motis Sector Western Alaska and U.S. Arctic
 - Mr. James Larcom
 - VTS Valdez Sector Western Alaska and U.S. Arctic
 - Special Agent David Chaffin, Investigative Services
 - Sector Western Alaska and U.S. Arctic
- **Harbor Masters**
 - Aniva Turituri– Whittier
 - Matt Pepe
 - Kyle Lone
 - Tinisha Hunt – Valdez
 - Brandy Griffith - Cordova
- **Whittier Police Department**
 - Timothy Sampson
 - Lloyd Willis
- **Department of Corrections (DOC)**
 - Jarod Gortner

The Alaska State Troopers appreciate the coordinated efforts of all involved agencies and personnel.

Sincerely,



Sherry Ferno
Investigator