

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF COLLETON)

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

Indictment Nos: 2022-GS-15-00592-595

v.)

ORDER REGARDING MEDIA COVERAGE

Richard Alexander Murdaugh,)

Defendant.)

In addition to the provisions and limitations of Rule 605, South Carolina Appellate Court Rules, the Court hereby issues the following Order regarding media coverage of the above trial:

POOL COVERAGE

Audiovisual coverage of the trial will be provided by Court TV. Still photography of the trial will be provided by *The Post and Courier* and McClatchy Newspapers. The Court will direct the positioning of cameras. By accepting access to the court proceedings to provide pool coverage, no media organization is permitted to claim or assert any copyright in any and all image or audio obtained in the courtroom. No media organization is permitted to seek a licensing fee for the use of images and audio obtained in the courtroom by other media organizations in attendance at the trial. Court TV, in providing audiovisual coverage, is required to transmit images from the courtroom to the overflow media center contemporaneously with the proceedings. Video and audio recorded by Court TV which are not part of the contemporaneous feed to the overflow media center must be made available to all media organizations in attendance at the trial. Images obtained by pool still photographers must be made available to all media organizations in attendance at the trial. At the close of court each day, at least one pool photographer will be allowed to remain in

the courtroom for up to 30 minutes, under the supervision of the court reporter and the Clerk of Court, to obtain still photographs of trial exhibits entered into evidence.

COURTROOM SEATING

Seating in the courtroom is limited. Reserved seating will be provided for a limited number of media organizations.

Reserved seating. The following media organizations will have one reserved seat each day during the trial and related proceedings:

Walterboro Press & Standard
Hampton County Guardian (Greenville News)
The Island Packet (Beaufort Gazette)
The Post and Courier
The State
The Wall Street Journal
Fitsnews
Associated Press
Luna Shark Productions
WCSC TV
WCIV TV
WCBF TV
WTAT TV
FOX News
ABC network
CBS network
NBC network
CNN network

Lottery seating. Four reserved seats will be available on a daily basis for media organizations not listed above. Access to these seats will be selected by lottery at the end of proceedings each day. To enter the lottery, the media organization must submit an entry form to the office of the Clerk of Court by 4:00 p.m. each day. The form will be provided by the Clerk of Court. A media organization with a reserved

seat will not be eligible for an additional reserved seat on another day unless there are extra seats available. A media organization that fails to utilize their reserved seat will be replaced by another media organization.

OVERFLOW MEDIA CENTER

To accommodate media organizations interested in covering the trial, the Colleton County Clerk of Court has arranged an overflow media center at “The Wildlife Center” which is near the courthouse. This center will receive a contemporaneous audiovisual feed from Court TV, and the center will have a large screen television and an audio system capable of providing access to the trial proceedings. Tables, chairs, electric outlets, rest rooms, cell access, and wi-fi access will be available at the center.

ACCESS TO TRIAL EXHIBITS

At the end of court each day, representatives of media organizations, under the supervision of the court reporter and the Clerk of Court, will be allowed up to 30 minutes to review trial exhibits entered into evidence. The exhibits may not be handled, removed, or altered in any manner. Pool still photographers must be available to provide photographs of the exhibits.

PERMITTED EQUIPMENT

Media representatives may utilize hand-held micro-cassette tape recorders or any other portable recording devices that comply with Rule 605(f)(3)(vi), SCACR. The use of any equipment that causes a distraction is prohibited and may subject the user to expulsion from the courtroom.

PROHIBITED EQUIPMENT

The use of cell phones is generally prohibited in South Carolina courtrooms. This Order permits the possession of cell phones provided that they are turned off or placed in silent mode prior to entering the courtroom. Abuse of this privilege may result in the termination of media privileges.

JURY SELECTION

Media organizations with reserved seating are allowed to attend jury selection. Media organizations without reserved seating may attend along with members of the public if seating is available.

Prospective jurors and seated jurors are to be identified only by juror number and not by name.

No prospective juror or seated juror may, at any time, be photographed, recorded, or identified.

PHOTOGRAPHY PROHIBITED IN COURTROOM

Photography, by video or still camera, is prohibited in the courtroom except as provided for pool audiovisual and still photography.

BAGS PROHIBITED IN COURTHOUSE

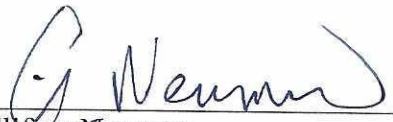
Briefcases, backpacks, or any similar property other than clear plastic bags are prohibited in the courthouse except for participants and court personnel.

LIAISON APPOINTED

Rule 605, SCACR provides that “The presiding judge may not be called upon to mediate or resolve any dispute as to ... pooling arrangements.” The Court hereby appoints Jay Bender of the South Carolina Bar as the liaison and representative of the Court to address any requests and concerns of media organizations. The involvement of Mr. Bender is at the request of the Court and is voluntary on his part. Any concerns or objections to the terms of this Order or other matters relating to media coverage of the trial must be addressed directly to Mr. Bender either in person or through the office of the Colleton County Clerk of Court.

This Order shall remain in effect for the duration of the trial unless modified by Order of the Court.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.



Clifton Newman
Presiding Judge

January 17, 2023
Columbia, South Carolina