



South Carolina Department of Corrections

Aug. 30, 2023

For immediate release

Contact: Chrysti Shain, (803) 413-8206

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COLUMBIA, S.C. – Inmate Richard Alexander Murdaugh has been convicted of two internal disciplinary charges – Abuse of Privileges and Unauthorized Use of an Inmate’s PIN Number. He had a disciplinary hearing for these charges on Aug. 28, and he lost his telephone and canteen privileges for 30 days.

The charges involve providing information to be delivered to the news media for an interview and also using a fellow inmate’s PIN number to make a telephone call. These charges violate SCDC’s inmate interview policy and our policy against inmates sharing PIN numbers. They are not a violation of law.

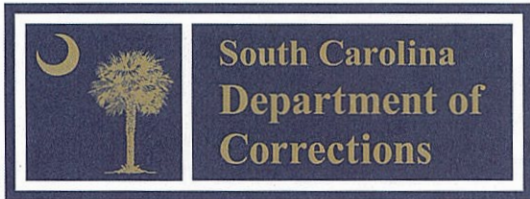
Murdaugh provided the interview information to his attorney through a legal call. Legal calls are not recorded or monitored on the inmate phone system per attorney/client privilege. Attorney Jim Griffin recorded Murdaugh reading the information and provided it to the media.

When information reached the department on Aug. 8 about the interview, Murdaugh’s tablet and phone privileges were immediately revoked, pending a review of the incidents. After his phone privileges were revoked, Murdaugh used a fellow inmate’s PIN number to make a telephone call, which is prohibited by our [policy OP-22.14](#).

The department has sent a letter to Murdaugh’s attorneys explaining that their conduct is prohibited by policy and warning the attorneys of the consequences.

Inmates in the custody of the S.C. Department of Corrections are not allowed to do interviews. SCDC’s interview policy is rooted in victims’ rights and is longstanding. The department believes that victims of crime should not have to see or hear the person who victimized them or their family member on the news. Inmates lose the privilege of speaking to the news media when they enter SCDC.

Tablets are designed and secured for correctional use. They are considered a privilege. The department will determine when and if inmate Murdaugh will earn the opportunity to be issued a tablet again.



HENRY McMASTER, Governor
BRYAN P. STIRLING, Director

August 30, 2023

James M. Griffin, Esquire
Griffin Humphries
4408 Forest Drive, Suite 300
Columbia, SC 29206

RE: Recent Internal Disciplinary Infractions of Richard Alexander Murdaugh, #390394

Dear Mr. Griffin:

As you are probably aware, your client was recently convicted of an internal disciplinary infraction related to your June 10, 2023, telephone conversation with him where Mr. Murdaugh was reading excerpts from a journal he maintained during the Colleton County trial. In our Inspector General's interview of Mr. Murdaugh, he indicated that you recorded those journal entries and provided them to the media. Inmates in the custody of the S.C. Department of Corrections are not allowed to participate in interviews of this nature.

Your actions, whether you intended or not, assisted Mr. Murdaugh in violating our policy and could jeopardize your telephonic communications with him in the future. Attorney calls are provided to assist with legal claims, not for other unrelated purposes. I am hopeful that this letter will put you on notice and caution you to refrain from further actions of this nature.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me or our General Counsel should you have any questions or need further clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis R. Patterson, Sr.", is written over the "Sincerely," text.

Dennis R. Patterson, Sr., Assistant Deputy Director of Operations
South Carolina Department of Corrections

cc: Richard A. Harpootlian, Esquire

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
INCIDENT REPORT**

Institution/Center: [REDACTED] Correctional Institution		Date of Report: Aug 14th, 2023 (Disc)
Reporting Official (Full Name): Warden [REDACTED]		Time of Report: 12:15 PM
Employee ID #: [REDACTED]		Date of Incident: Aug 9th, 2023
Location of Incident: [REDACTED]		Time of Incident: Approx 2:25 PM
Inmate(s)/Resident:	SCDC #	Age:
1. Murdaugh, Richard	390394	
2. [REDACTED]		
3.		
4.		
5.		
Sex:	Race:	Employee(s)/Witnesses Involved:
		1.
		2.
		3.
		4.
		5.

On the above date and approximate time:

I, Warden [REDACTED] was reviewing phone calls on 8-14-23 (Discovery). On 8-9-23 at approximately 2:25 PM a call was made to [REDACTED] by inmate [REDACTED] pin number. On the call I recognized the voice of Richard Murdaugh 390394. Inmate Murdaugh stated he is using someone else's pin number because his is not working.

Sign: [REDACTED]	Title: Warden
Evid: [REDACTED]	
Disposition of Evidence:	

Supervisor's Comments:	STG Related - Refer to STG Committee
Refer to Major	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Printed Name: [REDACTED]	This incident is DRUG related
Signature: [REDACTED] Title: [REDACTED] Date/Time: [REDACTED]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Major/Responsible Authority:	Responsible Authority
853	Action Taken
Printed Name: [REDACTED]	<input type="checkbox"/> Informal Resolution
Signature: [REDACTED]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administrative Resolution
	<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to Disciplinary Hearing

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
INCIDENT REPORT**

Institution/Center [REDACTED] Correctional Institution		Date of Report: Aug 15th, 2023 (Disc)
Reporting Official (Full Name): Warden [REDACTED]		Time of Report: Approx 9:30 AM
Employee ID # [REDACTED]		Date of Incident: Aug 15th, 2023
Location of Incident: [REDACTED]		Time of Incident: Aprox 8:00 AM
Inmate(s)/Resident:	SCDC #	Age:
1. Murdaugh Richard	390394	
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

On the above date and approximate time:

On August 15th, 2023 (Discovery) I, Warden [REDACTED] received a report from the Office of the Inspector General regarding an interview conducted on August 9th, 2023 at approximately 1:30 PM by the Inspector General regarding reports that inmate Richard Murdaugh 390394 participated in an interview with Fox Nation for an upcoming documentary entitled "The Fall of the House of Murdaugh." During the interview inmate Murdaugh's attorney, Jim Griffin, stated he conducted an interview for the news media which he recorded and provided to the production company. Inmate Murdaugh willingly and knowingly abused his telephone privileges to communicate with the news media for his own gain.

Signature: [REDACTED] Title: Warden

Evidence: [REDACTED]

Disposition of Evidence:

Supervisor's Comments:	STG Related - Refer to STG Committee
Refer to Major	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Printed Name: [REDACTED]	This incident is DRUG related
Signature: [REDACTED]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Major/Responsible Authority:	Responsible Authority
847 - Abuse of Privileges	Action Taken
Printed Name: [REDACTED]	<input type="checkbox"/> Informal Resolution
Signature: [REDACTED]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administrative Resolution
	<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to Disciplinary Hearing