

McCULLOCH & SCHILLACI
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1732 HAMPTON STREET
P.O. BOX 11623 (29211)
COLUMBIA, SC 29201
(803) 779-0005 • FAX (803) 779-0666

JOSEPH M. McCULLOCH, JR.
joe@mccullochlaw.com

KATHY R. SCHILLACI
kathy@mccullochlaw.com

May 18, 2026

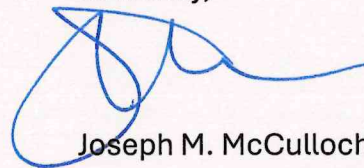
Colleton County Court of General Sessions
Attn: The Honorable Gary A. Hale, Jr., Clerk of Court
101 Hampton Street
Walterboro, South Carolina 29488
clerkofcourt@colletoncounty.org

Re: Filing of Motion to Intervene for the Limited Purpose of Seeking Review of
Protective Order and Motion for Partial Unsealing of Protective Orders
Indictment Nos.: 2022-GS-15-00592-595

Dear Clerk of Court:

Please accept the enclosed *Motion to Intervene for the Limited Purpose of Seeking Review of Protective Order and Motion for Partial Unsealing of Protective Orders* for filing in the Colleton County Court of General Sessions. Kindly file the enclosed document and return a file-stamped copy to the undersigned. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Joseph M. McCulloch, Jr.

JMM/erg

cc: Alan Wilson, Attorney General for South Carolina
Creighton Waters, Deputy Attorney General
Gary A. Hale, Jr., Clerk of Court of Colleton County
Rick Hubbard, Solicitor, Eleventh Judicial Circuit
Dick Harpootlian
Jim Griffin

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF COLLETON

Myra Crosby,

Petitioner / Intervenor,

IN RE:

State of South Carolina,

Plaintiff,

v.

Richard Alexander Murdaugh,

Defendant.

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

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

**MOTION TO INTERVENE
FOR LIMITED PURPOSE AND PETITION
FOR REVIEW OF PROTECTIVE ORDER**

Petitioner Myra Crosby, by and through her undersigned counsel, Joseph McCullouch, respectfully moves to intervene for the limited purpose of requesting that this Court review its earlier protective orders, including the protective order dated January 24, 2024, and unseal pertinent portions of that order and any prior protective orders, including the August 31, 2022 order, to the extent of jury tampering investigative materials and the purposes of the relief sought in this petition. This motion is made pursuant to *Davis v. Jennings*, 304 S.C. 502, 405 S.E.2d 601 (1991), and the First Amendments to the South Carolina Constitution and the United States Constitution.

Petitioner, through counsel, submitted three separate requests under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division ("SLED"), the South Carolina Attorney General's Office, and Rick Hubbard, Solicitor for the 11th Judicial Circuit, seeking the entirety of the jury-tampering investigation conducted in

connection with *State v. Alexander Murdaugh*, including the involvement of the Colleton County Clerk of Court and any other persons. The Petitioner's FOIA requests, attached as **Exhibit A**, include a partial transcript from the former Clerk of Court's sentencing hearing for perjury and/or other offenses.

During the plea colloquy, the sentencing judge inquired of Solicitor Hubbard regarding the status of the jury-tampering investigation. As reflected in the transcript, Solicitor Hubbard stated that the investigation had concluded and that insufficient evidence had been found to seek an indictment against the Clerk of Court for tampering, and that the investigation had ended or been closed. Based on that declaration, the requested records were no longer exempt from disclosure under S.C. Code Ann. § 30-4-40(a)(3), as applicable to pending investigations.

Thereafter, Petitioner through counsel requested those materials through the Freedom of Information Act. However, two months later SLED responded that it was bound by this Court's January 24, 2024 protective order and therefore unable to produce its investigative files. Petitioner reasonably anticipates that the Attorney General's Office and the 11th Circuit Solicitor's Office will rely upon the same protective order for the same reason in declining production.

Petitioner therefore refers the Court to the January 24, 2024 protective order, in which the Court recognized that it "generally favor(s) public access and transparency," but found the protective order warranted at that time (in 2024) necessary "to protect the ongoing investigations related to the post-trial motion made in that matter" seeking a new trial by reason of jury tampering. A copy of that order is attached as **Exhibit B**. As is now known,

that post-trial process ended with a finding of insufficient evidence of jury tampering, with the Court's ruling based upon the investigative material sought here and the testimony and evidence presented during the very public proceedings.

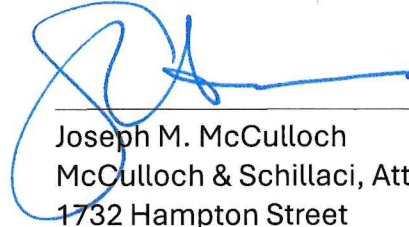
Petitioner now seeks the release of the investigative materials concerning jury tampering since fully concluded, as demonstrated by the public actions and statements of the Attorney General's Office and the 11th Circuit Solicitor's Office. The underlying purposes supporting issuance of the protective order no longer exist. Accordingly, continued "protection" and the sealing of the relevant materials is no longer justified to preserve the integrity of "ongoing investigative efforts."

The State's declaration at the time of Hill's sentencing that the evidence was insufficient to support a jury-tampering indictment against the Clerk of Court, stands in dramatic contrast and appears incongruent the Supreme Court's detailed opinion reaching an opposite conclusion based on the same core body of evidence. The public interest and the ends of justice are best served by transparency. For that reason, Petitioner requests that this Court lift or modify the protective order and return the matter to the agencies involved so that they may comply with their obligations under the Freedom of Information Act.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner respectfully requests that this Court: (1) lift the protective order and permit Petitioner to receive the materials pursuant to the FOIA, including the January 24, 2024 protective order and any prior protective orders, including the August 31, 2022 order; (2) grant such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

[signature block on following page]

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph M. McCulloch
McCulloch & Schillaci, Attorneys at Law
1732 Hampton Street
P.O. Box 11623 (29211)
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
(803) 779-0005
joe@mccullochlaw.com

ATTORNEY FOR THE PETITIONER

Columbia, South Carolina
this 18 day of May, 2026.

FITSNEWS

Exhibit A

FITSNNEWS

McCulloch & Schillaci
Attorneys at Law

1732 Hampton Street
P.O. Box 11623 (29211)
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 779-0005 | Fax (803) 779-0666

Joseph M. McCulloch
joe@mccullochlaw.com

Kathy R. Schillaci
kathy@mccullochlaw.com

March 5, 2026

Delivered Via Email

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division
Attn: Freedom of Information Office
P.O. Box 21398
Columbia, SC 29221
foi@sled.sc.gov

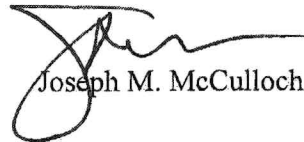
RE: FOIA Request

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the state of South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, please receive this correspondence as a request for the full investigation into allegations of jury tampering against Rebecca Hill in State v. Murdaugh. Press reports documented the completion of the investigation and closure of that investigation in 2025, as was documented by Solicitor Rick Hubbard.

I will be happy to receive this information by email, mail, or in person if notified once ready. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Joseph M. McCulloch

JMM/erg
Enclosure(s)

1 STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
 2) IN THE COURT OF
 3 COUNTY OF CALHOUN) GENERAL SESSIONS
 4
 5 THE STATE,)
 6 Plaintiffs,)
 7 Vs) CASE NO. 2025-GS-15-289
 8 MARY REBECCA HILL,) 2025-GS-15-290
 9 Defendant)

10
 11 DECEMBER 8, 2025
 12 ST. MATTHEWS, SOUTH CAROLINA

13
 14 HONORABLE HEATH P. TAYLOR, JUDGE

15
 16 A P P E A R A N C E S:
 17 BY: SAMUEL R. HUBBARD, III, ESQUIRE
 18 Attorney for the Plaintiffs
 19 BY: WILLIAM C. LEWIS, ESQUIRE
 20 Attorney for the Defendant

21
 22
 23
 24 KATHERINE A. SPIRES
 25 REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL REPORTER

1 The Court has a different standard,
2 obviously, and I know there is appellate issues in
3 *Murdaugh*, that's not my concern. My only and sole
4 concern was, what evidence do we have and then can
5 I prove it in a court of law beyond a reasonable
6 doubt? And the answer is, frankly, I don't know
7 that I have enough based on what we have to even
8 get an indictment. But I do know this based on my
9 35 years experience, and the collective experience
10 of the team we have, we cannot get a conviction
11 because we cannot prove that case beyond a
12 reasonable doubt.

13 Your Honor, those are the major issues
14 we looked at. As Mrs. Hill pleads today, she has
15 no record. And, again, other than the misconduct
16 charges being from common law to a statute, there
17 are no recommendations or negotiations as to the
18 sentence.

19 THE COURT: All right. Mrs. Hill, do
20 you substantially agree with the facts that the
21 Solicitor just told me?

22 MRS. HILL: Yes, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: I find there is a
24 substantial factual basis for the decision to plead
25 guilty. I find that her decision to plead guilty

McCULLOCH & SCHILLACI
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1732 HAMPTON STREET
P.O. Box 11623 (29211)
COLUMBIA, SC 29201
(803) 779-0005 • FAX (803) 779-0666

JOSEPH M. McCULLOCH, JR.
joe@mccullochlaw.com

KATHY R. SCHILLACI
kathy@mccullochlaw.com

May 11, 2026

Delivered Via Email

South Carolina Attorney General's Office

Attn: FOIA Office

P.O. Box 11549

Columbia, SC 29211

Email: foia@scag.gov

RE: FOIA Request
Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-10 et seq.

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act (S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-10 et seq.), I request access to and copies of the following information and public records:

- The entire investigation relating to jury tampering allegations in the State v. Alex Murdaugh murder trial, including but not limited to, allegations that the Clerk of Court and/or others allegedly tampered with the jury and trial process to affect the verdict.

Should estimated FOIA costs exceed \$50, please contact my office with the estimated cost prior to fulfilling this request. I will be happy to receive this information by email, mail, or in person if notified once ready. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Joseph M. McCulloch

JMM/erg

cc: Alan Wilson

McCULLOCH & SCHILLACI
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1732 HAMPTON STREET
P.O. Box 11623 (29211)
COLUMBIA, SC 29201
(803) 779-0005 • FAX (803) 779-0666

JOSEPH M. McCULLOCH, JR.
joe@mccullochlaw.com

KATHY R. SCHILLACI
kathy@mccullochlaw.com

May 11, 2026

Delivered Via Email

Eleventh Circuit Solicitor's Office
Attn: Rick Hubbard
205 East Main Street, Suite 309
Lexington, South Carolina 29072
Email: rhubbard@lex-co.com

RE: FOIA Request
Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-10 et seq.

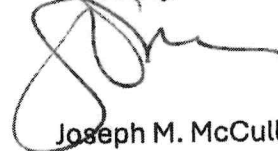
Dear Mr. Hubbard:

Pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act (S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-10 et seq.), I request access to and copies of the following information and public records:

- The entire investigation relating to jury tampering allegations in the State v. Alex Murdaugh murder trial, including but not limited to, allegations that the Clerk of Court and/or others allegedly tampered with the jury and trial process to affect the verdict.

Should estimated FOIA costs exceed \$50, please contact my office with the estimated cost prior to fulfilling this request. I will be happy to receive this information by email, mail, or in person if notified once ready. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Joseph M. McCulloch

JMM/erg

Exhibit B

FITSNNEWS

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF COLLETON)
)
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
 v.)
)
RICHARD ALEXANDER)
MURDAUGH,)
)
 DEFENDANT)
)
_____)

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Indictment Nos. 2022-GS-15-00592-595

PROTECTIVE ORDER

RECEIVED

Jan 04 2024

S.C. SUPREME COURT

The Court was assigned exclusive jurisdiction for the limited purpose of presiding over Defendant's motion for new trial in the above-listed indictments by the Chief Justice Donald W. Beatty of South Carolina, on December 18, 2023. Defendant Richard Alexander Murdaugh ("Defendant") was convicted of the murders of Margaret Kennedy Branstetter Murdaugh and Paul Terry Murdaugh on March 2, 2023, and sentenced on March 3, 2023. On October 27, 2023, the Defendant filed a motion for a new trial.

#1
8/31

Before the Court is the issue of supplemental discovery related to the Defendant's motion for new trial. The Honorable Clifton Newman, the previous presiding judge, entered an Order Compelling Discovery, Temporary Protective Order and Order Conditionally Unsealing Search Warrants ("Protective Order") on August 31, 2022. This order expands on the Protective Order to broaden the protection of supplemental discovery related to the post-trial motion for new trial.

The Court finds that a confidentiality order is warranted to protect the ongoing investigations related to the post-trial motion made in this matter. Further, while the Court generally favors public access and transparency, the Court agrees a confidentiality order is needed given the high-profile nature and media presence in this case.

Therefore, while the Defendant is entitled to the supplemental discovery related to post-trial motions, the Court hereby orders the disclosure subject to the following conditions:

1. IT IS ORDERED the Attorney General is authorized to disclosure to the attorney(s) for the Defendant the supplemental discovery, which includes video recordings of juror interview and any other documents, and must be disclosed to his attorneys consistent with the Defendant's constitutional and statutory rights in preparation of all post-trial motions. The supplemental discovery is to be provided only for the purpose of the post-trial motion of the above-listed indictments, and any other use or disclosure by an attorney or the Defendant subject to this Order is strictly prohibited. The search warrants and related material for the above-listed indictments given by the State to the defense and not otherwise subject to any other confidentiality or protective order, are not to be shown by the Defense to anyone with the exception of the Defendant, his attorney(s), and necessary staff employed with the attorneys' office(s), witnesses, potential witnesses and their representatives for purpose of preparing for the evidentiary hearing on Defendant's post-trial motion. Copies of the discovery of any sort, whether physical, photographic, or digital, shall not be left with the witnesses, potential witnesses, or their representatives except as authorized below.
2. IT IS ORDERED that any necessary staff of the attorney(s) who receive access to or disclosure of the supplemental discovery, or other investigatory materials from SLED, are prohibited from showing them to anyone other than the Defendant, the attorney, and other necessary staff employed within the attorney's office, and necessary staff of the attorney are similarly subject to the provisions of this Order. It is the responsibility of the attorney

#2
8/17

to ensure any staff to whom disclosure is made is aware of and complies with the provisions of this Order.

3. IT IS ORDERED the Defendant and his attorney(s) are prohibited from photocopying, scanning, digitizing, etc. and disseminating copies of the supplemental discovery materials, as well as an investigatory material from SLED, except for internal use by the attorney(s) and necessary employees of the attorneys' office(s) or for submission to the Court during future hearings. Further, unless otherwise ordered by this Court, all material disclosed pursuant to this Order and all copies of such material must remain in the secured custody and control of Defense counsel, at all times, and, absent an order of the court, must be retained in a secure location by Defense counsel unless and until it is destroyed pursuant to any applicable rule regarding file retention.¹
4. IT IS ORDERED that if Defense counsel should intend to use or involve any expert, investigators, or other consultants in the defense to the post-trial motion, counsel may distribute copies of the necessary materials as needed for the purposes of that individual. However, counsel must first provide a copy of this Order to and obtain a signed, written agreement from such experts, investigators, or consultants that these individuals will not disclose or disseminate any of the discovery materials without explicit permission from this Court. All experts, investigators, and consultants to whom Defense counsel discloses discovery materials shall be bound by this Order to the same extent as Defense counsel. It

#3
SST

¹ For purposes of this Order, Defense counsel may secure physical copies of this protected material by keeping the material in his or her actual possession or by keeping the material in the attorney's law office in a place and manner to ensure that the material is only accessible by the attorney and necessary employees of the attorney's office. Digital copies of protected material are to be secured by placing passwords on all devices containing such material so that only the attorney and necessary employees of the attorney's office will have access to said material. The Defendant is also permitted to independently review copies of any discovery produced by the State, provided the Defendant returns the copies to defense counsel. **No evidence or discovery shall be left at a jail, prison, or detention facility.** The parties may arrange for a reasonable procedure such as a reading room and protected laptop to facilitate Defendant's review of the materials without compromising the security of the discovery.


is the responsibility of the attorney to ensure any expert, investigator, or other consultant to whom disclosure is made is aware of and will comply with the provisions of this Order.

5. IT IS ORDERED that individuals, whether they be attorneys, the Defendant, necessary staff of attorneys, or experts, investigators, or consultants used by attorneys, who receive disclosure of the supplemental discovery pursuant to this Order, are all bound by the secrecy provisions of this Order and subject to contempt of court for any willful violation of these secrecy provisions.
6. IT IS ORDERED the State similarly shall not disclose supplemental discovery, as well as any supplemental material provided in SLED investigations, except as is necessary to fairly investigate, prepare, and litigate the post-trial motion.
7. This Order shall not be interpreted to prohibit attorneys for the Defendant and for the State, and law enforcement personnel from communicating with witnesses and potential witnesses, and their representatives, in order to prepare for the post-trial motion. Nor shall this Order be construed as prohibiting the State from continuing to interview witnesses, obtain evidence, by subpoena, warrant, or any other means, or prepare and present grand jury testimony for investigative purposes relating to this case, or any other matter involving the Defendant or any other related investigation. This Order does not prohibit the State or the Defense from communicating with representatives of the witnesses or representatives of entities which may possess relevant evidence. This Order does not in any way prohibit the State, prosecutors, law enforcement, and their victim advocates from discussing all aspects of the case and consulting with victims and their representatives consistent with the spirit of the State's constitutional and statutory obligations pursuant to S.C. Const. Art. I § 24 and S.C. Code§ 16-3-1505 *et. seq.*

Handwritten initials: "JH" and "JH" with a signature.

8. Nothing in this Order prevents any party from using or referring to any of the supplemental discovery that may be disclosed, or investigatory materials by SLED, for witness preparation, investigation, pleadings and as necessary to litigate any issues raised in the post-trial motion in the courtroom.
9. Nothing in this Order shall be construed as requiring the Defendant or the State to file materials under seal with the Court.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.



Jean H. Toal
Presiding Judge

This 3d day of Jan., 2024
Columbia, South Carolina

#5

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF COLLETON

Myra Crosby,

Petitioner / Intervenor,

IN RE:

State of South Carolina,

Plaintiff,

v.

Richard Alexander Murdaugh,

Defendant.

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

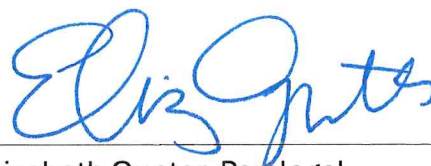
Indictment Nos.: 2022-GS-15-00592-595

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Elizabeth Gunter, paralegal for McCulloch & Schillaci, Attorneys at Law, with offices located at 1732 Hampton Street, Columbia, South Carolina, hereby certify that on this 18th day of May, 2026, I have served a copy of the **Motion to Intervene for Limited Purpose and Petition for Review of Protective Order** in connection with the above-captioned matter, by email and U.S. first-class mail, postage pre-paid to the below named parties at their address of record:

S. Creighton Waters, Esq.
S.C. Attorney General's Office
P.O. Box 11549
Columbia, SC 29211
cwaters@scag.gov

Richard A. Harpootlian, Esq.
Richard A. Harpootlian, P.A.
P.O. Box 1090
Columbia, SC 29202
rah@harpootlianlaw.com



Elizabeth Gunter, Paralegal