

DISTRICT COURT, EL PASO COUNTY, COLORADO 270 S. Tejon Colorado Springs, CO 80903	DATE FILED: July 9, 2024 5:46 PM
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO, Plaintiff, vs. JON HALLFORD AND CARIE HALLFORD, Defendants.	Court Use Only <hr/> Case Numbers: 23CR4849 / 23CR4856 Division 8 Ctrm: W550
ORDER RE REQUESTS FOR EXPANDED MEDIA COVERAGE	

Before the Court are the requests filed by various media outlets seeking expanded media coverage for the arraignment scheduled for July 11, 2024 in both of the above-captioned cases. This Order also addresses any subsequently filed requests that may be filed by any media outlet (the “Requesting Media Parties”) for this court date and future court dates other than jury selection and trial, unless modified by future orders. It also addresses the issue of the scope of livestreaming of the trial pursuant to C.R.S. 13-1-132. This Order replaces any prior orders.

Although requests for expanded media coverage are required to be served on the parties, not all of the requests were. The issue of service has been rendered moot, however, as the Court has uploaded the media requests into the case, with service through the court system.

Defendant Jon Hallford has filed an objection to any expanded media coverage.

Media coverage of Court proceedings is governed by the standards set forth in Rule 3 of the Public Access to Information and Records Rules (P.A.I.R.R.) promulgated by the Colorado Supreme Court.

Rule 1 of P.A.I.R.R. states that the purpose of the rule “is to provide the public with reasonable access to Judicial Branch documents and information while protecting the privacy interests of parties and persons.” Rule 3(a)(2) sets forth the standards for authorizing coverage.

Specifically, the Court is to consider the following factors in evaluating the requests: (a) whether there is a reasonable likelihood that expanded media coverage would interfere with the rights of the parties to a fair trial; (b) whether there is a reasonable likelihood that expanded media coverage will detract from the solemnity, decorum and dignity of the Court; and (c) whether expanded media coverage would not create adverse effects which would be greater than those caused by traditional media coverage.

The Court considers these factors within the context of C.R.S. 13-1-132, which now requires criminal trials to be livestreamed, subject to certain exceptions. Pursuant to the statute, all proceedings in these cases, up to but not including jury selection and trial, will be livestreamed using audio and video. The video will be from one camera that displays the courtroom in wide angle from front to back and captures the podium and the counsel tables.

Upon considering the factors set forth above with respect to expanded media coverage, as well as the purpose of the rule, the Court finds that the rule's purpose and the three factors will be appropriately satisfied by authorizing expanded media coverage as set forth below.

The following expanded media coverage is authorized:

1. The Requesting Media Parties (and no one else) are authorized to capture any video and/or still photographs of the proceedings from the livestream, and they may rebroadcast them, without sound, subject to the following exceptions:

- a. There shall be NO audio, video, or still image capture of bench conferences.**
- b. There shall be NO audio, video, or still image capture of court staff.**
- c. There shall be NO audio, video, or still image capture of communications between counsel and client or between co-counsel.**

2. No cameras or audio or video recording equipment of any kind will be allowed in the courtroom.

3. Use of any cameras or audio or video recording equipment of any kind is also prohibited in the hallway outside the courtroom – that is, the entire hallway of the 5th floor of the West tower, extending all the way to and beyond the elevators – on all days in which court proceedings in this case are in session.

4. Interviews and press conferences are also prohibited in the 5th floor West tower hallway on all days in which court proceedings in this case are in session.

ALL OTHER VIDEO, AUDIO, OR PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

Media representatives will be permitted in the courtroom on a first come/first served basis.

When a media representative is in the courtroom, they may tweet, blog, or send real time messages so long as those activities do not interfere with the proceedings; however, they may not record any portion of the court proceedings nor may a member of the public at large. Attorneys

for the parties may have, and use, electronic devices to the extent necessary for their work on the case.

Once the proceedings begin, some seating will be reserved for immediate family; otherwise, seating will only be available on a first come, first served basis. Family and members of the prosecution and defense team will be permitted to leave the courtroom and return as necessary. If anyone else leaves before a break, they will not be permitted to return until a later break. Seats cannot be saved or reserved for someone without prior Court approval.

The Court may restrict, or limit Livestream access as may be necessary to preserve the dignity of the Court or to protect the parties.

The Court may terminate or suspend Livestream access at any time upon making findings of fact that:

(1) the rules established have been violated; or

(2) the substantial rights of individual participants or the parties' right to a fair trial will be prejudiced by such coverage if it is allowed to continue.

Any violation of the foregoing instructions, and any other conduct which the Court finds disruptive to the proceedings, may result in an order of temporary or permanent exclusion from the proceedings, an order of contempt, and/or other legal sanctions.

SO ORDERED this 9th day of July 9, 2024.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Bentley". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Eric Bentley
District Court Judge