	_	FILED IN C	OPEN COURT
IN THE SUPERIOR CO STATI	OURT OF BULLOCI E OF GEORGIA	H COUNTY	rak E. Ogles
STATE OF GEORGIA,	)		OUNTY CLERK OR COURT
v.	)	301 ERG	ORCOCKI
WILLIAM MARCUS WILSON,	) ) CASE :	NO. 2020SUW	D270MM
Defendant	) CASE :	10. 2020SC W	K327WIWI

## ORDER RESTRICTING EXTRAJUDICIAL STATEMENTS

This Court has considered the necessity of an order concerning issues of prejudicial trial publicity, the trial judge's responsibility to control court proceedings, and the trial court's duty to protect the Defendant's constitutional rights to a fair trial. This case has garnered significant media attention since its inception. There has been media coverage surrounding the alleged crime, the investigation, and the parties involved. The media and public interest in this case has been substantial, and remains ongoing.

For a trial judge to predict what information may in fact undermine the impartiality of jurors is difficult if not impossible. The difficulty of drafting an order that will effectively keep prejudicial information from prospective jurors is similarly difficult but is within the responsibility of a trial judge.

This Court does not take any steps which proscribe the press or media from reporting events that transpire in the Courtroom

This Court ORDERS AND DIRECTS, that during the pendency of the above case and until final determination of this case in the trial court, all prosecutors, counsel for defense and persons affiliated therewith, the accused, court staff including the Clerk of Court and all deputies and assistants, Law Assistants, the Bulloch County Sheriff's Department and his deputies, Bailiffs, court reporters, witnesses, Agents of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Agents of the State Medical Examiners' Office, Department of Public Safety, Georgia State Patrol and all other law enforcement offices, and all other agents and employees of the State of Georgia involved in said investigation, shall not release, make or authorize the release of any extrajudicial statement, for dissemination by any means of public communication and news media relating to those maters and concerning:

- (1) The prior criminal record (including arrests indictments, or other charges of crime), if any exists, or the character or reputation of the accused;
- (2) The existence or content of any confession, admission, or statement given by the accused or any co-defendant, if any exists, or the refusal or failure of the accused or any co-defendant to make any statement;
- (3) The performance of any examinations or tests or the accused refusal or failure to submit to any examination or test;
- (4) The identify, testimony, or credibility of prospective witnesses;
- (5) The possibility of a plea of guilty to the offense charged or a lesser offense;
- (6) Any opinion as to the accused's guilt or innocence or as to his conduct in these matters as to the merits of the case or any evidence in the case;
- (7) Any opinion as to the fairness of the proceedings, the probability of a fair trial of this case in this venue, the presence absence of prejudice in this venue regarding this case or the defendant;
- (8) Any personal remarks concerning counsel, the trial judge, the accused or the officers of the court;
- (9) Any personal remarks concerning potential evidence or statements by witnesses in this case as to the facts of this case.

The foregoing shall not be construed to preclude any attorney or court officer, from quoting or referring without comment to public records of the court in the case, from announcing the scheduling or result of any stage in the judicial process; or from announcing without further comment that the accused denies the charges made against him.

This Order is effective from the date of this Order until the conclusion of the jury trial in this matter or other termination in the trial court of the matter or until further order of the Court. This order may be enforced by the contempt powers of this Court. *See, Nebraska Press Association v. Stuart,* 427 U.S. 539 (96 S.C. 2791, 49 L.E.2d 683) (1976); *Sheppard. v. Maxwell,* 384 U.S. 333 (86 S.C.1507, 16 L.E.2d 600) (1966).

Counsel for the State and Counsels for the Defendant are hereby ordered and directed to advise all persons covered by this Order under their direction and supervision of its existence and requirements thereof, to include, but not limited to, law enforcement officers, investigators, staff personnel and potential witnesses.

The Clerk of the Superior Court is ordered and directed to forward a copy of the above order to the District Attorney for the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit, Counsels for the Defendant, and to the Bulloch County Sheriff.

**SO ORDERED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of July, 2020.

MICHAEL T. MULDREW

Judge, Superior Court of Bulloch County

Ogeechee Judicial Circuit