STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT
Counties
*Beadle, Brookings, Clark, Codington, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Hand, Jerauld, Kingsbury,
Lake, Miner, Moody and Sanborn*

Third Circuit Media Information

MEDIA RELATIONS

The court staff are there to help you. However, their role is to provide you with the information you need, not to provide legal advice or speculate on how a case will proceed. They can provide you with any public information they have available and explain process and procedures in general. The clerks may refer you to other resources to help you more effectively.

MEDIA LIAISON

Presiding Judge Pardy has appointed Circuit Administrator, Jenny Hammrich, as the **Media Liaison** for the Third Judicial Circuit. Please contact the Circuit Administrator for all media inquiries. Her contact information is 605.688.4621 or email Jenny.Hammrich@ujs.state.sd.us.

More information regarding resources for the media and how to request expanded media coverage is available on the UJS website at https://ujs.sd.gov/for-the-media.

Requests for **access to documents** in a case file should be directed to the Clerk of Court's office in the applicable county. A clerk will inform you of costs for copying or conducting records searches.

DECORUM

Media representatives are expected to be sufficiently familiar with court proceedings to conduct themselves so as not to interfere with the dignity of the proceedings, or to distract counsel or the court. All media personnel shall be properly attired.

The Judge presiding over a specific case may make special rules as to **where interviews may be conducted** in or around the courthouse. This may change from time to time depending on the nature of the case. Generally, interviews of parties, counsel, witnesses, or members of the public are not allowed on the same floor as the courtroom nor in the Clerk's office. Often, the Judge handling a high-profile case may issue an Order for Expanded Media Coverage which sets out how the media may proceed during the trial. Check with the Media Liaison if you are not sure how to proceed.

The courtrooms are open to the public and the media except in those cases that are designated confidential by law. The Judge may designate special assigned seating for media in the courtroom but is not required to do so. Media shall not interview or attempt to communicate with a witness in the action concerning any issue in the case until after the jury has reached a verdict.

CAMERAS AND EQUIPMENT OUTSIDE THE COURTROOM

Reporters or other media personnel will not be allowed to impede the movement of court staff, lawyers, parties, witnesses, or spectators in and out of the courthouse or the courtroom. This may include areas near stairwells or elevators, certain interior office doorways, or entrances/exits to the building where the proceeding is being held. This applies to interviews and reporting. Use of media equipment/devices is allowed in public areas of the courthouse, but media may not take pictures or video through any courtroom door windows. Media should consult with any law enforcement present and/or the Media Liaison as to where they are allowed to set up.

CAMERAS AND EQUIPMENT IN THE COURTROOM

There shall be no audio or video recording or broadcast of any proceedings without permission of the court.
Further information can be found in Supreme Court Rule 10-09 and SDCL Chapter 16-20 at
https://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/16-20.

Credentialed press and media representatives may use laptop computers or tablets and may transmit text from the courtroom provided the equipment is sufficiently quiet so as not to be a distraction to the proceedings. The prohibition does not apply to members of the bar, their staff, law enforcement or UJS staff. Media representatives should request a badge from the Clerk' office or the Media Liaison if they are allowed to use their electronics in the courtrooms so courtroom security is aware. **Cell phones, smart phones, laptop computers, and tablets shall be set to SILENT before entering the courtroom.**