STATE OF SOUTH
FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

PRESIDING JUDGE
Gregg C. Magera
CIRCUIT JUDGES
Richard A. Sommers
Marshall Lovrien
JM Dvorak
MAGISTRATE JUDGE
Cullen McNeece

Jean E. Hutson
Circuit Court Administrator

Wendy Osterkamp-Wilson
Administrative Assistant

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Fifth Circuit Court – 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 Gregg C. Magera has appointed Circuit Administrator Jean E. Hutson as the **Media Liaison** for the Fifth Judicial Circuit. Ms. Hutson is the central contact person for all media inquiries, including requests for expanded media coverage (recording) of a court matter. Her office is on the second floor of the Brown County Courthouse. She can be reached at 605-626-2003 or at Jean.Hutson@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 Media Liaison Jean Hutson 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.

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

Cameras, video equipment, and recording devices are allowed in the courtroom only if specifically authorized by order of the Judge presiding over the case. Further information can be found in Supreme Court Rule 10-09 and SDCL Chapter 16-20 at https://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/16-20.

Cell phones, pagers, beepers, smart phones, or similar electronic devices if allowed in certain Fifth Circuit courtrooms must be turned off before entering the courtroom and are not to be activated in the courtroom.

FEES

There is a fee for photocopy and fax services. Photocopy fees vary. The cost is usually $.20/page.

A record search fee may apply if you do not have a file number for the case or person you are inquiring about and are not a party to the case. That fee ranges from $5-$20.

Payments are accepted at the time the service is provided unless you have an established charge account with the Unified Judicial System. To request an account, please contact UJS Public Access Record System (PARS) support at UJSPARSsupport@ujs.state.sd.us.

BROWN, CAMPBELL, DAY, EDMUNDS, FAULK, MARSHALL, MCPHERSON, ROBERTS, SPINK, WALWORTH