

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF CENTRE COUNTY,  
PENNSYLVANIA  
CRIMINAL DIVISION

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA :

VS. :

GERALD A. SANDUSKY :

CP-14-CR-2421-2012  
CP-14-CR-2422-2012

FILED FOR RECORD  
2012 OCT -3 P 1:47  
DEBRA C. JAMES  
PROthonotary  
CENTRE COUNTY

DECORUM ORDER GOVERNING THE SENTENCING HEARING

And now this 3<sup>RD</sup> day of October, 2012, upon consultation with the District Court Administrator, Centre County Sheriff, Bellefonte Police Department, the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters ("PAB"), the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association ("PNA"), and the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, the following Order is entered:

The terms of this order apply to the sentencing hearing scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. October 9, 2012.

The provisions noted as "Mandatory" shall be applied by the Court and enforced accordingly by its officers and agents. The provisions noted as "Information" are intended to provide meaningful structure and guidance to those reporters and members of the general public who will be attending the proceedings.

Additional information will be made available on the Court's website:  
[www.co.centre.pa.us/media](http://www.co.centre.pa.us/media)

**MANDATORY**

1. Court Access: All members of the public and credentialed reporters must enter the courthouse from the front steps. Access from other courthouse

entrances will not be permitted, except as authorized by the Sheriff or the District Court Administrator.

2. Courtrooms: The hearing will be conducted in Courtroom 1 of the Centre County Courthouse. A Satellite Courtroom, restricted to use by credentialed reporters, with a visual and audio feed from Courtroom 1 will be located on the third floor of the County Annex. For all purposes the Satellite Courtroom will be considered an extension of Courtroom 1 and any rule, policy or procedure applicable to Courtroom 1 will be applied by the Sheriff in the Satellite Courtroom.
3. Courtroom Access: The Sheriff will make the Courtrooms accessible to credentialed reporters beginning at 7:45 a.m. and to the general public beginning at 8:15 a.m.
4. Allocation of Seats:
  - a. Courtrooms:
    - i. Courtroom 1 –
      1. Members of the public – 85
      2. Credentialed reporters – 85
      3. For the use of the Commonwealth – 40, including members of the prosecution team and prosecuting witnesses, their families and counsel.
      4. For the use of the defense – 20
      5. For the use of the Court – 10
    - ii. Satellite Courtroom – 100 for exclusive use of credentialed media.
    - iii. Of the seats reserved in Courtroom 1 for credentialed reporters, one seat each will be reserved for the Daily Collegian, the Centre Daily Times, the Harrisburg Patriot-News, WJAC-TV, WTAJ-TV and WQWK radio.
6. Public Admittance:

- a. Members of the public will be admitted to Courtroom 1 on a first come, first served basis. There will be no computerized pre-registration or pre-selection.
- b. Except during a recess or as otherwise announced by the Court, no one will be permitted to enter or leave Courtroom 1 or the Courtroom Annex until the Court has announced that court is adjourned.
- c. Each person seeking to be admitted must first present photo identification and will then be issued a card in the person's name. The admission card is not transferrable.
- d. When a person leaves the courtroom and does not intend to return, then the card must be surrendered to the Sheriff.
- e. Once an admission card has been surrendered, the Sheriff may admit the next person in line.
- f. It will be assumed that a person who has been issued an admittance card in the morning and who is not seated at the start of the afternoon session will not be returning, and the Sheriff may admit the next person in line.

7. Electronic Devices:

- a. No member of the public will be permitted to possess in Courtroom 1 any cell phone, laptop computer, smart phone, or similar electronic device. Anyone possessing such a device will not be permitted to pass security and enter the Courthouse.
- b. Only reporters with proper credentials, as determined by the Sheriff, will be permitted to possess or use in Courtroom 1 or the satellite courtroom any cell phone, laptop computer, smart phone, or similar electronic device. **The devices may not be used to take photographs in Courtroom 1 or the satellite courtroom; or to record, broadcast or transmit any account of the proceedings while court is in session.**

8. Sanction for Improper Use of Electronic Device: Any reporter who violates the provisions of this order regarding the use of electronic devices will be subject to the penalties of contempt (including fines or summary incarceration) under any applicable statute, order, or rule of court. In addition, any reporter who violates this order, the news organization the reporter represents, and any news outlet that rebroadcasts or republishes any account prohibited by this order may also be subject to sanction.
9. Time of Adjournment: A digital clock will be placed in the front of Courtroom 1. The time court is adjourned will be noted in the record by reference to the clock. All credentialed reporters are on notice that any electronic device used to transmit information from Courtroom 1 or the Courtroom Annex must be synchronized with that clock. It will be presumed by the Court that any transmission of any report, story, account or information that occurs before the time of adjournment was transmitted in violation of this order.<sup>1</sup>
10. Once court has been adjourned credentialed reporters in Courtroom 1 and the Satellite Courtroom may electronically transmit information from the courtroom.
11. Interviews: No news media interviews whatsoever shall be conducted in Courtroom 1 or anywhere in the Courthouse or Courthouse Annex — including corridors, hallways, elevators, interior and exterior steps, or

<sup>1</sup> This provision is included to assure compliance by the Court with restrictions on broadcasting from courtrooms promulgated by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

The Court is aware that it appears that one reporter from one media outlet may have violated a previous order by prematurely transmitting information regarding the jury's verdict. Imposing sanctions, however, became problematic because of the difficulty of proving the precise time of transmission in relation to the time announced for adjournment. Representatives of the Court have addressed the Court's concerns with the reporter and the news outlet involved.

The addition of a clock at the front of the courtroom is intended to address this problem. All credentialed reporters are on notice, therefore, that all devices will be presumed to have been synchronized with the courtroom clock; and any premature transmission will present the possibility of sanctions to assure that the policy of the Supreme Court is complied with.

courthouse parking lots. Interviews may be conducted in the front yard of the Courthouse, but only in areas designated for that purpose by the Sheriff.

12. Sheriff's Authority: The Sheriff of Centre County, in consultation with the Court, shall have the authority to make such reasonable rules and regulations as may be required to implement this Order and to provide adequate security intended to assure the safety of all those in the Courthouse and Courthouse Annex and on the Courthouse grounds, and to assure the orderly conduct of the trial. Such regulations may include, among others:

- a. Prohibiting backpacks, large purses or satchels in Courtroom 1 or the Satellite Courtroom, except as required by credentialed reporters to carry spare batteries or electronic devices.
- b. Prohibiting taking food or beverages into the courtrooms.
- c. Barring any person, except those immediately involved in the trial, from passing beyond the bar in Courtroom 1.
- d. Enforcing such procedures that will assure an orderly departure of the public and credentialed reporters from the courtrooms.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. Parking: Parking near the Courthouse is extremely limited. Reporters and members of the public who will be attending the trial should allow ample time to find parking and make their way to the Courthouse.
  - a. A map of parking areas in Bellefonte is posted on the Centre County website: [www.co.centre.pa.us/media](http://www.co.centre.pa.us/media)
  - b. All those attending the trial are reminded that Pennsylvania law and Bellefonte Borough ordinances prohibit parking within 15 feet of a fire hydrant, or parking in a manner that prevents an emergency vehicle from travelling on borough streets.

## MEDIA SPECIFIC INFORMATION

**All credentialed reporters, or other members of the media attending the trial, will be expected to have read this order, be familiar with its requirements, and be aware of penalties that could be imposed if the order is violated.**

1. Credentialing Process: Press credentials will be issued by the Court using a process developed in cooperation with the PAB and PNA.
  - a. To be eligible to receive a court issued press credential, a reporter must first have registered with the Court in accordance with the procedures posted on the court website:  
[www.co.centre.pa.us/media](http://www.co.centre.pa.us/media)
  - b. Broadcast media. Each FCC licensed electronic broadcasting mass media outlet licensed by the Federal Communications Commission, and which as a large part of its mission is engaged in the reporting of news (including radio, television, and cable networks) will receive one credential for a reporter to enter Courtroom 1 to the extent broadcast media reserved seats are available.
  - c. Print media. Each news organization (that is a newspaper or magazine in the business of gathering, procuring, compiling, editing or publishing news on a daily or weekly basis and bearing a separate masthead) will receive one credential for a reporter to enter Courtroom 1 to the extent print media reserved seats are available.
  - d. Digital media. A digital media organization (that is an individual or news organization in the business of gathering, procuring, compiling, editing or publishing news on a daily or weekly basis, and not directly connected to a broadcast or print company) shall receive one credential for a reporter to enter Courtroom 1 to the

extent digital media reserved seats are available. Credentials not issued to digital media organizations may be issued to qualifying individuals.

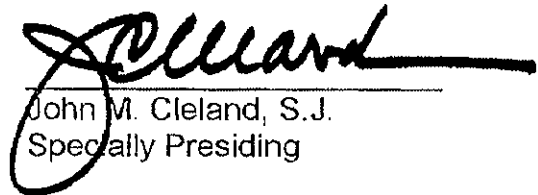
- e. By issuing credentials to media outlets, rather than to individual reporters, it is the intention of the Court that reporters for the media outlet may "swap out" the credential with other reporters employed by the same media outlet.
  - f. No reporter shall be permitted by the Sheriff to enter either Courtroom 1 or the satellite courtroom without exhibiting both a press credential issued by the reporter's media outlet and a court issued credential issued to the same outlet.
2. Satellite Courtroom Access: During the hearing a locked-down closed circuit television camera will be located at the back of Courtroom 1 to carry a wide-angle picture and sound from Courtroom 1 to the satellite courtroom.
  3. Pressroom: Because of space limitations, it will not be possible to make a pressroom available in the Courthouse or Courthouse Annex.
  4. Power Restrictions: Reporters are advised that there are limited power outlets in Courtroom 1 and the satellite courtroom. The use of those outlets may be restricted by Centre County maintenance staff to assure circuits are not overloaded. Reporters using electronic devices will not be permitted to use extension cords, and should make alternate plans to provide power to their equipment by using back-up devices or battery packs.
  5. Court's Authority: While policies and procedures associated with media access to court proceedings have been developed in cooperation with a committee formed by the PAB and PNA, and the Court has delegated the implementation of those policies and procedures to representatives of those organizations, the ultimate authority to supervise the trial and all

associated events, and the application of such policies and procedures, rests exclusively with the Court.

6. Inquiries:

- a. Inquiries regarding press credentialing and media arrangements should be directed to the PAB and PNA.
- b. All other media inquiries should be directed to Jim Koval  
Director of Communications  
Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) –  
[jim.koval@pacourts.us](mailto:jim.koval@pacourts.us).  
(c) 717.319.8341;  
(o) 717.231.3324.

By Authority of the Court:



John M. Cleland, S.J.  
Specially Presiding