

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
OF CENTRE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

CP-14-MD-2008-11

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
VS  
GERALD A. SANDUSKY

CRIMINAL DIVISION

DEBRA C. IMEL  
PROTHONOTARY  
CENTRE COUNTY

2011 DEC 6 P 4:10

FILED FOR RECORD

**ORDER**

And now this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2011, after consultation with the District Court Administrator, Centre County Sheriff, local law enforcement, the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters ("PAB"), the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association ("PNA"), Commonwealth Media Services ("CMS"), and the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts the following Order is entered.

The terms of this order apply to the conduct of the Preliminary Hearing scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. on December 13, 2011 in Courtroom 1 at the Centre County Courthouse, Bellefonte, PA.

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

**MANDATORY**

1. Reporters with credentials for Courtroom 1 will be admitted to Courtroom 1 between 7:15 a.m. and 7:45 a.m. Members of the general public will be admitted to Courtroom 1 between 7:45 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. Reporters who do not chose to be admitted specially between 7:15 a.m. and 7:45 a.m. will not lose their reserved seats, but must stand in line with the general public to gain admittance. Reporters with credentials for the satellite courtroom will be admitted to the satellite courtroom between 7:45 a.m. and 8:15 a.m.
2. No one will be admitted to either Courtroom 1 or the satellite courtroom after 8:15 a.m., except as otherwise authorized by the Sheriff. All reporters and members of the general public must be seated before the preliminary hearing begins.
3. All credentialed reporters and members of the public who will be seated in Courtroom 1 must enter the Courthouse from the front steps. Access from other Courthouse doors will not be permitted.
4. Of the approximately 200 seats in Courtroom 1 – 100 seats will be reserved for representatives of the news media; a portion of the seats will be allocated to those directly involved in the proceedings; and any remaining seats will be made available to the general public.

5. Approximately 100 additional seats will be made available to credentialed reporters in a satellite courtroom located on the first floor of the Annex Building at the corner of North Allegheny and East High Streets, adjacent to the Courthouse. Closed circuit audio and video will be provided to the satellite courtroom room. The satellite courtroom is deemed to be an extension of Courtroom 1 and those seated in the satellite courtroom will be subject to the same rules of conduct as those who are seated in Courtroom 1. No seats in the satellite courtroom will be allotted to the general public.

6. In Courtroom 1 two seats will be reserved for the Associated Press; four seats will be reserved for two sketch artists; 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.

7. The remaining seats reserved for the news media in Courtroom 1 will be divided as follows: print media -- 45 percent; broadcast media -- 45 percent; internet media -- 10 percent. Seats reserved for the news media in Courtroom 1 and in the satellite courtroom will be allocated on an equitable basis in a manner to be determined by the PNA and PAB. The processes and procedures for doing so will be announced by those organizations.

8. The following applies to all those present in the Courthouse, including Courtroom 1 and the satellite courtroom:

a. It is anticipated there will be a morning session and an afternoon session. Occasional recesses may be taken during each session. The length of those recesses will depend on the progress of the hearing and will be announced by the Court.

b. Those seated in Courtroom 1 and in the satellite courtroom are expected to remain in their seats until the court either calls a recess, or until the morning or afternoon session has ended. Any person who leaves Courtroom 1 or the satellite courtroom, except during a recess, in the morning session will not be readmitted until the start of the afternoon session; and any person who leaves in the afternoon session, except during a recess, will not be readmitted. Those who leave the area deemed secured by the Sheriff may be required to undergo security screening before reentering Courtroom 1 or the satellite courtroom.

c. Credentialed reporters will be permitted to use laptops in Courtroom 1 and in the satellite courtroom, but solely for the purpose of note taking.

d. No photography, videography or recording device of any type may be used anywhere in the Courthouse or in the satellite courtroom.

e. Reporters and members of the general public may carry cell phones or similar devices into the courtrooms; however, any such

device must be turned off (not merely set to vibrate mode) and out of sight at all times. Transmission from or recording by those devices is prohibited. Use of the internet or telephone service for transmitting in any way from the Courthouse, Courtroom 1 or the satellite courtroom is prohibited. No electronic transmission, video recording, sound recording, or any other electronic duplication of the proceedings of any type is permitted in the Courthouse, Courtroom 1 or the satellite courtroom.

f. Any person who violates the provisions of this order regarding the use of electronic devices will be subject to the penalties for contempt of court (including fines or summary incarceration) under any applicable statute, order, or rule of court. In addition, any reporter, and the news organization the reporter represents, will summarily lose the seat assigned to that news organization for the balance of the preliminary hearing, and, in the discretion of the court, may also lose the privilege of being credentialed at any subsequent trial in the case.

g. An area beyond the front Courthouse steps will be reserved for those who choose to be interviewed. No news media interviews whatsoever shall be conducted in Courtroom 1, the satellite courtroom, or anywhere in the Courthouse (including corridors, hallways, elevators, interior or exterior steps, or the Courthouse parking lot).

9. The Sheriff of Centre County, in consultation with the Court, shall have authority to make such reasonable rules and regulations as may be required to provide adequate security intended to assure the safety of all those in the Courthouse and on the Courthouse grounds and the orderly conduct of the preliminary hearing. These regulations may include, among others:

a. No reporter or spectator will be permitted to take backpacks, large purses or satchels of any kind into the courtrooms, except as authorized by the Sheriff.

b. No reporter or spectator will be permitted to take food or beverages into the Courthouse or Annex Building.

c. No person except those immediately involved in the proceedings will be permitted beyond the bar of Courtroom 1 at any time.

10. An official transcript of the hearing will be posted on the Centre County Court website once completed by the court reporters, verified for accuracy by attorneys for both parties and approved by the judge. The transcript may not be available for some days after the hearing has been completed.

11. Orders of the court will be published on the county website – [www.co.centre.pa.us/media](http://www.co.centre.pa.us/media) -- upon filing with the Clerk of Courts.

### **INFORMATIONAL**

12. CMS, a unit of Pennsylvania state government, will provide pool video, photographic, audio/visual mult boxes, lighting and Wi-Fi services for all media outlets, together with technical support services as needed on December 12 and 13 in the designated media areas at both the front and back entrances to the Courthouse. Requests for on location satellite, e-mail or online services should be directed to CMS.

13. There are limited public restrooms in the Courthouse. Portable toilets will be located outside in the vicinity of the Courthouse.

14. If requested, credentials will be issued to two reporters representing the same media outlet to permit reporters to switch out during the hearing. However, each media outlet will only be entitled to one seat in Courtroom 1, except as otherwise provided in this order. If space permits, and in accordance with procedures developed by the PAB and PNA, additional seats may be allocated to a media outlet in the satellite courtroom. Readmission to the preliminary hearing will be governed by the procedures specified in paragraph 10(b).

15. A media room will be provided on the third floor of the Annex Building. Any credentialed reporter may use this room, including to file stories during court recesses. The room has Wi-Fi capability, chairs and tables. The number of reporters permitted to use the room at any given time may be limited in accordance with the direction of the Sheriff to assure facilities are not overtaxed.

16. All reporters are reminded they cannot electronically transmit stories, pictures, or video from Courtroom 1, or anywhere in the Courthouse, or in the satellite courtroom. The 3rd floor media room in the Annex may be used to transmit data.

17. Reporters who have been selected to receive credentials for Courtroom 1 or the satellite courtroom may pick up those credentials in the Annex Building between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on Monday, December 12, and between 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. on December 13.

18. To be issued credentials for the preliminary hearing reporters must present credentials from their media outlet, which must include a photo. Those who do not have a media credential with a photo will be required to present their media credential together with another valid photo identification.

19. Only reporters who present valid credentials issued by his or her media outlet will be granted access to the Annex Building.

20. The Annex Building will be open until 10:00 p.m. on December 12 for those reporters who wish to use the 3rd Floor media room. The Annex will reopen at 4:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 13. The Annex will remain open until two hours after the conclusion of the preliminary hearing.

21. Reporters and members of the public 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 (the largest general use spaces are 12 feet). Damage caused to borough or county property will be reported immediately to a law enforcement officer and a police report will be filed.

22. Parking for satellite trucks will be available from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on December 12. Parking arrangements and truck locations are being coordinated by local law enforcement, CMS, and the PAB. The local police will close streets near the Courthouse to accommodate satellite trucks assigned to cover the preliminary hearing. A parking plan is being developed and outlets will be informed before December 12 of the location of their parking assignment. A map of parking areas in Bellefonte will be posted on the Centre County website ([www.co.centre.pa.us/media](http://www.co.centre.pa.us/media)<<http://www.co.centre.pa.us/media>>).

23. Only very limited parking is available near the Courthouse. Reporters and members of the public who will be attending the preliminary hearing should allow ample time to find parking and make their way to the Courthouse. Some limited media parking may be available near the Courthouse. Information regarding the arrangements for such parking will be shared with the media by the PAB and PNA.

24. During recesses and during the break between the morning and afternoon session, the sketches prepared by the courtroom sketch artists will be photographed and immediately placed on a website for access by the media who are paying for the sketch artists. CMS will oversee that process and develop an email list so the media will receive notice when the photos are posted.


25. Inclement weather will not cause the preliminary hearing to be postponed.

26. All media inquiries should be directed to Jim Koval, Communications Manager, Administrative Office of PA Courts (AOPC):

Jim.koval@pacourts.us.  
Cell phone: 717.319.8341  
Office phone: 717.231.3324

27. Inquiries regarding press credentialing and media arrangements should be directed to PAB and PNA.

By authority of the Court:



John M. Cleland, Senior Judge  
Specially Presiding