

FILED
01-04-2022
Clerk of Circuit Court
Waukesha County
2021CF001848

BY THE COURT:

DATE SIGNED: January 4, 2022

Electronically signed by Michael O. Bohren
Circuit Court Judge

STATE OF WISCONSIN

CIRCUIT COURT

WAUKESHA COUNTY

State of Wisconsin

Vs.

General Order
Case No. 2021CF001848

Darrell E. Brooks

IT IS ORDERED:

The Court is mindful of the need to balance (1) the constitutional right of the defendant to a fair hearing, (2) the public's right to know and the obligations of the media to attend the proceedings, and (3) the court's own interest in maintaining order and an environment which permits all participants to focus on their responsibilities without undue distractions. To address these important considerations, and in accordance with SCR Chapters 61, 68 and 70 this Order will govern conduct of the media and attendance of the public in all matters concerning the above matter in the courtroom, courthouse, court facilities and on the county grounds. Adherence to this Order is mandatory, and shall serve as direction to the media, media coordinator and the public during the course of this case. This Order is subject to modification at any time by the Court.

DEFINITIONS

Court facilities means facilities used in the operation of the Circuit Court including without limitation the courtroom, court chambers, the office of any judicial officer, court reporter, Clerk of the Circuit Court, jury room, jury assembly areas, judicial staff areas, areas that may affect the security of the court, court staff, and the public, and any other faculties used in the operation of a court where court proceedings are conducted or judicial staff is housed.

INQUIRIES

Inquiries concerning clarification or application of this Order may be directed to either, the Waukesha County Media Coordinator, Mark Krueger, Fox 6, (or his designee), or the 3rd Judicial District Court Administrator, Michael Neimon, who will act as liaison with the Court. Monica Paz, Clerk of Circuit Court, will be the Public Information Officer for any court related documents or information that will be dispersed throughout the proceedings. Security concerns generated by this Order shall be addressed with Waukesha County Sheriff's Department Captain Neil Dussault.

AUDIO/VIDEO CAMERA

There shall be only one audio/video camera permitted in the Courtroom on behalf of all media, which will be stationary at a location designated by the Court. The media will be allowed to transmit a pooled live audio/video feed from the courtroom to the Jury Assembly Room if available. This equipment must remain silent at all times while the court is in session. All audio/video equipment allowed in the courtroom must be powered off and not recording or transmitting when court is not in session. The audio/video equipment shall not be recording or transmitting a live feed unless a videographer is present to operate it. There will be no filming of the gallery.

PAGERS/CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES/LIVE STREAMING

Member of the media and general public will not be permitted to have pagers/cell phones/electronic devices on while in the courtroom. There shall be no video or audio recording by cell phones, smart devices, tablets or any other device in the courtroom at any time. There shall be no electronic device that has any audio/video, recording or access to the internet capabilities used in the courtroom at anytime unless specifically approved by the Court. The Waukesha Sheriff's Department will use their discretion when enforcing this section.

In all other respects, the use of a computer, cell phone or other electronic device, including personal wearable electronics, applications, or tools with communication capabilities to share any information about this case or other matters are prohibited if the use interferes with court system security.

Live streaming or live feed is permitted only in areas designated for interviews.

STILL PHOTOGRAPHY

There shall be no more than one individual acting as a still pooled photographer permitted in the courtroom on behalf of all media. That individual will be motionless and equipped with a non-flash camera with as quiet an action as possible. This individual may use a cell phone as their camera but shall not audio record the proceedings. The photographer's location will be directed by the Court. There is to be no photographs taken of the gallery.

Members of the general public will not be permitted to have a camera in the courtroom.

LIVESTREAM

The proceedings will be livestreamed and viewable online at <https://www.wicourts.gov/courts/livestream.htm>.

The only official record of proceedings shall be the court record prepared by the official court reporter.

SEATING

Attendance will be limited to available benches in the courtroom with certain exceptions. The first row behind the defendants table will remain vacant. The court will determine with counsel from both parties the number of seats they wish to have assigned to them in the public gallery. The remaining rows will be available to the general public on a first come first serve basis. No one will be permitted to stand at any location in the public areas of the courtroom except security and court personnel.

Once seated in the courtroom, spectators may leave, but they will not be permitted to re-enter the courtroom until the Court breaks.

COURTROOM ATTIRE AND SIGNAGE

Placards, signs and similar items are not permitted in the courtroom. Spectators will not be permitted to wear clothing or colors expressing sympathy or support for either the defendant or the victims in the case. Persons wearing any such clothing, including visible pins, arm bands, emblems or any other similar attire will not be permitted in the courtroom.

MEDIA PARKING

Media vehicles are required to park and stage in the east side of the North Parking lot on Moreland Boulevard across the street from the Courthouse. No media will be allowed to park in the 'horseshoe' parking lot between the Courthouse and the Justice Center buildings.

JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM

Courthouse Room CG6, known as the Jury Assembly Room (JAR) if available will be available to the media during the pendency of the case. Media may use electronic devices in this room. The room will be opened one hour prior to scheduled hearings and closed 30 minutes after court concludes. When available, video will be fed from the courtroom to the JAR and will be displayed on numerous screens. Space is available on a first come/first serve basis. Security will not be provided in this room. If you leave your belongings in this room, the Court and Waukesha County are not responsible. No equipment of any kind will be allowed in any halls of the courthouse. Media will be required to go through routine screening upon entry to the courthouse.

FILMING AND INTERVIEWS

Filming, interviewing or questioning counsel, family members or others is prohibited in the Courtroom and hallways. Interviews must be conducted in the JAR or in a designated interview area outside the Courthouse away from the main public entrance.

If trial counsel makes themselves available for interviews, they shall be conducted in the JAR or in the designated media area outside the courthouse. No interviews shall be conducted outside of these two designated areas.

AREAS ADJACENT TO COURTROOM

For security and safety, the hallway area immediately outside the courtroom will be kept reasonably clear of congestion. Stairwells and emergency exits will not be obstructed in any manner by the media, their equipment or the public. The Sheriff's Department will monitor compliance.

POSTING

This order shall be posted in all court faculties.

IT IS ORDERED