



## EPISODE 82: Week Six of the Alex Murdaugh Trial: 'What A Tangled Web We Weave'

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[00:00:00] **Mandy Matney:** I don't know what the jury will decide when they deliberate this week. But after five weeks of testimony and hundreds of pieces of evidence, I hope that they concede the truth through Alex Murdaugh's tangled web of lies. My name is Mandy Matney. I have been covering the Murdaugh family for more than four years now. This is another special episode of the Murdaugh Murders Podcast live from Walterboro as the Murdaugh murders Trial is underway. MMP is produced by my husband, David Moses, and written by my best friend, Liz Farrell.

[00:00:51] So a quick note for MMP Soak Up The Sun members. We have something really fun for y'all this week. Tomorrow night, Thursday March 2nd at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time, join my friend Justin Bamberg and I for a YouTube happy hour. Justin has watched the jury as the attorney of several of Alex Murdaugh's financial victims. And as tired as I am of talking about the Murdaugh trial, I am so excited to chat with Justin tomorrow night. He's one of the very bright lights in this dark story. To join, go to [mmp.supercast.com](http://mmp.supercast.com) and we will send a special link to Soak Up The Sun members tomorrow morning.

[00:01:30] So, when Alex Murdaugh got on the stand last week, he showed the world exactly who he is. After spending so much time investigating this family, especially him, it was personally very gratifying to have so many people see this at the same time. Because who Alex Murdaugh is is undeniable in our opinion. He is a liar. He is very likely a narcissist and possibly even a psychopath. He cares about one thing and that is himself. And we believe that the evidence so far has shown that he is a murderer. Obviously, the last part is for the jury to decide. It has been frustrating at times hearing the counterpoint to this because the counterpoint seems to be based on two things: Alex doesn't, quote, look like someone who would murder his wife and son; and the crying. Even *Washington Post* columnist Kathleen Parker, who again lives in South Carolina and runs in the same circles as the Dicks and Jims of Columbia, seemed convinced by Alex's crying. And you know what? We will concede that at times the tears may have been real but what are the tears for? Is he crying for himself? Is it regret for what he allegedly did to Maggie and Paul? Is it actual grief over what he lost? Which by the way, is something that can coexist with a crime. Alex can feel grief over losing Maggie and Paul and also be the person who killed them.



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[00:03:03] Another thing that has been frustrating is hearing this sentence: I think he did it but if I were on the jury, I'd have to vote not guilty. Help us out with that one because it makes no sense — if you think that he's guilty but you would vote not guilty. In Creighton Waters' closing arguments, he explained that guilty beyond a reasonable doubt leaves you firmly convinced of the guilt of the defendant and is not proof that overcomes any possible doubt. I saw a tweet that summed it up for me. It was a woman named Lydia Wardell and here's what it said: 3 people went down to those kennels. Only one person left. And the one who left lied about having been there. It's not that damn complicated, the tweet said. It is not that complicated. Every day, we get asked about how we think the jury is gonna rule. Obviously, we don't have an answer to that and no one does. We are preparing for a hung jury because A.) No matter what the evidence shows, we're still talking about home court advantage. This is a Colleton County jury and this is Murdaugh territory; and B.) Because of what I just said, there is a disturbing percentage of people who don't believe he did it because they can't picture him killing the son that he said that he loved. And a lot of talking heads on TV are pushing those beliefs in favor of the defense.

[00:04:29] There is so much that has come out during this trial and there's also so much that's being held back. Far too many people are afraid to take a side outside of the courtroom in case he is found not guilty. Why? Because they have to live here and work here and still operate alongside the Murdaughs. The Murdaughs, as you can now see, are not ones to duck their heads in shame and fade into the background. This is why we never believed for one second that the community turned its backs on the Murdaughs because of the boat crash or that Alex in any way, shape, or form was ever worried about SLED. That said, however this ends up, we believe the timeline is clear and it is not that damn complicated.

[00:05:17] Watching Alex testify was hard. Not only did it confirm our suspicions from the jailhouse phone calls — that his entire family has been held hostage by his personality — it showed just how much of an emotionally abusive relationship Maggie was in. Someone close to Maggie once told us she had a lot of responsibility in the family but no authority. Alex was the breadwinner. Alex handled the finances. Alex decided what the boys needed and who they would be. Alex emphasized the importance of that last name.



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Maggie belonged to Alex, Paul belonged to Alex, and Buster belonged to Alex. They were there for him and Buster continues to be there for him. We have emphasized over and over again that this is not just a murder case. It is a corruption case and it is. But we don't wanna lose sight of how this is also a domestic violence case. We'll get some insights from the testimony but the biggest thing here is to understand in this moment something that we've said over and over: the Murdaughs are known for getting away with bad behavior. This week, during the course of the trial, Alex was quietly charged with a misdemeanor for contraband, *The Post and Courier* first reported last week. According to our sources, the charges stemmed from an incident in the courtroom where Alex's sister Lynn passed him a John Grisham novel. The family had to move back in court because they wouldn't follow the rules. Sound familiar?

[00:06:52] **Liz Farrell:** The Murdaughs are also known for manipulating outcomes and they have been groomed since birth to believe that reality will become whatever it is they've decided is true. If you don't believe us, rewatch John Marvin Murdaugh's testimony. The grief was real. Everything else was carefully choreographed to appeal to the jury — the humility, the mention of that \$15 beer as if he's just your average working class guy, the insistence that he and Alex don't care about their family's last name and legacy any more than the rest of us care about ours, the folksy humor, the ridiculous and gross story about Alex pooping his pants in the car. All of this was to create an air of credibility so that the jury thinks John Marvin wants to catch the killer so bad and John Marvin doesn't think the killer has been caught and Alex is a grieving man with such a horrible addiction. And let's not forget the repeated mention of Yemassee Police Chief Greg Alexander's name. Don't lose sight of that. Yes, Greg played a role in escorting John Marvin Murdaugh to Moselle and rescuing him when the truck allegedly broke down. I say "allegedly" because how long did the Murdaughs let law enforcement believe that Paul's truck was taken from the scene and left on the side of the road? What was that \$5,000 payment Alex made to Greg shortly after the murders? Greg says it was a loan to his father. Are we to take that at face value? Beyond Greg's role that night, whatever that role may be, why was John Marvin saying his name? Why did Alex mention Greg and Colleton County Sheriff Buddy Hill's names? Manipulation, that's why. They want the jury to hear those names and read into it. Is the jury asking themselves: if I say guilty, am I going to be able



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to drive in Colleton County after this? Am I going to be able to feel safe in Yemassee? You might think we're being alarmist here but this stuff is real and that's why we do what we do. We want this to change. We are so happy the State has had the courage to bring the case this far but it isn't over. We have been repeatedly told that this is the tip of the iceberg and frankly, that is scary. But it's a battle for another day. One more time: it is not that complicated. Lying about your alibi matters. Lying about your alibi matters even more when it's to cover up the fact that you were at the scene of two murders right around the time of those two murders. Today, we wanna talk about those lies and the manipulations that we've seen over the past week. And we wanna talk about the one thing Alex cannot explain away, no matter how many times he changes his story, no matter how many times he tries to retrofit it into the evidence in front of him, no matter how many times Alex says he can't trust SLED: the timeline.

[00:09:47] **Mandy Matney:** Let's start with Alex's former coworker attorney Mark Ball. Mark Ball was a witness for the defense. But then right before our eyes, he turned into the State's witness and on Tuesday afternoon, he came back and took the stand as one of the state's rebuttal witnesses. Mark has known Alex for 34 years. He lived about 10 minutes from Moselle. He and his wife arrived on scene shortly after the first of the first responders. His initial testimony seemed very intentionally crafted like he was using past testimony and evidence to corroborate the defense's assertions about the crime scene and about the night of the murders. He answered each question gently like a storyteller on a bedtime app and his tone more than anything else seemed to bolster his credibility. He told the court how he was surprised that SLED allowed them — Alex's friends and law partners — in the house and how they didn't seem to protect Paul's body from water that was dripping from the roof of the kennels. Again, we think there are a lot of questions that need to be answered about the management of the crime scene but we also cannot stress this enough: the management of the crime scene only benefited Alex Murdaugh. Alex of all people would know that and that's not just because he was a prosecutor. He knew the questions over jurisdiction and the anomalies that occurred the night of the boat crash and afterward were helpful to the criminal and civil cases. And on the day of the roadside shooting, Alex left the scene of the crime and basically hitchhiked himself to another location miles away, leaving that scene unattended and therefore, open to scrutiny. That





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said, Mark Ball's testimony about the crime scene was damaging to the State — or rather, it would've been damaging had this turned out to be a crime scene case and it would've been had the State not drawn Mark Ball away from the defense. Here is the moment when it was clear Mark was not there to help Alex Murdaugh.

[00:11:57] **Creighton Waters:** You're not a criminal lawyer or a prosecutor I think you said.

[00:11:59] **Mark Ball:** I'm not.

[00:12:00] **Creighton Waters:** But still a lawyer. And so, you and your partners, including his brother Randy were very focused on trying to figure out what happened here, what is wrong here? Correct? What happened on June 7th, 2021, right?

[00:12:11] **Mark Ball:** Sure.

[00:12:12] **Creighton Waters:** Very focused on that, were you not?

[00:12:13] **Mark Ball:** We were. I mean, he was taking a lot of time off.

[00:12:16] **Creighton Waters:** But he was not, was he? You said that before, have you not?

[00:12:21] **Mark Ball:** I have said that but I don't know, Mr. Waters, how I would respond if I'd lost — and I've told you the same thing. I don't know how you're supposed to act to react when you lose your wife and your child in such a brutal manner. But no, to answer your question, I didn't see him on the phone like I was trying to call clients and did you hear anything? Did you see anything? Those kinds of things. So, I mean, the answer is no, I didn't see him doing that. I wasn't around him all the time but no, I did not.

[00:12:54] **Mandy Matney:** Also here.



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[00:12:56] **Creighton Waters:** He had a, he had a badge. Did you ever see a badge that he had?

[00:12:58] **Mark Ball:** I did.

[00:12:59] **Creighton Waters:** Where did he keep that badge that you saw?

[00:13:03] **Mark Ball:** Usually, it was on the corner of his dashboard.

[00:13:06] **Creighton Waters:** Driving around with it in the front of his dashboard? This family's very, very powerful, were they not? Very influential in this community?

[00:13:15] **Mark Ball:** I mean, they had a very good name. They had, you know, they were you they were known to help you with your problems.

[00:13:28] **Creighton Waters:** How important was that family legacy to the defendant?

[00:13:32] **Mark Ball:** Very. It seemed to be very important.

[00:13:35] **Creighton Waters:** I think you've said that it was more important to him than anybody else that you observed.

[00:13:38] **Mark Ball:** That seems it seemed that way. I mean, whenever there would be discussions of name changes or anything, he would be very involved in that — much more involved in that than he would be in other business matters.

[00:13:50] **Mandy Matney:** What's funny about that last part is that on Monday, Alex's brother John Marvin got snippy on the stand when prosecutor John Conrad asked him how important the family's name was to them. Everyone down here knows the answer to that question. At this point, the whole world knows the answer. Here is how John Marvin answered it. It's hard



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to tell from the audio when he answered but he took the opportunity to speak directly to the jury as if putting himself on the same level.

[00:14:21] **John Conrad:** One last thing, Mr. Murdaugh. Would you say that the Murdaugh name and legacy is something that's important to you and your brothers?

[00:14:33] **John Marvin Murdaugh:** Yes. I think any family's name and legacy is important to them. Do I think my family's name is more important than yours or any of y'all's? No, I don't.

[00:14:43] **John Conrad:** Okay. But it's important to your brother as well, correct?

[00:14:47] **John Marvin Murdaugh:** I think he would feel the exact same way as what I just said — that all families are important.

[00:14:54] **John Conrad:** Okay.

[00:14:55] **Mandy Matney:** We'll be right back.

[00:14:59] Okay. Back to Mark Ball real quick. One of the most important things he did was finally put the golf cart at the house that night. How Maggie, Paul, and Alex got to the kennels that night was not clear until Alex took the stand. Granted, Alex didn't admit to driving Paul down there but we fully believe because Mark Ball put the golf cart on the record, Alex was compelled to incorporate it into what Creighton Waters repeatedly called Alex's new story.

[00:15:31] **Creighton Waters:** The night of the murders, did you see a golf cart up at the Moselle residence?

[00:15:35] **Mark Ball:** I saw one in front of their house.

[00:15:37] **Creighton Waters:** In front of the house?



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[00:15:38] **Mark Ball:** Yeah. If you drove up the driveway, it was over to the left.

[00:15:41] **Creighton Waters:** It was parked in front of the house?

[00:15:42] **Mark Ball:** It was parked off to the left side of the house.

[00:15:45] **Mandy Matney:** That is a big deal, not only because Dr. Kenny Kinsey had testified that Maggie appeared to have a bruise consistent with the tire from the family's golf cart, but because it could explain how the guns were so accessible to the shooter, how the shooter — if Alex — could have gotten to the house so quickly, and why Maggie's phone did not show footsteps at the same time as Alex's. It also adds to the shooter's ability to clean himself up quickly. He could have sprayed himself off using the pressure hose at the kennels where the puddle of water was and he could have quickly sprayed off the golf cart if there was any blood on it. Finally, Mark Ball, again a witness for the defense, said what we were all thinking about September 4th, 2021.

[00:16:29] **Creighton Waters:** And then on September 4th, what happened? What did you hear about?

[00:16:32] **Mark Ball:** I had spoken to Mr. Griffin just to let him know that we had terminated him. He already knew. And about 11:30, 12:00, whatever time it was, I was on a tractor and he called me and said "You're not gonna believe what happened." And I thought, my first response was, "Don't tell me that Jackass killed himself."

[00:16:59] **Creighton Waters:** Right.

[00:17:00] **Mark Ball:** And he said, "No, somebody shot him." And I just said, "I don't believe that."

[00:17:05] **Liz Farrell:** On Tuesday, the State brought Mark back as a rebuttal witness to refute some of the new claims that Alex was making. I cannot stress this enough: Alex has told so many lies in this case that we can't even



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begin to outline even 10% of them here. And that's frustrating because there is a very real part of me that wants to make an index card for every lie he told during this investigation and every lie he told during this trial and clip them together in a *Lies Across America* fundraiser for victims of domestic violence. Some of the lies Mark cleared up were related to the .300 Blackout. Alex went from saying that he and Paul had ridden around the property looking for hogs, which as we've learned many times over the past six weeks Paul liked to have his Blackout with him for that. The one with the sight scope was used during the day and Buster's Blackout with the thermal scope was for the night. But then, Alex changed that after admitting he was at the kennels last week, he now had to distance himself from Maggie's murder weapon. Mark Ball also testified that Alex never expressed a fear of SLED. Jim Griffin tried to get Mark to say that Paul's charges in the boat crash case and Alex's determination to get Paul's name cleared were indication of Alex not trusting SLED. Mark held firm. You wanna know why? Because SLED didn't charge Paul. That was the State Attorney General's Office and the Department of Natural Resources. SLED cleared Buster in the short investigation into whether he knew Paul had used his license that night. So, big surprise. No one can testify to Alex being suspicious of SLED except Alex in his new story.

[00:18:47] It did not surprise us one bit that Alex took the stand on Thursday. Sources have told us many times that Alex Murdaugh likes attention. We also heard several people testify that Alex is good at reading people and making them feel confident in what he's saying. This is how he was able to steal so much money over most of his career — through charming people into thinking he's the good guy and that there are reasonable explanations for any red flags they're seeing; that what they're seeing right there in front of them what they're hearing isn't real. Only he has the real version of the truth. When Alex took that stand, by God, he did that same thing he's been doing his whole life. He talked his way out of it or at least he tried to talk his way out of it. We'll see what the jury says. We've seen a lot of people comment that Creighton Waters was bested by Alex or that he was too snarky or sarcastic with Alex in his cross-examination. Creighton Waters went into uncharted territory and he battled the most skilled liar that might have ever taken a stand in South Carolina and that says a lot. It was almost a scene from a sci-fi movie. That Creighton seemed disgusted by Alex seems appropriate to us because Creighton fully believes Alex killed Maggie and Paul. And Creighton





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has probably seen some stuff over the past year when it comes to the attempts to derail the State's investigation. In the end, we think Creighton was able to best Alex. Let's take a look at that testimony. Right out of the gate, there was drama. Here's Jim guiding his client through the big reveal.

[00:20:25] **Jim Griffin:** On June 7th, 2021, did you take this gun or any gun like it and shoot your son Paul in the chest in the feed room at your property off Moselle Road?

[00:20:38] **Alex Murdaugh:** No, I did not.

[00:20:39] **Jim Griffin:** Mr. Murdaugh, did you take this gun or any gun like it and blow your son's brains out on June 7th or any day or any time?

[00:20:51] **John Marvin Murdaugh:** No, I did not.

[00:20:55] **Jim Griffin:** Mr. Murdaugh, did you take a .300 Blackout such as this and fired into your wife Maggie's leg, torso, or any part of her body?

[00:21:11] **Alex Murdaugh:** No, I did not.

[00:21:13] **Jim Griffin:** Did you shoot a .300 Blackout into her head, causing her death?

[00:21:20] **Alex Murdaugh:** Mr. Griffin, I didn't shoot my wife or my son any time ever.

[00:21:32] **Jim Griffin:** Mr. Murdaugh, is that you on the kennel video at 8:44 p.m. on June 7th, the night Maggie and Paul were murdered?

[00:21:40] **Alex Murdaugh:** It is.

[00:21:42] **Jim Griffin:** Were you in fact at the kennels at 8:44 p.m. on the night Maggie and Paul were murdered?



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[00:21:46] **Alex Murdaugh:** I was.

[00:21:48] **Jim Griffin:** Did you lie to SLED Agent Owen and Deputy Laura Rutland on the night of June 7th and told them that you stayed at the house after dinner?

[00:22:00] **Alex Murdaugh:** I did lie to them.

[00:22:01] **Jim Griffin:** Did you lie to Agent Owen and Agent Croft on the follow-up interview on June 10th that the last time you saw Maggie and Paul was at dinner?

[00:22:12] **Alex Murdaugh:** I did lie to them.

[00:22:15] **Jim Griffin:** And in the interview of August 11th, did you tell Agent Owen and Agent Croft, did you lie to them by telling them that you were not down at the kennels on that night?

[00:22:28] **Alex Murdaugh:** Yes.

[00:22:33] **Jim Griffin:** Alex, why did you lie to Agent Owen, Agent Croft, and Deputy Rutland about the last time you saw Maggie and Paul?

[00:22:41] **Alex Murdaugh:** As my addiction evolved over time, I would get in these situations or circumstances where I would get paranoid thinking. And it could be anything that triggered it. It might be a look somebody gave me. It might be a reaction somebody had to something I did. It might be a policeman following me in a car that night, June 7th, after finding Mags and Paul, Paw Paw. Don't talk to anybody without Danny with you — all my partners were just repeatedly telling me that. I had a deputy sheriff taking gunshot test from my hands. I'm sitting in a police car with David Owen asking me about my relationship with my wife and my son. And all those things, coupled together after finding them, coupled with my distrust for SLED, caused me to have paranoid thoughts. Normally, when these paranoid thoughts would hit me, I could take a deep breath real quick and just think



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about it. Reason my way through it and just get past it really quickly. On June the 7th, I wasn't thinking clearly. I don't think I was capable of reason and I lied about being down there and I'm so sorry that I did. I'm sorry to my son, Buster. I'm sorry to Grandma and Papa T. I'm sorry to both of our families. But most of all, I'm sorry to Mags and Paw Paw. I would never intentionally do anything to hurt either one of them ever. Ever.

[00:25:39] **Jim Griffin:** Did you continue lying after that night, did you not?

[00:25:48] **Alex Murdaugh:** Well, once I lied, I continued to lie. Yes, sir.

[00:25:51] **Jim Griffin:** Why?

[00:25:57] **Alex Murdaugh:** You know. Oh, what a tangled web we weave. But once I told the lie then I told my family, I had to keep lying.

[00:26:20] **Jim Griffin:** Alex, tell the jury what happened on the evening of June 7th, starting when you met with Paul.

[00:26:30] **Alex Murdaugh:** I had been at work that day, a fairly normal day.

[00:26:37] **Mandy Matney:** What a tangled web we weave. There you have it. At some point during the trial, Alex and his team decided to admit it was him on that kennel video; that he was at the kennel minutes before the murders; and to use the testimony and the evidence presented to the jury thus far to craft this new story about how he was there but missed the murders by minutes. Now, like we said earlier, there are too many lies to point out fully but let's talk about that fairly normal day. Alex knows that we know that he got the ultimatum from Jeanne Seckinger that day. Here, he seems to be playing down that confrontation as not a big deal. Why? Because if it's a big deal, then it is a big motive. Now, Alex's strategy is to say that he was lying but isn't lying now and that SLED is lying except for the part where SLED says he's a liar. Alex says that part is true but only that part. In addition, he says Shelley Smith, his mother's caretaker who told SLED Alex seemed to be trying to get her to say that he was at his mother's longer than he was that night and even offered to pay for her wedding and maybe get her a better job is lying.



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[00:28:01] **Alex Murdaugh:** You know, I don't distinctly remember having a conversation with her about how long I was over there but I know that I told Shelley Smith that SLED was going to come and talk to her and that I'd appreciate it if she would talk to them and that she just needed to tell them the truth.

[00:28:25] **Jim Griffin:** And did you take extra care not to talk to people that you knew SLED would be talking to?

[00:28:33] **Alex Murdaugh:** Absolutely.

[00:28:34] **Jim Griffin:** And why is that?

[00:28:36] **Alex Murdaugh:** After this boat wreck that you've heard so much talk about in this courtroom, there were social media, newspaper — I mean, it went deeper than that but, I mean, there was so many, so much talk about how I, you know, fixed witnesses and structured the investigation — just things that were totally false that were absolutely baseless but it was said repeatedly, repeatedly, and it was reported repeatedly how I'd done this and this witness and influence this police officer and all these things so I wasn't taking any chances.

[00:29:25] **Mandy Matney:** Alex also says that his housekeeper, Blanca, who did the family's laundry for years, was lying and that she told SLED that the clothes he had on in the Snapchat video shortly before the murders were different from the ones he wore to work that day and that she's never seen them and that she never has seen them since and that Alex seemed to try to get her to recast her memory about what he'd been wearing that day.

[00:29:57] **Jim Griffin:** Did you have a follow up? Did you have a conversation after that meeting with SLED with Blanca about what you were wearing that day?

[00:30:05] **Alex Murdaugh:** Absolutely.



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[00:30:06] **Jim Griffin:** And what was the purpose of the conversation with Blanca?

[00:30:09] **Alex Murdaugh:** Well, they made an issue about that in that meeting and I asked Blanca about those clothes that I had on earlier that day.

[00:30:25] **Jim Griffin:** Did you ask her specifically about the blue shirt?

[00:30:28] **Alex Murdaugh:** I asked her specifically about all the clothes.

[00:30:31] **Jim Griffin:** Okay.

[00:30:32] **Alex Murdaugh:** What I asked Blanca about specifically was: did she remember getting my clothes after she came back? When she came back to Moselle, did she remember getting my clothes? is specifically what I asked her.

[00:30:47] **Jim Griffin:** And and why were you asking her those questions?

[00:30:51] **Alex Murdaugh:** Because on August the 11th, they had made an issue about me wearing still wearing those clothes, not having changed clothes when I was in that Snapchat video. So, that's why I went to Blanca.

[00:31:07] **Jim Griffin:** Did they ever ask you on August 11th whether — they ask you for those clothes? Can you produce the clothes? Did they ask you that?

[00:31:15] **Alex Murdaugh:** No, they didn't.

[00:31:17] **Jim Griffin:** Have they ever asked you for those clothes?

[00:31:23] **Alex Murdaugh:** No. As far as my understanding goes, my clothes were never an issue in this case.





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[00:31:30] **Liz Farrell:** Also, according to Alex, the nonlying liar, PMPED's chief financial officer, Jeanne Seckinger, was lying when she characterized their conversation about the missing \$792,000 as a confrontation and when she testified that that confrontation had stopped because he told her that he had just gotten information that his father had taken a turn for the worst. As we all saw from SLED's timeline from that day, Alex did get a text about his father's health right around the time of this non-confrontation confrontation but that text said his father's prognosis had improved.

[00:32:08] **Alex Murdaugh:** I can't remember exactly what I told her. The conversation got interrupted very quickly but I told Jeanne that the funds were in Chris Wilson's account and nothing to worry about. I wasn't I didn't know where the mix up came from.

[00:32:26] **Jim Griffin:** What was your level of concern about Ms. Seckinger's inquiry to you on June the 7th?

[00:32:37] **Alex Murdaugh:** There was some level of concern 'cause she's asking me about money that I took that I wasn't supposed to have. So, certainly, I had some level of concern but it wasn't a very big concern. As you heard testimony earlier, at some point Annette Griswold had sent Chris Wilson an email, something to the effect of Alex thinks he has more expenses or something like that, seeking financial documents from Chris Wilson. When Chris Wilson got, I wasn't copied on that, but when Chris Wilson got that, Chris Wilson called me up and he's like, you know, what is this all about?

[00:33:23] **Judge Clifton Newman:** Pardon?

[00:33:30] **Creighton Waters:** I said objection. Rules 801 and 802, Your Honor.

[00:33:36] **Judge Clifton Newman:** Response?

[00:33:37] **Jim Griffin:** Your Honor, I'm not asking for what Chris Wilson said and I'll move on. I accept the objection. Were you concerned about Chris Wilson opening his trust account records to your law firm?



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[00:33:51] **Alex Murdaugh:** No, I was not concerned about that at all.

[00:33:55] **Jim Griffin:** And why were you not concerned?

[00:33:56] **Alex Murdaugh:** I knew that one of the people that Chris Wilson, as you heard, Chris Wilson and I were very close. We talked every day. I did work with him all the time and, I mean, he was one of the people closest to me in the whole world. I knew everything about him and I knew he was going through one of his partners and he and his partner had split up. A partner and an associate had moved to a firm in Charleston. The partner was going through a divorce and the wife of the partner was trying to get Chris Wilson's trust documents in that case to find out money her husband got. Didn't have anything to do with Chris and I or anything. It totally had to do with that. But I knew that Chris Wilson was not going to send any financial documents to my law firm at least at that time and at least not anytime soon. So, while I'm sure it registered with me that I gotta deal with this at that particular time, it wasn't anything that was a big deal.

[00:35:11] **Jim Griffin:** Was there an immediate urgency to the situation on June the 7th?

[00:35:14] **Alex Murdaugh:** No.

[00:35:15] **Jim Griffin:** And I believe there's — Seckinger testified about your conversation with her. You learned that your dad was going back in the hospital.

[00:35:28] **Alex Murdaugh:** That's correct. There was a text. I can't remember if that text came from my brother Randy or my brother John but they were the ones that were taking my dad back to the hospital that day. And whichever one was with him, I believe it was John was with him at the hospital but I know Randy was with him at some treatments. It's in those documents. But bottom line is we got a text saying we knew my dad was really sick. He had cancer and he couldn't breathe and there was a big issue about whether his inability to breathe was coming from an obstruction caused by the cancer, which was the worst-case scenario and that's what it ended up being



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ultimately and that's what he died from. But this particular text was saying, okay. We're putting him back in the hospital. The doctor thinks it's pneumonia and, which was, you know, I mean, pneumonia's never a good thing but when compared to cancer. At that time, pneumonia, that was a good thing to learn that.

[00:36:31] **Mandy Matney:** So, like we said, it was a better prognosis but instead of telling Jeanne Seckinger that, Alex appears to have used this text as a way to effectively end the conversation with Jeanne and, you guessed it, allow her to give him sympathy over the news. Also interesting here is that Maggie's sister Marian testified that Maggie had told her that Alex was always the go-to person for Randolph and Libby; that he was the sibling who always was being called to care for them. But it seems like Randy, John Marvin, Lynn, and Maggie were the engaged ones when it came to Randolph's health that day. Alex responded to the text thread once and it was an accident. Maggie didn't respond to the text thread but appeared to have made several calls to Libby's housekeeper that day and even arranged to bring dinner to Alameda on Wednesday evening. So, that seems to be another lie because it's a lie upon a lie upon a lie for Alex.

[00:37:33] Another thing with Alex is the manipulation. All throughout his testimony, he referred to Maggie and Paul and just about everyone by an endearing and almost annoying, depending on how you look at it, nickname. In the cross-examination of Alex, Creighton made sure to point that out that Alex never referred to Paul or Maggie by those nicknames during any interaction with SLED or any investigators until then in that moment in front of the jury. Alex also seems incapable of fully mimicking the emotion of love. Here, he is describing Maggie as Mags and Paul as Paw Paw.

[00:38:15] **Alex Murdaugh:** You know, she was such a lady, such a feminine person, a girl. But then, she had two boys and, I mean, she didn't grow up in the swamp and in the country riding four-wheelers and hunting and fishing. And, I mean, she changed everything. She became a boy's mom. I mean, her life became ball and riding four wheelers and, I mean, doing those things. Now, don't get me wrong, she was still a hundred percent girl and you heard Marian say, I mean, she loved to do those things with her nieces but, I mean,



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she threw herself into her boys' life. I mean, you know, she never took not working for granted. I mean, she, I mean, she might not have worked but I promise you she worked and she worked to make sure me and Paul and Buster had everything. You know, she wanted a big family and pregnancy just didn't suit her. Her pregnancies were so hard. I would leave her in the mornings and she'd be sick. I'd come home and check on her and she'd be sick. I'd come back at the end of the day and she'd be sick. I mean, she was so sick all the time with both those boys. And when we had Paw Paw, Maggie got in trouble and Paw Paw got in trouble and just pregnancy didn't suit her. So, we decided that, you know, we would just have the two boys and, you know, I just think how hard it was on her just made her love those boys so much more. And she did but she was the kind of person, Maggie, you know, she could put on the most elegant ball gown and go to the governor's mansion and hang out with, you know, the most affluent people, whatever. Or she could come down to, you know, she could go to a food bank in Hampton or Walterboro and fit in. Everybody at both places would say when she left that Maggie, she's a good one. She's just a special person. Paw Paw was just the brightest. He was the bright he's the most inquisitive young man. He wanted to be a part of everything. If you were working, I can remember as a little boy, you'd be working on something. It didn't matter what it was. His little head was gonna come in there, just nose in there to see what you were doing. He was a man's man. He was a hundred percent country boy. He was tough. I mean, he could hunt anything. He could catch any fish. He could run any piece of equipment. He could use any tool. I mean, he could do anything. He at 22 years old he could do so many things. I mean, he took care of so many and he was so tough. But on the other hand, he had a side to him. It was just so sweet. I mean, he wouldn't come home but he would go check on his grandparents. He wouldn't go near Summerville where he wouldn't go outta his way to check on his grandparents. You know, to be such a tough person, he would get all of his buddies and get on a boat and go watch a sunset. How many 22-year-old people you know do stuff like that? I mean, he was such a special boy. He cared about people. He was fiercely, fiercely loyal. He was so misrepresented in the media. I mean, never, never an accurate story told about what he was. And I'll challenge you right now. I'll challenge everybody in this room to go find somebody, somebody that knew Paw Paw, who really knew him, that did not have an ulterior motive, that would say something negative about him. And I challenge everybody who can hear me



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now to do that. I mean, Paul was that kind of person if you knew him. He would help you and he would be glad to help you. You know, I thought Mark Ball made a good point when he said, you know, Paw Paw might not have he might not have quite found his place yet. Paul was ADD ADHD and so, he would jump around from thing to thing a lot. But there's absolutely no question in my mind whatsoever that Paw Paw would've found whatever that thing was that he was gonna do and whatever that ended up being, he was going to be one of the best at it that you've ever known.

[00:44:58] **Mandy Matney:** Alex's use of the phrase "ulterior motive" in describing anyone who would criticize Paul is the problem here. Paul had mental health issues. He was an outcast in his family and he clearly had problems that he needed to get help for. The boat crash should have been a huge wake-up call for the Murdaugh family that Paul had problems that he needed to fix but they ignored the fact that Paul's problems led to Mallory Beach's death and instead, continued to try to cover for him. I honestly wonder if there was ever a moment when Paul wanted to confess to being the driver and his parents wouldn't have allowed him. Alex gaslighting anyone who has said that Paul had a bad side to him — that is how we got here.

[00:45:53] **Jim Griffin:** Do you love Paul?

[00:45:53] **Alex Murdaugh:** Did I love him? In fact, no other. He and Buster.

[00:46:00] **Jim Griffin:** Do you love Maggie?

[00:46:01] **Alex Murdaugh:** More than anything. I loved Maggie from the first time we went out.

[00:46:07] **Jim Griffin:** Did you kill Maggie?

[00:46:11] **Alex Murdaugh:** No, I did not kill Maggie. I did not kill Paul. I would never hurt Maggie and I would never hurt Paul ever under any circumstances.





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[00:46:22] **Liz Farrell:** A lot of people have pointed out that Alex repeatedly answered questions like this using the word "hurt" and it is interesting that this would be his word of choice. A longtime friend of Maggie, a friend of more than 30 years who knew Maggie and Alex and their relationship, pointed out something interesting. This person said that they believed from the start that Alex was responsible for Maggie's and Paul's murders and that Alex had decided to kill Maggie and Paul in the same way a person decides to kill themselves. This friend noted that Alex can convince himself that even though he's doing something bad, such as stealing money, that he's not actually hurting anyone by doing so. Basically, that he can rationalize these things to the point where they become something different in his mind. This friend believes that Alex did the same thing with Maggie and Paul; that he had decided to do it, had made peace with that decision, and was able to carry it through because he had rationalized it. This is why there is that cognitive dissonance between what people hear on that video at 8:44 p.m. that night and what they know happened minutes later. The murders prevented Paul from having to take a plea deal or go through a trial or end up in prison. His death would mean that the state would drop charges and his name, the Murdaugh name, would be cleared. Their deaths meant Alex would likely be dropped from the boat crash case or at the very least that a Hampton County jury would go easy on him. They meant that he would be inheriting Maggie's more than \$5 million estate and that meant he would have the money to pay back PMPED fully and they'd be none the wiser. There were so many perverse upsides for him and had he not pushed at the limits of what his law firm would tolerate from him, he might have gotten away with it. So, why does Alex keep saying he would never hurt Maggie and Paul? If he did this, maybe he didn't see their murders as hurting them so much as he saw it as an act of mercy. Remember when Maggie's sister said she asked Alex whether Maggie and Paul had suffered? His answer to that was "no."

[00:48:29] So, after Jim gave Alex the opportunity to recast his entire story of what he had done that day and night, Creighton Waters began pulling it apart while the glue was still wet.

[00:48:44] **Creighton Waters:** Mr. Murdaugh, let's start with a few things I think we can agree on.



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[00:48:48] **Alex Murdaugh:** Alright, sir.

[00:48:49] **Creighton Waters:** Do you agree that the most important part of your testimony here today is explaining your life for a year and a half that you were never down at those kennels at 8:44. Would you agree with that?

[00:49:02] **Alex Murdaugh:** I think all of my testimony is important, Mr. Waters.

[00:49:08] **Creighton Waters:** Would you agree that that's an important part of your testimony?

[00:49:11] **Alex Murdaugh:** Sure.

[00:49:12] **Creighton Waters:** Alright. And would you also agree that the first time that law enforcement officers that you've talked to and the prosecution and here in open court ever heard you say that you lied about being in the kennels was today in this court?

[00:49:33] **Alex Murdaugh:** Yes, I'm aware of that.

[00:49:34] **Creighton Waters:** You would agree with that?

[00:49:36] **Alex Murdaugh:** Yes, sir.

[00:49:37] **Creighton Waters:** Alright. All this time later, this is the first time you've ever said that?

[00:49:41] **Alex Murdaugh:** Yes, sir.

[00:49:45] **Creighton Waters:** And you would agree with me that for years, you were stealing money from clients.

[00:49:54] **Alex Murdaugh:** Yes, sir. I agree with that.



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[00:49:56] **Creighton Waters:** And that you were stealing from your law firm.

[00:49:59] **Alex Murdaugh:** Yes, sir. I agree with that.

[00:50:01] **Creighton Waters:** And that had been going on since at least 2010.

[00:50:06] **Alex Murdaugh:** I'm not sure the exact date but it's been going on a long time. I'll agree with that.

[00:50:09] **Creighton Waters:** Alright. What's your best guess of the date?

[00:50:10] **Alex Murdaugh:** I'm not sure. I have — I don't take a dispute with 2010. I just don't know that for sure.

[00:50:15] **Creighton Waters:** Alright. Sure about a lot of things but you don't know that, is that correct?

[00:50:18] **Alex Murdaugh:** I'm fine with that date, Mr. Waters. I don't have any reason to dispute it. I'm just not certain of it.

[00:50:29] **Creighton Waters:** Alright. Let's just keep on things that we may be able to agree about and let's talk first about your family's legacy here in the legal profession, okay?

[00:50:45] **Alex Murdaugh:** That my family's been a central part of the legal community? Yes, sir. I agree with that.

[00:50:49] **Creighton Waters:** Alright. And not only just the central part of the legal community, but the chief prosecutor for this area since 1910 I think up until 2006.

[00:51:01] **Alex Murdaugh:** 1920.

[00:51:02] **Creighton Waters:** 1920.



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[00:51:03] **Alex Murdaugh:** 2006. 1910 is when my great-grandfather started the law firm.

[00:51:09] **Creighton Waters:** The law firm.

[00:51:09] **Alex Murdaugh:** Yes, sir.

[00:51:10] **Creighton Waters:** Alright. So, 1920 to 2006, correct?

[00:51:15] **Alex Murdaugh:** That's correct.

[00:51:16] **Creighton Waters:** An unbroken chain of being the chief prosecutor here, correct?

[00:51:20] **Alex Murdaugh:** That's correct.

[00:51:21] **Creighton Waters:** And as part of that of your practice, you were a trial lawyer, correct?

[00:51:29] **Alex Murdaugh:** That's correct.

[00:51:30] **Creighton Waters:** Successful trial lawyer.

[00:51:33] **Alex Murdaugh:** I don't know about your adjective but I was, you know, I guess so. Yes, sir.

[00:51:40] **Creighton Waters:** Did you make millions of dollars in legal fees?

[00:51:42] **Alex Murdaugh:** Yes, sir.

[00:51:43] **Creighton Waters:** But you won't tell this jury that's successful?

[00:51:46] **Alex Murdaugh:** Well, if that's the criteria, yes, sir. I was successful.



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[00:51:50] **Mandy Matney:** This is how Alex answered questions for a day and a half.

[00:51:57] **Creighton Waters:** Do you think people viewed you as a successful lawyer?

[00:52:02] **Alex Murdaugh:** I'm sure there were a lot of people that did.

[00:52:05] **Creighton Waters:** Do you think people viewed your family as very prominent?

[00:52:08] **Alex Murdaugh:** I believe that there were a lot of people that did. Yes, sir.

[00:52:11] **Creighton Waters:** And did you think that a lot of people viewed you and your family is very prominent in the legal community here?

[00:52:17] **Alex Murdaugh:** I never thought of myself as prominent.

[00:52:19] **Creighton Waters:** I asked you if you thought that people viewed you that way. Let me ask you that.

[00:52:23] **Alex Murdaugh:** At the time, did I think people viewed me that way?

[00:52:25] **Creighton Waters:** Yeah. Yeah. Prior to everything happening.

[00:52:28] **Alex Murdaugh:** No, I don't think that I thought people viewed me as prominent. No, sir. I mean, like a big shot? No, sir. I don't think that.

[00:52:36] **Creighton Waters:** What about your family?

[00:52:38] **Alex Murdaugh:** That my family thought we were big shots? No, sir. I definitely don't think that.





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[00:52:41] **Creighton Waters:** That people viewed your family is prominent in this community.

[00:52:45] **Alex Murdaugh:** Prominent as in —

[00:52:49] **Creighton Waters:** It's not a hard question.

[00:52:51] **Alex Murdaugh:** Well, I'm just not sure, you know, I think my family was very well thought of. I think my family was respected. I think my family helped a lot of people.

[00:53:03] **Creighton Waters:** I'm not challenging you on any of that. I'm just getting you to agree what seems to be a basic fact. Would you agree with that?

[00:53:09] **Alex Murdaugh:** With what? That my family helped a lot of people and was well thought of?

[00:53:11] **Creighton Waters:** That they were very prominent.

[00:53:14] **Alex Murdaugh:** If that's what you mean by that, yes, sir.

[00:53:17] **Creighton Waters:** And that your family had a very long association with law enforcement.

[00:53:22] **Alex Murdaugh:** Yes, sir.

[00:53:23] **Creighton Waters:** And you had a long association with law enforcement.

[00:53:27] **Alex Murdaugh:** Yes.

[00:53:28] **Creighton Waters:** Yes.



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[00:53:31] **Alex Murdaugh:** By association, I assume you're talking about friendships? Yeah.

[00:53:35] **Creighton Waters:** But not only just friendships but also professional as well, correct?

[00:53:40] **Alex Murdaugh:** As a prosecutor?

[00:53:40] **Creighton Waters:** Professional associations with law enforcement.

[00:53:43] **Alex Murdaugh:** As a prosecutor or as a civil attorney?

[00:53:46] **Creighton Waters:** Okay. Let's talk about civil. Did you have associations with them in civil cases?

[00:53:50] **Alex Murdaugh:** Sure. I mean, as we discussed, a lot of cases that I handled were wreck cases or might be a train wreck or tractor wreck but there were a lot of highway patrolmen involved. There were a lot of local law enforcement involved. So, yeah, we dealt with a lot of law enforcement in the civil practice.

[00:54:06] **Creighton Waters:** Alright. And then, you also mentioned that you were a prosecutor as well, correct?

[00:54:13] **Alex Murdaugh:** I was a volunteer assistant solicitor.

[00:54:18] **Creighton Waters:** Did you or your family or your law firm ever have events or parties or social affairs in which the law enforcement community in this area was invited?

[00:54:28] **Liz Farrell:** Now, people in these parts say that the Murdaughs are the law here. Here's why.

[00:54:35] **Alex Murdaugh:** I believe that I became an assistant solicitor when I moved from Beaufort to Hampton.



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[00:54:41] **Creighton Waters:** Alright.

[00:54:41] **Alex Murdaugh:** So, that would've been September sometime around September 1998. Might have been a little bit after that but sometime.

[00:54:49] **Creighton Waters:** Did you get a badge when you became an assistant solicitor?

[00:54:53] **Alex Murdaugh:** At some point, I did. Yes, sir.

[00:54:54] **Creighton Waters:** And who gave you that badge?

[00:54:57] **Alex Murdaugh:** My father.

[00:54:59] **Creighton Waters:** Mr. Randolph?

[00:55:00] **Alex Murdaugh:** Yes, sir.

[00:55:02] **Creighton Waters:** And over the years, did you prosecute criminal cases much as what's going on here today?

[00:55:09] **Alex Murdaugh:** Yes, sir. At times I did. I believe that I prosecuted from 1998 to 2001, I believe that I —

[00:55:19] **Creighton Waters:** 2001? Keep going. I'm sorry.

[00:55:22] **Alex Murdaugh:** I mean, 2021, I'm sorry. Until 2021. From 1998 to 2021, I believe I was involved in five jury I believe I believe there were five trials.

[00:55:34] **Creighton Waters:** Five trials.

[00:55:35] **Alex Murdaugh:** Is the best that I can remember and all with my all with my dad. That was really the purpose of me being assistant solicitor was getting to spend time with him, do things with him.



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[00:55:44] **Creighton Waters:** Sure. And you have five jury trials over all that time but you had a badge that entire time, is that correct?

[00:55:51] **Alex Murdaugh:** I had a badge for a big part of that time. Yes, sir.

[00:55:54] **Creighton Waters:** You actually had two badges, correct?

[00:55:56] **Alex Murdaugh:** I had one badge but my my when my granddad became an assistant solicitor for my dad, when my dad became the solicitor, he had an assistant solicitor's badge.

[00:56:09] **Creighton Waters:** Right.

[00:56:10] **Alex Murdaugh:** When he passed away, I had his badge and that was one of at some point in time, you were asking somebody about two badges and that was the other badge.

[00:56:21] **Creighton Waters:** I gotcha. You said you did five criminal jury trials as a prosecutor, correct?

[00:56:29] **Alex Murdaugh:** Assisted in those or was doing 'em? Yes, sir. I believe I was actually the lead lawyer in one of them. I helped my dad and the other four.

[00:56:39] **Creighton Waters:** Now, why would you do that? Why would you have it in the cup holder? You're not saying you were on official business, are you?

[00:56:45] **Alex Murdaugh:** No, I'm not saying I'm on official business.

[00:56:48] **Creighton Waters:** Why would you want it in a cup holder if you got pulled ever?

[00:56:54] **Alex Murdaugh:** Because I found that law enforcement oftentimes is friendlier when you're in law enforcement.



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[00:57:04] **Creighton Waters:** When you're law enforcement. So, you considered yourself law enforcement?

[00:57:10] **Alex Murdaugh:** No, sir. I can't say that I considered myself law enforcement.

[00:57:13] **Creighton Waters:** But you carried a badge on you as a assistant solicitor for two decades, roughly?

[00:57:21] **Liz Farrell:** He didn't take an oath. Let me be clear about what that means. Alex Murdaugh did not swear to uphold the law and yet, he was given law enforcement credentials by Duffie Stone, the man who was elected by the people of the 14th Circuit to prosecute cases here. Not only that, Alex got himself some blue lights so that he could — actually, we're not really sure what he did with those blue lights but we know that South Carolina law dictates who can and cannot have blue lights because it's, you know, kind of a big deal.

[00:57:54] **Creighton Waters:** When did you have lights like blue lights and stuff?

[00:57:57] **Alex Murdaugh:** Yes, sir. I had some blue lights.

[00:57:58] **Creighton Waters:** When did you have blue lights? And let me remember. You did five cases over 20 years and you had blue lights in your vehicle but it was a it was your private vehicle, correct?

[00:58:08] **Alex Murdaugh:** Well, it was the vehicle that I drove, it was a law firm-owned vehicle.

[00:58:12] **Creighton Waters:** The law firm's own vehicle. So, how'd you get blue lights in there?

[00:58:15] **Alex Murdaugh:** I had 'em installed.





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[00:58:16] **Creighton Waters:** And who installed them?

[00:58:18] **Alex Murdaugh:** I believe that Eddie Gibson installed them.

[00:58:27] **Creighton Waters:** And who is that?

[00:58:28] **Alex Murdaugh:** He's the guy who apparently does blue light work for most of the sheriff's departments in the 14th Circuit and a lot of the police departments.

[00:58:41] **Creighton Waters:** And did you when did you have that installed? Do you recall? Was it one vehicle or more than one vehicle? Let's start with that.

[00:58:51] **Alex Murdaugh:** I believe I had it in I believe I had blue lights in one vehicle.

[00:58:55] **Creighton Waters:** And when did you have that installed, do you think?

[00:58:56] **Alex Murdaugh:** I'm not sure. It would've been —

[00:58:58] **Creighton Waters:** I mean, five years, 10 years?

[00:59:00] **Alex Murdaugh:** Nah, here. Here I can give you a timeframe.

[00:59:02] **Creighton Waters:** Okay.

[00:59:03] **Alex Murdaugh:** The vehicle that I was in on that got taken in on June the 7th, I got that vehicle sometime around late December or January. So, I'd had it for six months. I would've had the previous vehicle for five years. That's how long we kept vehicles in the law firm. So, I would've had it for five years and it and sometime during that five-year period, I had lights installed.



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[00:59:36] **Creighton Waters:** Did you ask the sheriff at the time if you could do that?

[00:59:38] **Alex Murdaugh:** I did.

[00:59:40] **Creighton Waters:** Who was that?

[00:59:42] **Alex Murdaugh:** I believe it was TC Smalls and I believe in Colleton, it was Andy Strickland.

[00:59:49] **Creighton Waters:** In Colleton, it was Andy Strickland.

[00:59:50] **Alex Murdaugh:** And I believe in Allendale, it was Tom Carter.

[00:59:54] **Liz Farrell:** Sheriff TC Smalls, the recently retired longtime sheriff of Hampton County? You mean the same sheriff TC Smalls who testified Tuesday that he never gave Alex permission to have those blue lights? Yes. Another lie. Creighton also asked Alex about his drug use. While we think Alex had a drug problem of some sort or we acknowledge that it at least seems that way, this next part had us questioning whether that was real because Alex has no credibility. At the very least, we know he told his family that he had a problem whenever they'd find bags of pills. But was he actually taking those pills? Here's why we ask that.

[01:00:33] **Alex Murdaugh:** Maybe maybe a thousand or maybe a thousand milligrams of or 1,200 milligrams on a day. I didn't take as much or didn't have as much up to, I mean, there're days, many days, a lot of days, most days were more than that and many days would be, you know, 20 more than 2,000 milligrams a day.

[01:00:57] **Creighton Waters:** And how many pills is that?

[01:00:59] **Alex Murdaugh:** It depends on the strength.

[01:01:02] **Creighton Waters:** Well, let's say it's the 30 that you just mentioned.



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[01:01:06] **Alex Murdaugh:** If I took 30 if I had 30-milligram pills, you figure a hundred pills would be 3,000 milligrams.

[01:01:20] **Creighton Waters:** Got it. A hundred?

[01:01:22] **Alex Murdaugh:** A hundred.

[01:01:24] **Mandy Matney:** So from what we understand, those are not normal doses, even for people who struggle with addiction. Several doctors on Twitter commented and said that it is not compatible with life. Now, if you had any questions about Alex privilege or any questions about whether he was actually paranoid about SLED, get a load of the next part.

[01:01:49] **Alex Murdaugh:** Usually, a matter of seconds. I mean, it was something — again, my whole life, you wouldn't see me where I didn't have pills on me. And I that's where I kept them. I kept them on me 'cause I was scared to put 'em somewhere for fear somebody would find them. So, I kept them on me. So, if you saw me, I had pills on me. I had a pocket full of pills on June the 8th. On June the 8th, when I was sitting in David Owen's patrol car. So, I always had them on me. And I might turn, I might be going to Edisto and I turn on Hampton Street right out here and a police car pulls out. Boom. I have paranoid thoughts, you know? It just but I could always say you're not you're not doing anything wrong. He's not following you. And I could get past it in a matter of seconds.

[01:03:05] **Creighton Waters:** Now, this time in May, that wasn't the only time that Paul found pills or Maggie found pills. Is that correct?

[01:03:12] **Alex Murdaugh:** Now, there were a number of times where Mags found pills. Paw Paw found pills. Bus found pills. I mean, it was ongoing was just an ongoing battle for me. I promised Paul that as soon as this as soon as we finished with his criminal case, that I would go to rehab and.

[01:03:57] **Mandy Matney:** So, he was holding Paul's criminal case over Paul's head when Paul expressed a desire for his dad to seek help. Telling. Another thing the court learned was that on the night of the boat crash, Alex had the



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badge that Duffie Stone gave him on display as if he were some off-duty cop. He tucked the back in his pocket and had the gold star part of it hanging out. That was February 2019. Did no one tell Duffie Stone about this breach? Why was Alex allowed to keep that badge for another two and a half years?

[01:04:38] **Alex Murdaugh:** Did I hang it out in my pocket when I wanted an advantage?

[01:04:41] **Creighton Waters:** Yes.

[01:04:45] **Alex Murdaugh:** I may have.

[01:04:47] **Creighton Waters:** Okay.

[01:04:47] **Alex Murdaugh:** I certainly may have. Was I aware that y'all had started an investigation into what I did in the hospital prior to the June the 7th? Yes, I believe that to be correct.

[01:05:02] **Creighton Waters:** Alright.

[01:05:07] **Alex Murdaugh:** And if it wasn't before that, it was shortly after it.

[01:05:11] **Liz Farrell:** One of the best parts of Creighton's cross-examination of Alex came when Creighton said the thing we were all thinking about Alex's sudden use of endearing nicknames as soon as he hit the stand.

[01:05:23] **Alex Murdaugh:** I mean that, I called him Paw Paw. Maggie called him Paw Paw. Bus calls him Paw Paw.

[01:05:28] **Creighton Waters:** Sure.

[01:05:29] **Alex Murdaugh:** Roro calls him Paw Paw. I mean, that's not —

[01:05:31] **Creighton Waters:** Roro? Who was Roro?



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[01:05:33] **Alex Murdaugh:** That's Rogan Gibson.

[01:05:34] **Creighton Waters:** Okay. And this jury, of course, has heard multiple recorded statements of you during the course of this. Did you ever refer to Paul as Paw Paw during that?

[01:05:47] **Alex Murdaugh:** I don't know.

[01:05:48] **Creighton Waters:** You don't — do you recall?

[01:05:52] **Alex Murdaugh:** How I referred to — I can say Paul, if you'd prefer that.

[01:05:56] **Creighton Waters:** No, you can call him whatever you want. I'm just asking you if you ever called him that during the course of that entire investigation or is that also the first time today, at least publicly?

[01:06:04] **Alex Murdaugh:** Is today the first time I've called my son Paul Paw Paw? No, sir. That is not correct.

[01:06:09] **Liz Farrell:** It might not be correct but we all know what he was doing there. Creighton got criticized online for his approach with Alex and yes, there were times when it seemed like Alex was the one asking the questions, to speak. But say what you want, Creighton finished strong. First, he showed the jury that Alex was capable of lying to them in a very convincing way.

[01:06:31] **Creighton Waters:** These were real people you were dealing with, right?

[01:06:33] **Alex Murdaugh:** Absolutely. They were.

[01:06:34] **Creighton Waters:** I know you wanna give that answer but these were real people, aren't they?



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[01:06:38] **Alex Murdaugh:** Nah, they're very real people. And, you know, what one of the saddest parts of this whole thing is is, you know, they're people that I still care about and I did 'em this way.

[01:06:51] **Creighton Waters:** I'm asking you if you remember one time where you're sitting there in your heart looking somebody in the eye knowing you're stealing from them and you remember it.

[01:07:00] **Alex Murdaugh:** I remember stealing from people. I remember lying to people and I remember misleading people. For me to tell you that I sat down with each one of these people.

[01:07:08] **Creighton Waters:** I'm asking you to tell me about just one conversation. One time where you recall looking somebody the eye and convincing them with your lies that nothing was amiss. One conversation.

[01:07:21] **Alex Murdaugh:** There were plenty of conversations where I looked people in the eye and I lied to 'em. There were plenty of times where I took money that I shouldn't have taken.

[01:07:33] **Liz Farrell:** We'll be right back.

[01:07:35] **Mandy Matney:** There were a lot of stunning takeaways from this trial. But during the course of Alex's testimony, he told the jury several shocking sentences that can really stick in your head and make you think. Phrases like "I did what I didn't wanna do" and "I got out of there real quick" and "I would never intentionally do anything to hurt either one of them" and "Once I lied, I continued to lie." Those phrases are powerful and have me questioning. Was the master manipulator telling on himself? And also, what he didn't say matters, too. Not once did we hear Alex express any remorse for leaving Maggie and Paul at the kennels, for not checking on them on the way to Alameda. Remorse is another emotion that is hard for Alex Murdaugh to remember to fake on top of fear. Creighton also outlined the absurdity of Alex's new story.





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[01:08:40] **Creighton Waters:** Alright. Well, let me ask you a question then. So, what you're telling this jury is that it's a random vigilante.

[01:08:45] **Alex Murdaugh:** That's your term.

[01:08:45] **Creighton Waters:** The 12-year-old the 12-year-old five-two people that just happened to know that Paul and Maggie were both at Moselle on June 7th that knew that they would be at the kennels alone on June the 7th; that knew that you would not be there but only between the times of 8:49 and 9:02; that they show up without a weapon, assuming that they're gonna find weapons and ammunition there; that they commit this crime during that short time window; and then they travel the same exact route that you do around the same time to Alameda. That's what you're trying to tell this jury?

[01:09:18] **Liz Farrell:** And Creighton had a mic drop moment. After he led the jury down the long path of Alex's lies and after he played clips from Alex three interviews with SLED and asked him repeatedly "When did you decide to lie about your alibi?" and after Alex identified that moment as being early on the morning of June 8th, when Agent David Owen asked him about his relationships with Maggie and Paul, after Creighton allowed Alex to sit on that stand for hours and tell the jury that he lied because he became paranoid after having his hands tested for gunshot residue, and after he said, Colleton County Sheriff Buddy Hill and Yemassee Police Chief Greg Alexander and all the PMPED lawyers told him to be careful talking to SLED — Creighton did this.

[01:10:07] **Creighton Waters:** But it was the dope paranoia. It was the fact that the deputy took your GSR. It was the fact that your law partners and Greg Alexander and the sheriff were telling you you needed to have a lawyer before you talked to police. It was a factor that you got in the car with Dave Owen and thought he was somebody else from some case 10 years ago. Correct?

[01:10:29] **Alex Murdaugh:** That believing David Owens was the person involved in the case that I talked about was one of the factors that caused me to distrust SLED.



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[01:10:41] **Creighton Waters:** Right. And then also, you said that they started asking you about in that first interview about your relationship with Maggie and Paul and that that's one thing you mentioned as well. Correct?

[01:10:49] **Alex Murdaugh:** And that was certainly something that contributed to me having paranoid thinking.

[01:10:55] **Creighton Waters:** For the record, I'm playing the Daniel Greene body cam video. 2026.

[01:12:21] That was Sergeant Greene, correct?

[01:12:25] **Alex Murdaugh:** That, yeah. That was Sergeant Greene.

[01:12:27] **Creighton Waters:** And at that point in time, SLED was not there. No one had gotten GSR from you. Your law partners or Sheriff Hill were not there.

[01:12:39] **Alex Murdaugh:** That's correct.

[01:12:40] **Creighton Waters:** No one had asked you about your relationships. David Owen was not there.

[01:12:46] **Alex Murdaugh:** That's correct.

[01:12:47] **Creighton Waters:** But you still told the same lie. And all those reasons that you just gave this jury about the most important part of your testimony was a lie, too. Isn't that true Mr. Murdaugh?

[01:12:59] **Alex Murdaugh:** I disagree with that.

[01:13:00] **Creighton Waters:** Nothing further.

[01:13:03] **Mandy Matney:** On Wednesday, the jury was taken to Moselle to see the spots where Maggie and Paul were murdered and to see where the state



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says that Alex cleaned himself up and sped back to the house. It is possible that the next time we speak with you that we have a verdict. No matter how this turns out, the fact that it got this far is actually really encouraging. It's something frankly we weren't sure that we'd ever see — law enforcement having the gumption to take on a Murdaugh. And we've seen from the beginning the Murdaugh legacy was not going to be able to withstand the test of technology. People might be scared to tell the truth, but technology is not and that is what this trial comes down to — the data, GPS, iPhones, texts, and phone calls, and that one video. Weird that Alex didn't see this coming given that enthusiastic testimonial that Twitter found this week. The 2011 video that surfaced this week depicts Alex singing the praises of how video evidence helped him get a bigger settlement for Hakeem Pinckney, part of which Alex later stole. Yes. We found out this week that Alex was exploiting Hakeem by featuring him in a promo video while stealing his money.

[01:14:31] **Alex Murdaugh:** The best storyteller in the world cannot relay with full effect the way a video can and I'm sold on it.

[01:14:42] **Mandy Matney:** We agree Alex. We agree. So, on Wednesday, Creighton Waters gave his closing arguments and it was the finale everyone has been waiting for. Creighton gave us the biggest of big Creighton energy but in the calmest of ways. He carefully held up every puzzle piece. He showed each piece to the jury, and he showed how each piece perfectly fit into the puzzle that has been his life's work for the past year and a half. Over and over, he tied up loose ends. He explained the significance of how each fact snapped perfectly into the one next to it. He gave context. He pointed out the lies. He pointed out the defense's weak spots, and he pointed out every time Alex had told on himself. Through it all, he took care to remind the jury that Alex Murdaugh was a prosecutor, that he was a lawyer. He was a man who knew exactly what he needed to do to craft his alibi and to create confusion. And he reminded the jury exactly why they were there: Maggie Murdaugh and her son, Paul Murdaugh.

[01:16:04] **Creighton Waters:** He was lying to you, ladies and gentlemen, when he made those up. He was lying to you when he made those up. Just like he's lied to everyone close to him and he's good at it. He's good at it.



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[01:16:49] Motive, the means, the opportunity, and ample evidence of guilty conduct and guilty conscience. All four factors are present. And Maggie and Paul deserve a voice. They need a voice because they can no longer speak. And this has been a tough job but the system depends on people who take that oath as jurors and are willing to honor that oath and make that tough decision, to vindicate these victims, to vindicate Maggie and Paul who were cut down in the prime of their lives. This is sealed exhibit. This is what he did. This is what he did right here. This defendant, on the other hand, has fooled everyone, everyone, everyone who thought they were close to him, everyone who thought they knew he was — who he was. He's fooled them all. And he fooled Maggie and Paul, too. And they paid for it with their lives. Don't let him fool you, too. On behalf of the state of South Carolina, I ask you to return a verdict of guilty against the defendant Richard Alexander Murdaugh for the murder of his wife, Maggie, and his son, Paul, and for his possession of firearms during the commission of those malicious offenses. Thank y'all for your attention during this long trial.

[01:20:20] **Mandy Matney:** And that goes for y'all. Thank you for paying attention this long, for sticking with us on this very long journey, for reminding us that there are good people out there who believe in our mission. The jury verdict will not change the hope that we have for the system to change and that is because of you. Stay tuned and stay in the sunlight.

[01:21:03] **Outro:** The Murdaugh Murders Podcast is created and hosted by me, Mandy Matney, produced by my husband, David Moses. And Liz Farrell is our executive editor. From Luna Shark Productions.