



EPISODE 18: How Many Crimes Will Alex Murdaugh Be Charged With? Part One

Mandy Matney 0:00

I don't know how many crimes Alex Murdaugh will be charged with. But a South Carolina judge ruled again that he is a danger to himself and the community and he was denied bond for a second time. My name is Mandy Matney and I've been investigating the Murdaugh family for more than two and a half years now and this is the Murdaugh martyrs podcast.

This week, FITSnews was first reported the Alex Murdaugh was denied bond for the second time after judge Clifton Newman received Murdaugh psychiatric evaluation following his bond hearing on charges related to the botched glorious Satterfield settlement, Newman ruled that Alex Murdaugh was a danger to both himself and others. I'll read apart from his ruling following the initial denial of bond the court received a psychiatric evaluation of the defendant dated on October 22 2021. After considering the arguments of counsel. The evaluation submitted pending charges and other investigations and the apparent character and mental condition of the defendant. The court finds the defendant as a danger to pose himself in the community. This was the third time in just three weeks that a South Carolina judge ruled against the disgraced attorney whose father, grandfather and great grandfather also served as a solicitor over a five county region in the low country and that is a big deal. To recap, Alex Murdaugh was arrested at a rehab center in Orlando, Florida and charged with two felony counts of painting property by false pretenses related to the glorious Satterfield case. He's been behind bars for a month now. Now after judge Newman made us ruling this week, I spoke with Eric Bland who is an attorney representing the Satterfield family and who has been a key figure and uncovering evidence that led Alex's arrest, Bland said it's clear to him that Judge Newman was looking beyond Alex two charges when making his decision to determine that Alex is a danger to the community. The key point he says about Newman's ruling is the part where he talks about pending charges and other investigations.

Eric Bland 2:23

I think it's very telling of the way Judge Newman operates here. Obviously he is presiding over all the criminal matters being designated by the Supreme Court. But he's hearing things and being exposed to different things, from law enforcement



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officers seeking warrants, whether they're search warrants, or people to appear before the grand jury. He's hearing and seeing things that they were not seeing. And obviously, it caused him almost unilaterally without a hearing here to make a decision that Alex is not only a clear present danger, but he's a flight risk. And he's making assessments on potential crimes that go way beyond the Satterfield matter.

Mandy Matney 3:13

There are seven ongoing criminal investigations involving Alex Murdaugh and his family right now. And it's important to note that the South Carolina Chief Justice appointed Judge Newman to oversee all of those criminal proceedings.

Eric Bland 3:28

He fully analyzed it, heard all the facts, looked at the submission, and looked at the report by the psychiatrist. But again, it's much bigger than the single crime, he is looking at the totality of what is coming before him by way of search warrants by way of grand jury, witnesses and testimony. And he's hearing and seeing things that none of us know. And whether it's related to drugs that are being spoken about, or it's related to the Cowboys, like some of the articles last week said, We don't know. But he did say to the public is not just based on Satterfield is based on other investigations, he is a danger and he doesn't see an ending

Mandy Matney 4:24

As this case keeps expanding, it's difficult to keep track of all the investigations going on that are related to the Murdaugh family. So we're going to do a quick recap, starting back in 2015, and working our way up to a couple weeks ago.

Sandy Smith 4:38

Rumors just going around.

Eric Bland 4:41

Everybody keeps coming up to me. Smart, awfully

Todd Proctor 4:45

this name, people associated with this name. I've been going around kind of threatening or putting the heat on people saying, you know, keep your mouth closed. If you heard something, whatever Buster was was on our radar long before you were. You know, the Murdaughs know that they know that he's, he's on our radar.



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I don't have anything against them. But if it happened, like you said, I mean if it opened

Mandy Matney 5:10

The first investigation tied to the Murdaugh family is the Steven Smith case. Steven Smith was a gay 19 year old man from Hampton County, South Carolina, who was brutally murdered in 2015. His death was initially misclassified as a vehicular hit and run even though information from the crime scene was inconsistent with that conclusion. The Murdaugh name came up more than 40 times in the investigation. However, there were never any suspects named in the case on June 22 2021, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division officially opened an investigation into Stevens Mr. And that was based on information gathered during the course of a double homicide investigation of Maggie and Paul Murdaugh. So far no arrests have been made in the new Steven Smith investigation and SLED has not updated the public on the status of Stephens case. The second investigation is the inquiry into both Gloria Satterfield death and wrongful death settlement SLED officially opened a criminal investigation into the suspicious 2018 Death of Murdaugh family housekeeper Gloria Satterfield, who died of a traumatic brain injury allegedly following a trip and fall incident caused by dogs while working at the Murdaugh's home and Moselle. According to SLED. The investigation and Satterfield stuff was open based on our requests from the Hampton County Coroner as well as information gathered during the course of sluts. Other investigations involving Alex Murdaugh when they opened the investigation. Authorities initially believe that Satterfield died at the Murdaugh's Hampton County home however, it was later discovered that the incident that led to her death happened at Moselle, which is the same place where the double homicide of Maggie and Paul occurred SLED is also looking into the botched Gloria Satterfield settlement that happened after her death in the Satterfield case Murdaugh and others are accused of making off with millions from her wrongful death settlement. Alex Murdaugh's latest charges stem from an investigation by South Carolina attorneys Eric LAN and Ronald Rector uncovered a shocking paper trail showing how Alex Murdaugh allegedly stole more than \$3.6 million from Satterfield settlement.

Eric Bland 7:29

Think about the type of courage it finally took for them to go see a lawyer and pursue a possible claim against the Murdaughs. Now they want answers, which they wanted from the start about the money. Now they want answers about their father. And you know, right now until Alice is proven otherwise, she died because of the dogs. But



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they also want justice. Now. Justice comes in many forms, you know, comes in getting the money like you said that they deserve. But if somebody you know if a 57 year old mother woman died prematurely as somebody whose hands will then justice has to be served for that to

Mandy Matney 8:14

the third criminal investigation involving the Murdaugh family is the obstruction of justice investigation into the 2019 boat crash that killed Mallory Beach in February 2019. A highly intoxicated Paul Murdaugh was allegedly driving his father's boat when 19 year old Mallory Beach was killed in a horrific crash near Parris Island, South Carolina. Please fire slow, we're in a boat crash on our screen, and it will put that in the background. There's six of us and one is missing. In July 2021. Attorneys representing Connor Cook, a survivor of the 2019 Bo crash, dropped a petition alleging that law enforcement conspired to shift the focus of the investigation away from Paul Murdaugh prior to him being charged with three felonies in connection with the crash. Paul's father Alex Murdaugh and his grandfather, who was a former solicitor, ran off Murdaugh; the third appeared at the hospital 10 minutes after Paul Murdaugh died. According to witness statements. In fact, multiple victims and hospital employees told police that Alex Murdaugh appeared to be more concerned with orchestrating a plan in the criminal investigation. Then he was about to find Mallory Beach in the early morning hours of February 24 2019. Right after Mallory Beach was injected into the dark water only to be found dead. A week later, a security guard overheard Alex Murdaugh on the phone saying she's gone. Don't worry about her when Mallory has only been missing for a few hours. And on scene Mallory Beaches boyfriend Anthony cook told please multiple times that Paul Murdaugh was the one driving when they crashed, but only one officer wrote that down and that one officer was later fired from the Beaver County Sheriff's Office.

Eric Bland 10:15

Y'all know Alex Murdaugh. Das is so so grabbing well good luck

Mandy Matney 10:29

so that brings us to number four the double homicide investigation, the case that shoved the Murdaugh family into the international spotlight this summer. Alex Murdaugh claimed to have discovered the bodies of his wife Maggie Murdaugh and his youngest son Paul Murdaugh on his family's 1700 acre hunting property known as Moselle on June 7 2021. My wife Paul Murdaugh was killed by a pair of shotgun blasts the head into the chest or Maggie Murdaugh was reportedly killed by a semi



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automatic rifle at or around the same time that her son was killed. Her cell phone was discovered the following day along a South Carolina rural road near where the killings took place. Just a couple weeks ago, Jim Griffin, who was one of Alex Murdaugh's Bulldog attorneys admitted to reporters that his high profile client is a person of interest in the double homicide in that the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division has not eliminated Alex from its investigation, and that is a big deal. That brings us to the alleged shooting slash assisted suicide on Labor Day weekend, which would be the fifth investigation involving the Murdaugh family. On September 4 2021 Alex Murdaugh called 911 to claim that he had been shot in the head while on the side of a rural Hampton County Road in broad daylight.

Unknown Speaker 12:10

I stopped I got a flat tire somebody stopped to help me and when I turned my back they tried to shoot me

911 Operator 12:20

Oh, okay, well you shot

Alex Murdaugh 12:22

Yes. Okay, I'm okay.

911 Operator 12:25

You shot where? Where were you shooting it? Did they actually shoot you? They tried to shoot you.

Alex Murdaugh 12:33

They shot me

911 Operator 12:34

when we're part of your body.

Alex Murdaugh 12:37

I'm not sure somewhere on my head.

Mandy Matney 12:40

Many question if he was actually shot due to the fact that he appeared in a bond hearing just two weeks later without a scratch on his head after evidence started piling up against him. Alex Murdaugh told police that he paid a man named Eddie



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Smith to shoot him in the head on a side of the road so his son Buster Murdaugh could collect a \$10 million insurance payout. Just last week Alex Murdaugh was indicted on three charges of conspiracy filing a false police report and a new charge presenting a false claim for insurance payment of more than 10 grand so now we were at the six investigation into Alex Murdaugh and his family which would be about the P and P D money.

Dick Harpootlian 13:26

It was uncovered that he had perhaps not perhaps he had converted some client and law firm money to his own use. Tube and again spent most of that on opioids.

Mandy Matney 13:38

Yes, you just heard from Murdaugh's attorney declared on the today's show claiming that his own client committed a crime. So on September 13, SLED launched an investigation to determine whether Alex Murdaugh misappropriated funds and connection to his position as a former lawyer at the law firm started by his great grandfather P and P Ed. In the aftermath of the roadside shooting on September 4 PMP. D all of a sudden accused Alex of misappropriating more than \$10 million from the firm and its clients but the weird thing is PMP. Ed never requested the SLED conduct this investigation so SLED without PMPED request launched its own. It's important to note here that PMPED filed a lawsuit against Alex Murdaugh for the alleged missing funds on Friday. Alex, who is now being represented by his criminal defense attorneys, Griffin and her Boolean pleaded the Fifth Amendment when he responded to this lawsuit. The implication there is that he is avoiding incriminating himself in the case. And that brings us to the seventh investigation of the drugs on the day of Alex hearing about his assets. McClatchy Newspapers published a report that said a grand jury investigation was specifically targeting a low country gang based in the Walterboro area believed to be named the Cowboys. Both the Post and Courier and McClatchy, which are mainstream media who have tended to side with the Murdaugh family citing anonymous sources in referencing the grand jury investigation, which appears to stem from checks written by Alex Murdaugh to a drug courier apparently, however, my sources have said nothing about this cowboys investigation. Since the assisted suicide situation the defense has repeatedly published Alex allege drug addiction to the media. However, it's important to note that FITSnews has reported on multiple other drug pipelines with alleged connections to the Murdaugh family, particularly FITSnews, founding editor wolf folks has uncovered deep connections between the Murdaughs and alleged drug smuggler their bowler name is spelt like Boulware, but apparently pronounced like



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bowler, Murdaugh was bowlers legal representative and business partner prior to bowlers death in September 2018. Following a brief battle with cancer, Fuller was widely believed to be involved in the drug trade. In fact, at one point during the early stages of the war on drugs, he and his father faced charges in Florida in connection with a South Carolina drug smuggling operation, like Murdaugh and Barrett bowl where we're co owners of multiple properties in low country and actually Barrett was the former owner of Moselle, which we all know as the Murdaugh family hunting lodge that became infamous as a site of the brutal double homicide in June of this year college and county property records state that Murdaugh paid wearable wares wife \$5 For Moselle, but as my boss will folks has reported the transfer deed dated back to April 10 2013. Reference the exchange of lifetime replacement property totaling \$730,000, which is part of a multi property non simultaneous tax free exchange transaction. And what's also interesting about Moselle is that it has a landing strip and a barn with doors that can fit an airplane. According to multiple sources who have seen it and pictures that I've seen from the property. And that's just what we know so far. Who knows how deep this gets and how many other criminal investigations will begin.

sources have said that Judge Newman can only consider allegations against Murdaugh that are on the record when it comes to determining bond. But essentially, he's looking at a man who's clearly unstable, who is dangerous considering all of the factors at play here. Alex Murdaugh is a man who allegedly hired another man to shoot him just a couple months ago. He is a person of interest in the double homicide investigation of his wife and son. According to his own attorney, Alex Murdaugh is a person who didn't have a single family member show up at his volunteering. He has links to multiple drug smugglers. He is accused of stealing millions of dollars from his dead housekeepers, family and other clients, and he has concocted complicated, twisted plans to steal from people and hide the money. He is a person whose assets have recently been locked up by the court and handed over to court appointed receivers to dig through and he's a person who's pulled tricks from jail to keep victims away from his assets. Eric Bland said it's very possible that Newman saw the shady moves a couple weeks ago from his attorneys when Alex Murdaugh confessed judgment and lawsuits against him that were filed by his brother and his former law partner. Last week after we published our podcast on Alex money situation, I highly suggest you going back and listening to Episode 16. If you haven't already, we discussed yet another shocking and shady move by the Murdaughs. Less than 24 hours after Alex Murdaugh was sued by his own brother Randy Murdaugh the fourth for a total of \$90,000 of unpaid debt in money and



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equipment. The disgraced South Carolina Attorney confessed judgment in the lawsuit and after we found that out, we discovered that Alex Murdaugh confessed judgment and another lawsuit filed by his former law partner John E. Parker, and in that case, Murdaugh allegedly owes him \$477,000. Confessing judgment typically means that a defendant is acknowledging the amount owed as a valid and enforceable debt and authorizing the South Carolina court system to enroll a judgment against him in that amount. This would essentially prioritize Alex's debt to Randy and to John E Parker ahead of a long line of alleged victims are currently suing Alex Murdaugh. But when Alex Murdaugh attempted his backdoor move to confess judgment totaling 567,000 to his brother and former law partner, the new receivers, jaunty. Les and Peter McCoy sprang into action in a three page motion submitted earlier this month, which was one day after Alex's latest confession became public lay and McCoy asked Judge Hall to issue an emergency order which would essentially block the enforcement of that shady legal maneuver. Eric Bland told me that these recent moves of confessing judgment just shows that Alex and his family have and will always gain the system. He said that they don't think decency and the rules apply to them.

Eric Bland 20:40

He's a 100% full blown coward, and he's going to abuse and use the legal system in our state, and he appears to have lawyers willing to help him do it.

Mandy Matney 20:50

And speaking of the South Carolina legal system, and those lawyers willing to help Alex Murdaugh soon after judge Newman made his ruling last week to keep Alex behind bars at the Richland County Detention Center Alex Murdaugh's quote unquote Bulldog attorneys have filed a habeas corpus petition with South Carolina Supreme Court in an attempt to get the disgraced attorney out of jail. Reporter Avery Wilkes of the post and courier newspaper first reported that attorneys decarb alien and Jim Griffin petitioned the Supreme Court to overrule judge Newman's decision keeping Murdaugh behind bars as the court found but he was a danger to himself and society. According to the Post and Courier. The petition said that Murdaugh psychiatric evaluation concluded that Murdaugh was not a danger to the community, but rather it painted him as a recovering opioid addict who needed to get back to rehab when Judge Newman previously denied bond for Alex Murdaugh on October 19. He never guaranteed that he would release him pending the results of a psychiatric evaluation. He just said that he would consider it now multiple attorneys told fits new but that latest move by the Murdaugh camp to file the habeas



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corpus motion shows that Alex Murdaugh is begging to get out of jail. Murdaugh's attorneys are arguing that because their client was charged with non violent crimes, he's entitled A bond based on the state's constitution, Murdaugh whose father grandfather and great grandfather also served as the 14th circuit solicitor for nearly 100 years has been behind bars for a month now they are gland told me he didn't think that the South Carolina Supreme Court would rule in the favor of the Murdaugh camp is a desperate act.

Eric Bland 22:37

They're not going to overturn what Judge Newman is doing since he's the assigned judge on the case. And he's the one

who's hearing all the information. And just like we talked about this morning in his order, he said, other investigations. So he's privy to things that are just Satterfield related. And he's making the decision that while yes, there is a presumption that somebody is entitled to bond. It's not absolute. And it's discretionary. And he has his finger on the pulse and, and is privy to a lot of different things that are having to do with the grand jury, or whether they're issuing search warrants or different subpoenas. And he's made the calculated decision, you know, after analyzing it and giving it a lot of thought that he still represents a danger to the community and to himself. And so just because they submitted an evaluation from a psychiatrist, it says that he's an opioid addict. And then he was on his way to recovery, that doesn't mean that he gets fine. There are other factors and those factors are. It could be that he looked at the confessions of judgment that he was signing, that he's a risk and a flight risk, or could be totally unrelated to the Cowboys or related to cousin Eddie or drugs or whatever. We have no idea what he's doing. But I don't think the supreme court's going to superimpose themselves and now fit like judge Newman is and say that he's entitled Bach not gonna have

Mandy Matney 24:07

planned told me that he thinks Judge Newman's decision should stick in on a broader scale. Eric believes that Newman's decision shows that the wheels of the South Carolina Justice System are now spinning in the right direction.

Eric Bland 24:20

I think our justice system is now working as fully intended that you have a judge that, based on his background, uses these crimes seriously, too. They're not treating Alex Murdaugh or his high powered lawyers any differently than any other charged



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criminal in this state. And Alex now realizes he's drinking from the same cup of justice that every other charged criminal in this state is mustering from and that has to scare him because he can't manage his defense from a jail cell. And he can't manage his finances any more because they're now in the hands of a court appointed receiver who is in real time. You know, taking actions based on what Alex is doing like last Friday, they filed the motion to say the enforcement of those confessions of judgment. The noose is tightening around Alex's net. That's the vastness of justice.

Mandy Matney 25:23

And finally, we need to update you on the glorious Satterfield case. On November 11. Attorneys Eric Bland and Ronald Rector announced the Palmetto State Bank settled both Gloria's two sons Tony Satterfield and Brian Harriet for an undisclosed amount. The action ends the pending lawsuit against Palmetto State Bank and leaves Alex Murdaugh as the only remaining defendant who hasn't agreed to a settlement. Palmetto State Bank is the fifth potentially liable party to have settled or resolved differences with the Satterfield family. Since Bland and Richtor filed their lawsuit in September, the two attorneys have recovered more than \$6.5 million in total for the Satterfield family, according to Eric Bland.

Eric Bland 26:08

You know, we're proud obviously, it's just for our clients. That's what we wanted to do, you know, get them justice, as quick as we can not, you know, delay it over time. And so, you know, it sounds like we accepted fast quarters against slow dollars, because I think we got a lot of dollars, you know, obviously, they were only entitled to 2.75 million from the original 4.3 million, and we've recovered more, and we're not done yet. We feel like we're gonna recover more from other parties, including Alex. We just feel like that there was such pressure on these parties that we're defendants or target defended parties, to settle for business reasons and to disassociate themselves from Alex because anybody that I believe that gets within an arm's reach of him, is going to suffer a character loss of their character, loss of reputation, or loss of business. And certainly from the business clients we settled with, they made that decision that you know, whether they had legal defenses to our claims, or were pretending I don't think they had the luxury of time to test them out. Because Alex, just toxic.

Mandy Matney 27:33



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Eric Bland told me that he's also proud to have contributed to a case that ultimately holds bad actors accountable. Bland said that there's something a lot more important that happened with this work that Mallory Beach and Gloria Satterfield did not die in vain. Their death led to major changes in the justice system that are still happening,

Eric Bland 27:55

they really did end up dying for a purpose. And that is not only to bring people like Alex to justice, and can others around him, whether that's justice, criminally or through their professional licenses. But I think long term, it's going to have a dramatic effect on our system, on how judges deal with lawyers and settlements and how willing they're willing to go off the record or not have a transcript or do it in chambers. And I think that whether there's another Hampton County in South Carolina, where somebody has a little bit of a stronghold or a lot of stronghold on the justice system there. I think that's going to wane. I think people are not going to tolerate, you know, a single family or a single law firm having a stranglehold on the justice system in that county. So I think that long term Mallory Beach and Gloria Satterfield will have a dramatic effect on our justice system and make it pure and the way it was intended to be.

Mandy Matney 29:01

On Monday, November 15, FITSnews founding editor will focus exclusively reported that the South Carolina state wide Grand Jury is convening in the State Capitol this week to consider matters related to the Murdaugh murders. We're not sure which matter that is, but stay tuned to FITSnews.com. That's fit s news.com for the latest updates on this developing story. On a really exciting note, I am proud to share the big news that I've been sitting on - my best friend, journalistic role model and partner and true crime. Liz Farrell is joining the Murdaugh motors podcast and FITSnews.com Liz taught me everything I know about investigative journalism, and I can't wait for y'all to meet her and she will be on the next episode and many more episodes to come. So stay tuned.

David Moses 29:59

There's so much to unpack in this case and Mandy works tirelessly to expose the truth, but the truth is she works hard and she does get tired. If you believe like I do that Mandy is the best in the business and I'm a little biased visit Murdaugh murders podcast.com and click the support the show link to learn how you can help leave a five star review to offset the haters refer and advertise and get a finder's fee or



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advertise your company product or service we can geo target across the globe and find the right audience to suit your needs. Help us get Luna some treats so she doesn't interrupt the show as much. And absolutely subscribe to FITSnews.com, Mandy and Will are revolutionizing journalism and your subscriptions are invaluable to that mission. Plus you get awesome content every day.

Mandy Matney 30:46

And don't forget to leave a five star review unless you're going to be nasty and talk about my vocal fry. The Murdaugh murders podcast is created by me, Mandy Matney and my fiance David Moses, produced by Luna shark productions

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