

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF COLLETON**

State of South Carolina,

v.

Richard Alexander Murdaugh,

Defendant.

**COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

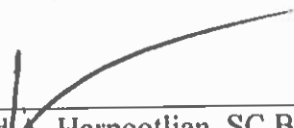
Indictment Nos. 2022-GS-15-00592, -593,
-594, and -595

MOTION TO TRANSFER VENUE

Defendant Richard Alexander Murdaugh, by and through his undersigned counsel, respectfully moves this Court, pursuant to the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, Article I, Section 14 of the South Carolina Constitution, and the common law powers of the Court as set forth in *State v. Harvey*, 128 S.C. 494 (1924) and *State v. Law*, 265 S.C. 11 (1975), for an order transferring venue of the trial of the above-referenced indictments to a county outside the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit. The basis for this motion is that this is among the most heavily publicized criminal prosecutions in the history of this State. For years Defendant, his family, and the law firm with which his family was associated for generations have been the subject of saturating, sensational, and continuous media coverage. That coverage has been especially intense within the five counties that comprise the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit—Allendale, Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper—where the Murdaugh name has been synonymous with the local legal system for nearly a century, where the population is small and interconnected, and where the very documentaries, books, and films that have shaped public opinion were researched, filmed, and produced. Under these circumstances, the Defendant cannot obtain the fair and impartial trial guaranteed to him by the federal and state constitutions in any county within the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit. A transfer to another county within the same Circuit would not cure the prejudice, because the saturation and the personal connections that give rise to it extend

throughout the Circuit. For these reasons, and for reasons which will be set forth in a supporting memorandum of law filed at such time as the Court may direct, Defendant respectfully requests that venue be transferred to a county outside the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attorneys for Richard Alexander Murdaugh

June 24, 2026
Columbia, South Carolina.

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COLLETON CO GS, GARY HALE

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF COLLETON

) IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
) FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
)

The State of South Carolina,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

Richard Alexander Murdaugh,

Defendant.

Indictment Nos. 2022-GS-15-00592, -593,
-594, and -595

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

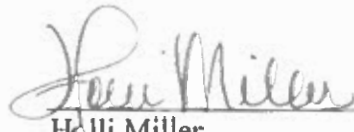
I, Holli Miller, paralegal to the attorney for the Defendant, Richard A. Harpootlian, P.A., with offices located at 1410 Laurel Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, hereby certify that on June 24, 2026, I did serve via electronic delivery the following documents to the below mentioned person:

Documents:

1. Motion for Defendant to Have Access to Case Materials in Electronic Format;
2. Motion to Transfer Venue; and,
3. Motion for Independent Laboratory Review of DNA Evidence.

Served:

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cwaters@scag.gov


Holli Miller

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