

Arapahoe County District Court, State of Colorado 7325 S. Potomac Street Centennial, CO 80112	<p style="text-align: center;">DATE FILED June 18, 2025 9:49 AM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲</p>
Plaintiff(s): THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO v. JAMES CRAIG Defendant:	
	Case No. 23CR664 Division: 22/308
ORDER RE: REQUEST FOR EXPANDED MEDIA COVERAGE	

THIS MATTER comes before the Court for consideration of numerous requests for expanded media coverage of the jury trial set to begin in this matter on July 14, 2025. The Court has reviewed the motions and rules as follows:

Standards for Authorizing Coverage

Chapter 38, Rule 3 of the Colorado Supreme Court Rules provides the standard of authorizing expanded media coverage. In determining whether expanded media coverage should be permitted, a judge shall consider the following factors:

1. Whether there is a reasonable likelihood that expanded media coverage would interfere with the rights of the parties to a fair trial.
2. Whether there is a reasonable likelihood that expanded media coverage would unduly detract from the solemnity, decorum, and dignity of the Court: and
3. Whether expanded media coverage would create adverse effects that would be greater than those caused by traditional media coverage.

Discussion/ Analysis

The petitioners seek expanded media coverage in this case for the jury trial of the defendant set to begin on July 14, 2025. After consideration of the above listed three factors, this Court finds that expanded media coverage should be permitted in a very limited capacity as set forth below. However, this Court will require strict adherence to the parameters outlined in Chapter 38, Rule 3 of the Colorado Supreme Court Rules. As a reminder to the petitioners, the Court highlights the following limitations of expanded media coverage:

(3) **Limitations on Expanded Media Coverage.** Notwithstanding this authorization to conduct expanded media coverage, there shall be no:

- (A) Expanded media coverage of jury voir dire;
- (B) Audio recording or “zoom” closeup photography or video of bench conferences;
- (C) Audio recording or closeup photography or video of communications between counsel and client or co-counsel;
- (D) Expanded media coverage of in camera hearings;
- (E) **Photography or video of members of the jury.**

Thus this Order only authorizes expanded media coverage for the jury trial set to begin on July 14, 2025. **Further, this order only allows for expanded media for Openings, Closings and Jury Verdict with the full compliance of all applicable restrictions.**

(4) **Authority to Impose Restrictions on Expanded Media Coverage.** A judge may restrict or limit expanded media coverage as may be necessary to preserve the dignity of the court or to protect the parties, witnesses, or jurors. A judge may terminate or suspend expanded media coverage at any time upon making findings of fact that: (1) rules established under this Rule or additional rules imposed by the judge have been violated; or (2) substantial rights of individual participants or rights to a fair trial will be prejudiced by such coverage if it is allowed to continue.

Thus the expanded media coverage granted for the jury trial, specifically those portions as set forth above, is subject to revocation by this Court.

This Court’s Conditions for Coverage. Expanded media coverage shall be conducted only under the following conditions. The judge maintains final approval of all arrangements:

Equipment Limitations.

1. **Video.** The media shall be given access to the courtroom, in a location as designated by the judge or other representative of the Arapahoe County District Court administration and the petitioners shall be responsible for pooling pursuant to the arrangements outlined below. There shall be only one such camera in the Courtroom from which the proceedings may be viewed. Only one person shall be permitted to operate the one videotape, television, or motion picture camera. The camera operator may use a tripod, but shall not change location while Court is in session. Video recording shall only be allowed for Openings, Closings and Verdict.
2. **Audio.** The Court will only allow audio recording for those portions of the trial as set forth above; Openings, Closings and Verdict. This recording is to be done as part of the video allowed as set forth above and no additional recording equipment shall be authorized.
3. **Still Cameras.** No still photography will be allowed in the courtroom other than during any those times set above. The above limitations shall apply to include no close up photography of any party, attorney, the Court, or the jury.
4. **Lighting.** No movie lights, flash attachments, or sudden lighting changes shall be permitted. No modification or addition of lighting equipment shall be allowed.

5. Operating Signals. No visible or audible light or signal (tally light) shall be used on any equipment.

Pooling Arrangements. The media shall be solely responsible for designating one media representative to conduct each of the categories of expanded media coverage listed above, and for arranging an open and impartial distribution scheme with a distribution point located outside of the Courthouse. If no agreement can be reached on either of these matters, there shall be no expanded media coverage of that type. Neither judges nor other Court personnel shall be called upon to resolve any disputes concerning pooling arrangements.

Conduct of Media Representatives.

Persons conducting expanded media coverage shall handle themselves in a manner consistent with the decorum and dignity of the Courtroom. The following practices shall apply:

1. Equipment employed to provide expanded media coverage shall be positioned and operated so as to minimize any distraction;
2. Identifying marks, call letters, logos, symbols, and legends shall be concealed on all equipment. Persons operating such equipment shall not wear clothing bearing any such identifying information; and
3. No equipment used to provide expanded media coverage shall be placed in, or removed from, the Courtroom while Court is in session. No film, videotape, or lens shall be changed within the Court while Court is in session.
4. Members of the media may utilize personal digital assistants (PDAs), laptops, tablets, and notebooks in the courtroom with wireless capabilities so long as it creates no disruption during the course of the trial. **Audio streaming, photographs, digital recording and voice phone service from the courtroom are strictly banned.** All members of the media must comply with any requests issued by the Sheriff's Department in regard to courtroom security.
5. The Court will allow media to participate in the Webex broadcast. **No media outlet or non-media individual may record, either audio or video, from Webex.** Further, when entering the Webex, media must clearly and fully identify themselves by name and organization in order to gain admittance into the Webex conference. The Court reserves the right to remove any media organization from the Webex for violation of any of the above restrictions, security concerns, or other concerns relating to the fairness of the proceedings.
6. The Court **will not** be utilizing any additional livestream platforms, other than Webex, throughout the proceedings.
7. The parties and the Court have gone to great lengths to protect the privacy of the minor children involved in this matter. This includes limiting the use of or striking the names of said minors during hearings and court documents. The Court orders the media to maintain this order of privacy and protection regarding the children of the victim and defendant. Should the media hear testimony, argument or other proceedings which use the names of the children, the media shall not disclose said names in any releases whether written or oral. Any video or

audio recordings obtained during Openings, Closings or Verdict shall be subject to this order as well and will require redaction prior to use or dissemination.

8. Pursuant to Chief Judge Order 23-12 Concerning Electronic Devices in Judicial Buildings and Probation Offices in the Eighteenth Judicial District, media with valid media credentials are permitted to use their cameras in the hallways and public areas of the courthouse. However, CJO 23-12 permits the Chief Judge to limit the use of cameras or other recording devices to designated areas. The undersigned has conferred with the Chief Judge and the Chief Judge will permit cameras in the hallways and public areas of the courthouse, ***except cameras or recording devices shall only be permitted on the second floor of courthouse 1 of the Arapahoe County Justice Center inside the specifically cordoned off areas designated for media.***

ACCORDINGLY, This Court hereby GRANTS, with amendments, the petitioner(s) request for expanded media coverage for the defendant's jury trial set to begin on July 14, 2025, subject to the terms and conditions of Chapter 38, Rule 3 of the Colorado Supreme Court Rules and this Order.

Done this June 18, 2024.

BY THE COURT:



Shay K. Whitaker
District Court Judge