

**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

**ORDER GRANTING
UNOPPOSED MOTION TO MODIFY
THE PROTECTIVE ORDER
REGARDING DISCOVERY**

This matter comes before the Court on Defendant Richard Alexander Murdaugh’s motion to Modify the Protective Order Regarding Discovery (the “Motion”) dated February 20, 2024. Mr. Murdaugh seeks to modify the protective order entered on January 3, 2024 (the “Protective Order”), regarding discovery provided in relation to his motion for a new trial, to allow disclosure of certain documents pertinent to an ongoing dispute that Mr. Murdaugh has with a third-party vendor concerning the actions of one of its representatives during the trial of this case. Because the Motion quotes and attaches materials subject to the Protective Order, Mr. Murdaugh submitted this Motion *in camera* rather than publicly filing it. Prior to submitting this Motion, Mr. Murdaugh’s counsel shows that he consulted with counsel for the State, who indicated the State does not take a position on the Motion.

The Court has reviewed the Motion as well as the documents attached to it and finds that modification of the Protective Order is appropriate in these circumstances. Disclosure of these documents will facilitate pre-suit negotiations between Mr. Murdaugh and a third-party vendor, potentially conserving judicial resources. The documents sought to be disclosed would be obtainable by subpoena in any event, and it appears to the Court that no harm or prejudice will result from their disclosure. Additionally, the Court observes that the State does not take a position on the modification sought by Mr. Murdaugh. Last, the materials no longer subject to the Protective

Order as requested by Mr. Murdaugh's Motion are attached as the Court's Exhibit A to this Order.
See Ex. A.

For these reasons, as well as those stated in Mr. Murdaugh's Motion, and for good cause shown, the Motion is GRANTED. The Court hereby modifies the January 3, 2024 Protective Order to exclude from its provisions the documents attached as Exhibit A to this Order. The Clerk of Court is directed to file this Order into the record of this case.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.



Jean Hofer Toal, Chief Justice of the
South Carolina Supreme Court, Retired,
Acting as Circuit Court Judge

This 21st day of February, 2024
Columbia, South Carolina