

RECEIVED

Apr 28 2026

SC Court of Appeals

WITNESSES

State Law Enforcement Division

S/A Richard Cullop

Law Enforcement Case #: 32-19-0096

JWW

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

2021A0210700228

FILED 30 January 2025

*Robert J. White*

CLERK P&GS

*Kristen N. Barnes* KB

Deputy Clerk

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

*True Bill*

*Elizabeth M. Moore*

Foreperson of Grand Jury

Date: January 30, 2025

VERDICT

Foreperson of Petit Jury

Date:

DOCKET NO. 2025GS0200249

The State of South Carolina

County of Aiken

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

JANUARY TERM 2025

THE STATE

vs.

RHETT RIVIERE

CDR : 2865

Indictment For

Voyeurism

SC Code: §16-17-470(B)

Bill Weeks, Solicitor

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF AIKEN )

INDICTMENT FOR  
**Voyeurism**  
§16-17-470(B)

At a term of the Aiken County Grand Jury convened on January 30, 2025, the Grand Jurors of Aiken County present upon their oath:

That **RHETT RIVIERE** did, in Aiken County, South Carolina, on or about May 17, 2019, for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire of a person, knowingly view, photograph, audio record, video record, produce, or create a digital electronic file, or film [REDACTED] without her knowledge and consent while [REDACTED] was in a place where she had a reasonable expectation of privacy, all in violation of Section 16-17-470(B), of the South Carolina Code of Laws (1976), as amended.

Against the peace and dignity of the State, and contrary to the statute in such case made and provided.



---

Bill Weeks, Solicitor

WITNESSES

State Law Enforcement Division

S/A Richard Cullop

Law Enforcement Case #: 32-19-0096

JWW

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

2022A0210700181

FILED 30 January 2025

*Robert J. Kite*

C.C.P. & G.S.

*Kristen Barnes* RB

Deputy Clerk

CDR : 2865

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

*True Bill*

*Elizabeth Moore*

Foreperson of Grand Jury

Date: January 30, 2025

VERDICT

Foreperson of Petit Jury

Date:

DOCKET NO. 2025GS0200250

The State of South Carolina

County of Aiken

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

JANUARY TERM 2025

THE STATE

vs.

RHETT RIVIERE

Indictment For

Voyeurism

SC Code: §16-17-470(B)

Bill Weeks, Solicitor

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF AIKEN )

INDICTMENT FOR  
**Voyeurism**  
§16-17-470(B)

At a term of the Aiken County Grand Jury convened on January 30, 2025, the Grand Jurors of Aiken County present upon their oath:

That **RHETT RIVIERE** did, in Aiken County, South Carolina, on or between April 1, 2001 and June 30, 2001, for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire of a person, knowingly view, photograph, audio record, video record, or film [REDACTED] without her knowledge and consent while [REDACTED] was in a place where she had a reasonable expectation of privacy, all in violation of Section 16-17-470(B), of the South Carolina Code of Laws (1976), as amended.

Against the peace and dignity of the State, and contrary to the statute in such case made and provided.



---

Bill Weeks, Solicitor

WITNESSES

State Law Enforcement Division

S/A Richard Cullop

Law Enforcement Case #: 32-19-0096

JWW

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

2022A0210700182

FILED 30 January 2025

*Robert J. Kite*

Clerk of Court

*Kristin V. Barnes* KB

Deputy Clerk

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

*True Bill*

*Eugene M. Moulton*

Foreperson of Grand Jury

Date: January 30, 2025

VERDICT

Foreperson of Petit Jury

Date:

DOCKET NO. 2025GS0200251

The State of South Carolina

County of Aiken

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

JANUARY TERM 2025

THE STATE

vs.

RHETT RIVIERE

CDR : 2865

Indictment For

Voyeurism

SC Code: §16-17-470(B)

Bill Weeks, Solicitor

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA     )  
  )  
COUNTY OF AIKEN             )

INDICTMENT FOR  
**Voyeurism**  
§16-17-470(B)

At a term of the Aiken County Grand Jury convened on January 30, 2025, the Grand Jurors of Aiken County present upon their oath:

That **RHETT RIVIERE** did, in Aiken County, South Carolina, on or between April 1, 2001 and June 30, 2001, for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire of a person, knowingly view, photograph, audio record, video record, or film [REDACTED] without his knowledge and consent while [REDACTED] was in a place where he had a reasonable expectation of privacy, all in violation of Section 16-17-470(B), of the South Carolina Code of Laws (1976), as amended.

Against the peace and dignity of the State, and contrary to the statute in such case made and provided.



---

Bill Weeks, Solicitor

COUNTY OF AIKEN

) INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2025GS0200249

STATE

) AW#: 2021A0210700228

VS.

) Date of Offense: 05/17/2019

Rhett Riviere

) S.C. Code §: 16-17-470(B)

AKA: SSN: [REDACTED]

) CDR Code #: 2865

RACE: Not Hispanic or Latino SEX: Male

DOB: [REDACTED]

) Range of Offense: 0-3 yrs NMT 500.00

In disposition of the above indictment comes now the Defendant who was  CONVICTED OF or  PLEADS TO: Voyeurism - 1st Offense Range of Offense Pled: 0-3 yrs NMT 500.00

In violation of § 16-17-470(B) Voyeurism of the S.C. Code of Laws, bearing CDR Code # 2865

NON-VIOLENT  VIOLENT  SERIOUS  MOST SERIOUS  Mandatory GPS  § 17-25-45 (CSC w/minor 1st or CSC w/minor 3rd)

The charge is:  As indicted,  Lesser Included Offense,  Defendant Waives Presentment to Grand Jury.

The plea is:  w/o Rec/Negotiations  Negotiated  Recommendation

John William Weeks 5989 Joseph M. McCulloch, Jr. 03760  
Solicitor SC Bar # Attorney For Defendant SC Bar #

The Defendant is committed to the  SCDC  County Detention Center  Home Incarceration Program for a determinate term of 0 days/months/years/Time Served  YO A NTE \_\_\_ years and/or shall pay a fine

of \$ \_\_\_\_\_; provided that upon the service of \_\_\_\_\_ days/months/years/Time Served and or payment

of \$ \_\_\_\_\_; plus costs and assessments as applicable\*; the balance is suspended with probation for \_\_\_\_\_ months/years and subject to SCDPPPS standard conditions of probation, which are incorporated by reference.

The sentence shall run CONCURRENT or  CONSECUTIVE to sentence on: 2025 GS 02-00250

The Defendant is to be given credit for time served pursuant to S.C. Code § 24-13-40 to be calculated and applied by SCDC.

2 days/month  To include time spent on monitored house arrest prior to trial and sentencing.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

- PTUP
- No Contact with Victim  Domestic Violence Intervention Program  Hold for Inpatient Treatment
- Sex Offender Registry pursuant to S.C. Code § 23-3-430  SAC/MHC if necessary
- Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect pursuant to S.C. Code § 17-25-135
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

RESTITUTION See Separate Order (20% per S.C. Code § 24-21-490 (B) )

- §14-1-206 (Assessments 107.5%)
- §14-1-211 (A)(1)(Conv. Surcharge)
- §14-1-211 (A)(2)(DUI Surcharge)
- §56-5-2995 (DUI Assessment)
- §56-1-286 (DUI Breath Test)
- §14-1-212 (Law Enforce. Funding)
- §14-1-213 (Drug Court Surcharge)
- §34-11-70(b)and(c), and 34-11-90(c)and(d) (Admin Fraud Check Court Costs)
- §50-21-114 (BUI Breath Test Fee)
- §56-5-2942(J) (Vehicle Assessment)
- 3% to County (if paid in installments)

Fine/Costs and Assessments are to be paid to the Clerk of Court within \_\_\_\_\_ days/months

Restitution	\$
FINE:	\$
	\$
	\$
\$100	\$ 100.00
\$100	\$ 100.00
\$12	\$
\$25	\$
\$25	\$ 25.00
\$150	\$
\$41	\$
\$50	\$
\$40/ea	\$
TBD	\$ 3.75
\$500	\$
TBD	\$
TOTAL	\$ 178.75

MUST report to ACDC on March 2, 2025 at 9am or a Bench Warrant will be issued.

Appointed PD or appointed other counsel, Proviso requires \$500 be paid to Clerk during probation and shall be collected before any other fees

§ 17-3-30(B) Unpaid Application Fee to be paid to the Public Defender Fund

Wade Barnes  
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

Benee Standaer  
Court Reporter

2767 Judge Code    2/17/26 Sentence Date    [Signature] Presiding Judge

SCCA217B  
01/27/2025

COUNTY OF AIKEN

STATE

VS.

Rhett Riviere

AKA: SSN: [REDACTED]

RACE: Not Hispanic or Latino SEX: Male

DOB: [REDACTED]

) INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2025GS0200250

) AWW#: 2022A0210700181

) Date of Offense: 04/01/2001

) S.C. Code §: 16-17-470(B)

) CDR Code #: 2865

) Range of Offense: 0 -> 3 yrs +/or over 500.00

In disposition of the above indictment comes now the Defendant who was  CONVICTED OF or  PLEADS TO: Voyeurism - 1st Offense Range of Offense Pled: 0 -> 3 yrs +/or over 500.00

In violation of § 16-17-470(B) Voyeurism of the S.C. Code of Laws, bearing CDR Code # 2865

NON-VIOLENT  VIOLENT  SERIOUS  MOST SERIOUS  Mandatory GPS  § 17-25-45 (CSC w/minor 1st or CSC w/minor 3rd)

The charge is:  As indicted,  Lesser Included Offense,  Defendant Waives Presentment to Grand Jury.

The plea is:  w/o Rec/Negotiations  Negotiated  Recommendation

John William Weeks 5989 Solicitor SC Bar # Joseph M. McCulloch, Jr. 03760 Attorney For Defendant SC Bar #

The Defendant is committed to the  SCDC  County Detention Center  Home Incarceration Program for a determinate term of 3 days/months/years/Time Served  YOA NTE \_\_\_ years and/or shall pay a fine

of \$ \_\_\_\_\_; provided that upon the service of \_\_\_\_\_ days/months/years/Time Served and or payment

of \$ \_\_\_\_\_; plus costs and assessments as applicable\*; the balance is suspended with probation for \_\_\_\_\_ months/years and subject to SCDPPPS standard conditions of probation, which are incorporated by reference.

The sentence shall run CONCURRENT or  CONSECUTIVE to sentence on: 2025 GS 0200249

The Defendant is to be given credit for time served pursuant to S.C. Code § 24-13-40 to be calculated and applied by SCDC.

2 days/month  To include time spent on monitored house arrest prior to trial and sentencing.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

- PTUP
 No Contact with Victim
 Sex Offender Registry pursuant to S.C. Code § 23-3-430
 Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect pursuant to S.C. Code § 17-25-135
 Domestic Violence Intervention Program
 Hold for Inpatient Treatment
 SAC/MHC if necessary
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

RESTITUTION See Separate Order (20% per S.C. Code § 24-21-490 (B) )

§14-1-206 (Assessments 107.5%)

§14-1-211 (A)(1)(Conv. Surcharge)

§14-1-211 (A)(2)(DUI Surcharge)

§56-5-2995 (DUI Assessment)

§56-1-286 (DUI Breath Test)

§14-1-212 (Law Enforce. Funding)

§14-1-213 (Drug Court Surcharge)

§34-11-70(b)and(c), and 34-11-90(c)and(d) (Admin Fraud Check Court Costs)

§50-21-114 (BUI Breath Test Fee)

§56-5-2942(J) (Vehicle Assessment)

3% to County (if paid in installments)

Appointed PD or appointed other counsel, Proviso requires \$500 be paid to Clerk during probation and shall be collected before any other fees

§ 17-3-30(B) Unpaid Application Fee to be paid to the Public Defender Fund

Handwritten signatures: [REDACTED] Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

Handwritten signature: Renee Sorensen Court Reporter

Fine/Costs and Assessments are to be paid to the Clerk of Court within \_\_\_\_\_ days/months

Table with columns: Description, Amount. Includes Restitution \$, FINE: \$100, \$100, \$12, \$25, \$25, \$150, \$41, \$50, \$40/ea, TBD, \$2.75, \$500, TBD, TOTAL \$ 178.75

Handwritten: 2707 Judge Code, 02/17/20 Sentence Date, [Signature] Presiding Judge

SCCA217B 01/27/2025



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA \* GENERAL SESSIONS COURT  
\*  
COUNTY OF AIKEN \* TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD

-----X  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA \*  
\*  
Plaintiff, \*  
\*  
vs. \* Case No. 2025-GS-02-00249  
\* 2025-GS-02-00250  
RHETT RIVIERE \* 2025-GS-02-00251  
\*  
\*  
Defendant.\*  
-----X

FEBRUARY 17, 2026

B E F O R E:

The Honorable COURTNEY CLYBURN POPE, Presiding Judge

A P P E A R A N C E S:

JOHN WEEKS, ESQ.  
ATTORNEY FOR THE SOLICITOR'S OFFICE

JIM GRIFFIN, ESQ.  
ATTORNEY FOR THE DEFENDANT

JOE MCCULLOCH, ESQ.  
ATTORNEY FOR THE DEFENDANT

DEBORAH BARBIER, ESQ.  
ATTORNEY FOR VICTIMS

WESLEY FEW, ESQ.  
ATTORNEY FOR VICTIMS

Recorded by: Renee Standera

Transcribed by: Loraine Victoria Edwards, CER, CET  
SC Official Digital Court Reporter II

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

I N D E X

WITNESS/DESCRIPTION PAGE

E X H I B I T S

<u>COURT</u>	MARKED	REC'D
1. LETTER	32	32
2. LETTERS	32	32

COURT REPORTER LEGEND

- Dash (--) Indicates an interruption in speech
- Ellipses (...) Indicates trailing off in speech
- (ph) Indicates phonetic word
- [Verbatim] Indicates the word is said as written
- (Indiscernible) Indicates word(s) is not known due to audio recording quality

## P R O C E E D I N G S

(The following proceedings started at 2:34 p.m.):

THE COURT: All right. Good afternoon, Mr. Weeks.

MR. WEEKS: Good afternoon, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Yes, sir?

MR. WEEKS: This afternoon we have a guilty plea from the defendant, Rhett Riviere, on Indictment 2025-GS-02-00250, 251, and 249. Three indictments for Voyeurism, First Offense. He's represented by Jim Griffin and Joe McCulloch of the defense bar. And this is a straight up plea.

RHETT RIVIERE,

after having been duly sworn, was examined and testified to as

follows:

THE CLERK: He's been sworn, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you. All right.

Good afternoon, Mr. Griffin, Mr. McCulloch.

MR. GRIFFIN: Good afternoon, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Very good. And so have you both explained to your client the nature of his charges, possible penalties, as well as his constitutional rights?

MR. GRIFFIN: We have, Your Honor.

THE COURT: And do you believe that he's understood that?

MR. GRIFFIN: Yes, ma'am.

THE COURT: Are you in agreement with his decision to plead guilty to these three charges?

1 MR. GRIFFIN: Yes, ma'am.

2 THE COURT: All right.

3 Mr. Riviere -- you can tell me the right way.

4 THE DEFENDANT: Riviere.

5 THE COURT: Riviere. Mr. Riviere, have you had any  
6 illegal drugs or alcohol within the last three days?

7 THE DEFENDANT: No.

8 THE COURT: Have you had enough time to speak with both  
9 of your attorneys?

10 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

11 THE COURT: Are you totally and completely satisfied with  
12 their representation of you?

13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

14 THE COURT: Do you have any more questions for either of  
15 your attorneys?

16 THE DEFENDANT: No.

17 THE COURT: All right. Has anyone forced you or promised  
18 you anything in order to take these pleas today?

19 THE DEFENDANT: No.

20 THE COURT: Are you pleading guilty to these three  
21 charges because you are indeed guilty of these three charges?  
22 Are you pleading guilty to these three charges because you are  
23 guilty of these charges?

24 THE DEFENDANT: I'm pleading guilty because I have caused  
25 this. Yes.

1 THE COURT: All right.

2 All right. Mr. Weeks, may I have a synopsis of the  
3 facts, please?

4 MR. WEEKS: Your Honor, this began -- this investigation  
5 began in August of 2019 when South Carolina Law Enforcement  
6 Division was notified through the Aiken Department of Public  
7 Safety that they received an alleged Voyeurism case involving  
8 the defendant.

9 The case was assigned to an agent for SLED who began  
10 conducting an investigation. Investigation began dealing with  
11 some small -- two small SID cards from a camera that contained  
12 images of people who were in various stages of undress.

13 This -- these SID cards were collected from a Katherine  
14 Thomas, who reported to the department that she had found  
15 these SIDS -- SID cards -- SD cards, while moving a piece of  
16 furniture in one of the rental properties in the city of  
17 Aiken, in the county of Aiken, where she lived with her  
18 boyfriend of five years, Mr. Riviere.

19 She viewed the SID -- SD cards, saw that they contained  
20 nude images of at least one woman. She turned those over to  
21 law enforcement. Law enforcement in Aiken turned them over to  
22 SLED because of their familiarity with the defendant.

23 They knew his mother, they knew him, and they didn't want  
24 to be involved in it. So SLED began an investigation, started  
25 by Investigator Clint Busby with SLED. And Clint did search

1 warrants -- got search warrants for some equipment --  
2 recording equipment, computers, that sort of thing -- from  
3 rental property and from physical property that Mr. Riviere  
4 owned.

5 After getting this equipment, SLED forensic folks were  
6 able to determine that some of these devices held a number of  
7 videos of people in various stages of undress. Some of them  
8 occurred, notably in Aiken County in the rental property that  
9 Mr. Riviere owned. Some of them were on a boat. Some of them  
10 were places they had no idea.

11 Mr. Riviere was ultimately arrested for one count of  
12 Voyeurism, and after continuing investigation, determined that  
13 two other people -- formerly husband and wife -- were depicted  
14 on some of these videos. They obtained other warrants.

15 The SLED investigation discovered other people that had  
16 been videotaped, and getting in contact with them was a  
17 nightmare. And then when they get them contacted, they didn't  
18 really want to participate in the investigation involving nude  
19 pictures of themselves.

20 So when it was all said and done, this case has gone on  
21 for six years. And the investigation determined that Mr.  
22 Crespo and his wife at the time were videotaped without their  
23 knowledge and without their consent.

24 And Ms. Julianne Foster was videotaped in stages of  
25 undress without her consent and without her knowledge. And

1 those are the basis of the three indictments before you.

2 The victims -- at least, two of the victims -- are here,  
3 and one has submitted some writings regarding her feelings  
4 about this. And it's your discretion whenever you decide  
5 this. The victims are represented by extremely proficient  
6 lawyers.

7 And as you're aware, there have been lawsuits and  
8 different types of legal proceedings involving the property  
9 involved in Mr. Riviere's possession. At your discretion,  
10 wherever you want to hear from, they want to give you their  
11 version of what Mr. Riviere should be facing.

12 They've also given me a handwritten legal sheet of  
13 damages that they suffered -- counseling and that sort of  
14 stuff after these items were discovered and totals \$4445. And  
15 that goes to Crespos -- Foster because she obtained hers  
16 through the lawsuit.

17 There was a lawsuit occurring in the intervening months  
18 between when Mr. Riviere was arrested and now. I don't know  
19 where those lawsuits stand, but it involved millions of  
20 dollars and is on appeal as I understand it.

21 And that's not part of the State's burden to prove in  
22 this case. I don't have anything further.

23 If you wanted to hear any more of the details, I actually  
24 have the videos involving these victims downloaded if you  
25 wanted to watch them on your computer. But I don't know that

1 there's any necessity in watching after all you've heard in  
2 this case, but that's the State's position.

3 THE COURT: All right.

4 MR. WEEKS: There was some discussion about a prior  
5 conviction or prior arrest of the defendant down in Florida,  
6 and it's my understanding SLED looked into that and there  
7 wasn't anything that they could use --

8 THE COURT: Okay.

9 MR. WEEKS: -- in their investigation.

10 THE COURT: All right. Very good. Thank you, Mr. Weeks.

11 I am going to hear from the victims at this time -- or  
12 their attorneys, however the manner is. I'll hear from the  
13 three of them and then I will continue back to both Mr.  
14 Griffin and McCulloch in order to respond.

15 MR. MCCULLOCH: Your Honor, would you like us to remain  
16 here, or would you like us to have a seat?

17 THE COURT: Usually, you remain, but if there are any  
18 back or standing issues, you certainly can --

19 MR. MCCULLOCH: Well, Your Honor, I'm --

20 THE COURT: -- welcome to.

21 MR. MCCULLOCH: I'm always looking for a chair, as I tell

22 --

23 THE COURT: Well, you're certainly welcome to do that.  
24 The Court takes no offense to that.

25 MR. MCCULLOCH: Well, I hate to do that. I'll -- I'll

1 stand it out.

2 THE COURT: Should you find that you cannot, I will  
3 certainly take no offense to you --

4 MR. MCCULLOCH: If you see tears, you'll know I'm headed  
5 to --

6 THE COURT: Yes, sir. Yes, sir. Very good.

7 MR. FEW: Your Honor --

8 THE COURT: Good afternoon.

9 MR. FEW: Please the Court, I'm Wes Few. I'm an attorney  
10 from Greenville. I represent all the victims. But at this  
11 moment, I'm going to give a written statement from Julianne  
12 Foster, who could not be here because of her son's high school  
13 playoff basketball game.

14 Your Honor, my son plays basketball. They have a  
15 playoff game against Boiling Springs. For that reason,  
16 I cannot be here in person. And I've asked Wes to read  
17 this statement for me.

18 I came here once for a guilty plea on February  
19 13th of 2024, but that did not go forward. I never  
20 imagined I would have to stand in an open Courtroom and  
21 describe something like this happening to me.

22 On April 11th of 2019, when my tennis teammate,  
23 Michelle Jane, let us know that she was looking at  
24 booking an Airbnb rental for the State Tennis  
25 Tournament in May of 2019, I thought she was choosing a

1 place where we could rest and feel safe.

2 The information we received showed the Airbnb host  
3 was someone named Katherine, not Rhett Riviere. It  
4 read, quote, this is Katherine's new Airbnb historical  
5 cottage that is downtown Aiken, near the Wilcox. Check  
6 it out.

7 I had no idea I would be secretly recorded  
8 dressing and undressing and watched by Lord knows who.  
9 I had no idea that someone had decided that my body, my  
10 vulnerability, and my personal moments were theirs to  
11 secretly record and share.

12 The day I found out I had been videotaped without  
13 my knowledge, through SLED, something inside of me just  
14 broke. It wasn't embarrassment. It wasn't just shock.  
15 It was a deep, sickening realization that my privacy,  
16 something so basic, something I never questioned, had  
17 been stolen from me.

18 I was filmed in moments where I was completely  
19 unaware, completely unguarded. Those were moments that  
20 belonged only to me. And I don't know who all has seen  
21 them. I don't know where they are. I don't know if  
22 they will ever surface again.

23 That uncertainty has been like a form of constant  
24 torture, and continuous mental anguish. Every time I  
25 think about it, it upsets me. And the fact that this

1 man was not even charged with the crime until after I  
2 filed a civil lawsuit makes me even more upset.

3 I can no longer walk into a room and relax. I  
4 scan for cameras. I look at smoke detectors, vents,  
5 mirrors, alarm clocks -- everything is suspicious to  
6 me.

7 I hesitate before changing clothes. I hesitate  
8 before sleeping. Even in my own home, I sometimes feel  
9 I'm being watched. This crime didn't end when we  
10 checked out of that Airbnb rental. The so-called  
11 Stirrup Cup Cottage.

12 Such a cute little name for recording people. It  
13 has changed the way I travel. It's changed the way I  
14 trust. It has changed the way I feel in my own body.

15 There is a humiliation that is hard to explain,  
16 knowing someone chose to exploit my most private  
17 moments for their own purposes. I feel exposed in a  
18 way that cannot be undone.

19 What probably hurts the most is that this was done  
20 absolutely intentionally. And it has been done before  
21 and afterwards, no telling how many times. This was  
22 not an accident. He planned this.

23 He decided my consent did not matter. He decided  
24 that my dignity was disposable. I really want the  
25 Court to understand that this is no minor offense.

1 This is not harmless. It's a violation that lives in  
2 my mind every single day.

3 I'm working to rebuild my sense of safety, but it  
4 takes time, therapy, and strength I never expected I  
5 would need for this purpose. I did not choose this. I  
6 did not consent to this.

7 And I will carry the impact of this long after  
8 this case is over. I ask the Court to recognize the  
9 seriousness of what he has done to me and the lasting  
10 harm it has caused.

11 Thank you, Julianne Foster.

12 THE COURT: Thank you for reading that on behalf of Ms.  
13 Foster.

14 Good afternoon.

15 MS. CRESPO: Your Honor, my name is -- my name is Heather  
16 Crespo and I'm a victim here. And I'd like to let you know my  
17 statement, and it's kind of a little bit of where I am now and  
18 where I came from with this case and this man.

19 At the time, Gabriel was my husband. And we were just  
20 married. We came to Aiken and rented a cottage from Rhett  
21 Riviere and his wife. We did not realize that he had many,  
22 many multiple cameras in the bathroom and our bedroom.

23 We did not consent to being videoed. We were secretly  
24 videoed for months while we were there. This was planned.  
25 This was intentional. He did this without our consent and

1 our knowledge.

2 He then proceeded to take these videos and make it into  
3 a movie, which he labeled Gabriel and Heather. Hence, how  
4 SLED was able to figure out who we were and contact us.

5 I'm a travel nurse right now. Before, I was a nurse  
6 working here at Aiken Regional. And I was contacted by SLED  
7 that I needed to come in and see some things. And that --  
8 that day changed my life.

9 I sat in a room and had to watch videos of myself in  
10 the most intimate acts of a newly married couple -- of me  
11 going to the bathroom. The fact that he made it in a movie.  
12 I don't know how many people walking around as friends here  
13 -- the horse community -- had seen this.

14 I have lost all trust and safety of where I should have  
15 been the most safe I could have possibly been. I lost  
16 complete human dignity. This was not a one-time mistake.

17 Rhett has been doing this for years. It's planned.  
18 It's malicious, calculated. There are thousands of videos,  
19 hundreds of people, naked young girls. The shame and fear  
20 and violation I feel every day cannot be overstated.

21 You played -- preyed on my privacy and his victim's  
22 privacy. I decided to leave Aiken, hence, becoming a travel  
23 nurse because I did not feel safe walking around in this  
24 town where my daughter grew up.

25 Coming back here today -- and my heart is broken. I

1 don't feel safe with him on the street. This Court has the  
2 authority to send a clear, deliberate message that this is  
3 not going to be accepted.

4 That the safety and privacy of people are valuable and  
5 those exploiting the trust of others must face full  
6 consequences. We ask he be held responsible for the lasting  
7 damage he's caused many people. And that's -- that's all I  
8 have to say. Thank you

9 THE COURT: Ms. Crespo, thank you for being here this  
10 afternoon.

11 MS. BARBIER: All right, at this time, Gabriel Crespo  
12 would like to address the Court.

13 THE COURT: Thank you.

14 Good afternoon, Mr. Crespo.

15 MR. CRESPO: So let me tell you a little bit about how we  
16 got here. [Indiscernible] man from Argentina. So English is  
17 my second language. And when I got to this country, the one  
18 thing that I learned from I come up from, you have to follow  
19 the law.

20 If you do something wrong, they're coming after you.  
21 And this man right here, it's really, really bad. And what  
22 he has done to us -- it's like, it blows my mind that he's  
23 still sitting there. He's not in jail already.

24 This has been a long time waiting for us to be here  
25 today. I'm not going to say again what Heather just said

1 and all that. I want to tell you another story.

2           Years after -- first of all, he was a guy that I knew,  
3 a guy that I hang out with. We have a horse of his wife in  
4 my farm. We bred the horse -- babies. His wife used to  
5 bring the pig over to hang out at my far -- he's a guy -- he  
6 knew who I was.

7           He knew -- I think I played polo at one point with his  
8 jersey because he was giving money to a friend of mine to  
9 sponsor a polo. This is not a random guy. This is a guy  
10 that -- that they will, like, have us over for dinner at his  
11 house.

12           And so it's just like -- just -- it's unbelievable what  
13 this person can do. At the same time, he was having dinner  
14 -- we were having dinner at his house, he was watching my  
15 videos -- having sex with my wife or just going to the  
16 toilet or taking a shower.

17           Years later, after my daughter was born, she's a pretty  
18 gifted little girl, and she liked to sing. So she was asked  
19 to sing the National Anthem here -- downtown Aiken, on some  
20 sort of parade.

21           One of the -- I can't remember what day it was, but it  
22 was just -- so these men right here say, "Oh, I have a great  
23 idea. Why don't you guys go in my car," -- fancy Corvette.  
24 So he parade us around downtown Aiken -- me and my daughter  
25 like, everybody saying -- I mean, it's like, can you

1 imagine? Can you imagine?

2 So it's not only destroyed my life because as Heather  
3 says, I don't trust anybody anymore. My daughter -- God  
4 forbid, you know, like, God forbid -- I've seen videos of  
5 -- I'm not going to say -- very young girls. I don't know  
6 what age they were, but they were not -- they didn't know  
7 they were being videoed. That's a fact.

8 So this man needs to go away -- away from our  
9 community. All those people that he has sitting over there,  
10 they don't know if they're being video or not.

11 Because all those friends he has -- and they're going  
12 to testify on his behalf -- they need to be watching the  
13 21,000 videos that he had on his computers and see if they  
14 were involved in that, because I was his friend, too.

15 I hang out at his house. So it's like -- it's -- it's  
16 -- it's unreal. But friends -- I would say now because of  
17 my lawyers -- but they're also my friends. They say, really  
18 stay mad.

19 I'm like, "No, I'm going to go from my heart because  
20 this is just not -- it's not right." We would happen if it  
21 was me doing it? A Latin immigrant. I did everything by  
22 the T.

23 I have a working Visa and I have my citizenship, and  
24 I'm proud to say I'm an American. This guy needs to go  
25 away. It's like -- it's unreal what's going on in this

1 Court. Please. Thank you for your time.

2 THE COURT: Mr. Crespo, I want to thank you. I know that  
3 it was difficult for both you and Ms. Crespo to be here this  
4 afternoon, but I do want to tell you both thank you for the  
5 statements that you've given me and the information that  
6 you've given me as well.

7 And the Court appreciates you all being here. Thank you.  
8 Mr. Crespo.

9 MR. CRESPO: It's -- not long ago, my daughter is at a  
10 restaurant here downtown --

11 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

12 MR. CRESPO: -- and she called me and -- sent me a text  
13 and said, "This guy is staring at me." So I'm like -- drop  
14 everything that I'm doing 10 miles away from town, fly into  
15 town into -- I shouldn't be doing that.

16 I didn't do anything wrong. My daughter didn't do  
17 anything wrong. So we can't go like this anymore. This guy  
18 needs to go away for the longest time.

19 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Crespo.

20 All right. Yes, ma'am?

21 MS. BARBIER: May it please the Court, Your Honor?

22 THE COURT: Yes.

23 MS. BARBIER: Your Honor, I think what you just heard  
24 from Mr. And Mrs. Crespo and from Ms. Foster, whose statement  
25 was read through Mr. Few, that for decades -- because the

1 Crespos were filmed in 2001, and Ms. Foster was filmed in  
2 2019.

3 So he didn't just break the law over those decades, he  
4 invaded people's lives. He violated something sacred. He  
5 took the one thing from somebody that you should feel safe --  
6 where you should feel safe.

7 You should feel safe where you lay your pillow -- lay  
8 your head on your pillow at night. That's what you should  
9 feel safe in. He stole that from them. He stole their sense  
10 of security.

11 The people he targeted were not strangers in public  
12 places. They were tenants, as Mr. Crespo told you. They  
13 trusted him. Mr. and Mrs. Crespo were a family, a young  
14 couple that had just moved here. Ms. Foster was a short-term  
15 guest who booked her stay through Airbnb.

16 She was -- she believed that she was entering a safe,  
17 legitimate form of housing. Crespo signed a lease. Ms.  
18 Foster paid a fee to be there. She booked a reservation -- or  
19 her friend did. They trusted him.

20 They believed that when those doors were closed, they had  
21 privacy. They believed that when they were showering, when  
22 they were sleeping, when they were dressing, when they were  
23 having intimate relations as a married couple, that they were  
24 private and they were safe, and that they were alone. And  
25 they were not safe.

1 Over those decades, Mr. Riviere secretly recorded people  
2 at their most vulnerable times. He watched those videos  
3 without their consent. He collected images that were never  
4 his to take.

5 And one of the elements of the offense that Mr. Riviere  
6 is pleading here today is sexual gratification. Lawyers  
7 requires that element as an offense -- as part of the offense.  
8 And so what he's pleading guilty to today is that he did this  
9 for the purpose of his own sexual gratifications.

10 He turned those ordinary, intimate moments and human  
11 moments into objects of exploitation. He's never identified  
12 the rest of the victims in these videos. So many of the  
13 people that he victimized have no voice here today. None at  
14 all.

15 The harm here is profound and it's permanent. When Mr.  
16 Riviere began operating his properties through Airbnb and his  
17 girlfriend was the Airbnb host, the betrayal deepened. He was  
18 listing and renting these properties through Airbnb.

19 And Ms. Foster was given that sense of legitimacy, that  
20 sense of safety that people associate with platforms like  
21 Airbnb. They trusted it, they trusted that brand, and they  
22 trusted the representations made by Airbnb and by Mr. Riviere  
23 and his girlfriend.

24 And said what they walked into were private spaces that  
25 were supposed to be private, that had hidden cameras. And the

1 expectation of privacy doesn't change because the stay  
2 temporary.

3 I mean, Crespos were renting for several months. The --  
4 Ms. Foster was renting for, I think, a long weekend. But  
5 whether someone signs a year-long lease or books for a long  
6 weekend through Airbnb, the expectation is that you're going  
7 to keep your dignity and your safety and your privacy intact.

8 And he violated all of those expectations. And so today,  
9 what we ask you to do is address the scope of this harm. As I  
10 said, the bulk of these victims have never been identified  
11 because he's never cooperated with law enforcement.

12 He's never -- he's refused, as I understand it, to  
13 meaningfully assist in identifying the people that he's  
14 recorded. He has refused to be transparent. He's refused to  
15 accept full responsibility.

16 And that means that there are men and there are women and  
17 there are, we believe, young people out there who may have  
18 been recorded it [Verbatim] and they don't even know it.  
19 They've never been notified.

20 They've never been given the chance to speak. They've  
21 never been given the chance to reclaim their voice. And for  
22 five years, I mean, I think we're going on six years now,  
23 since law enforcement has uncovered these crimes, this process  
24 has been marked by delay.

25 Rather than accepting responsibility and moving towards

1       accountability, Mr. Riviere has pursued appeals and procedures  
2       and maneuvers that have prolonged this case for these victims  
3       and essentially re-victimized each and every one of them.

4               Every -- every appeal has reopened wounds. Every delay  
5       has forced these victims to relive what has happened. Every  
6       procedural maneuver extends the period during which  
7       unidentified victims remain in the dark.

8               And so, for the Crespos and for Ms. Foster, what this  
9       feels like today is just being re-victimized -- being  
10      victimized again. Not by hidden cameras this time, but by  
11      time itself, by the delay that he has caused and a process  
12      that he continues to stretch out -- the harm.

13              Your Honor witnessed firsthand in the civil fraudulent  
14      conveyance case, the amount of -- the lack of accountability  
15      that's been demonstrated by Mr. Riviere. And so instead of  
16      accountability, what we've had is postponement.

17              Instead of cooperation and becoming fully forthright and  
18      being held accountable for what he's done and accepting that  
19      responsibility, what he's done is to continue to re-victimize  
20      them and litigate.

21              And -- and there's just another hard truth about this  
22      case, Your Honor -- this came out during the case -- Mr.  
23      Riviere has -- by all accounts, is a wealthy man. He had  
24      resources. He had sophistication. He understood contracts  
25      and systems and platforms, and he knew the rules.

1           And his conduct over these decades and during the years  
2 that -- since the discovery of these -- of these crimes  
3 reflects a mindset that wealth and power insulates him; that  
4 the rules somehow just didn't apply to him.

5           The accountability could be delayed long enough and  
6 fought hard enough and perhaps avoided -- the duration of the  
7 crime -- something we ask you to take into consideration.

8           The abuse of the position of trust for these people that  
9 trusted him. The countless identified [Verbatim] victims, the  
10 refusal to cooperate, the years of delay, the refusal to  
11 accept full responsibility, and the apparent belief that  
12 wealth places him beyond accountability and beyond  
13 consequences.

14           And so together, what these facts reveal is not a lapse  
15 in judgment, but a sustained pattern of entitlement, of  
16 deception, and disregard for human dignity. And so, Your  
17 Honor, this case is more than about a hidden camera.

18           It's about betrayal. It's about invading the lives of --  
19 of human beings. It's about power that he used for harm. And  
20 it's about a man who had every advantage in life -- every --  
21 every conceivable advantage -- who chose to exploit people's  
22 trust and who -- even after being caught -- chose to delay  
23 accountability.

24           The victims cannot erase what has happened, but the Court  
25 can affirm something that is fundamental in our system, and

1 that is that no one's above the law -- not the wealthy, not  
2 the powerful, not the landlord, not the host.

3 We ask that the Court impose a sentence that reflects the  
4 gravity of these crimes, the duration, the scope of the harm,  
5 the many identified victims still living in uncertainty, and  
6 the prolonged delay that has extended their suffering.

7 The sanctity of someone's home, somewhere someone's  
8 staying, where someone's living -- whether it's permanent or  
9 whether it's for a weekend, it's got to mean something. And  
10 so the dignity of the Crespos needs to be validated today --  
11 needs to mean something.

12 The accountability piece of this needs to mean something.  
13 So we ask, Your Honor, to sentence him to the fullest extent  
14 of the law. We think this demands a prison sentence. There's  
15 plenty of precedent for that -- over the United States, people  
16 go to jail for these crimes.

17 He is -- the Court is able to punish him to three years  
18 on each count. We ask that you do that; that they be served  
19 consecutively. We-- we think he's lucky to be charged with  
20 Voyeurism, Your Honor.

21 He could have been charged -- in our opinion -- with  
22 Aggravated Voyeurism. That's not what he's pleading to today,  
23 but we think this is a serious crime. We ask that you put him  
24 on the sexual offender registry.

25 And we ask that you -- and your wisdom and

1 consideration of all of these facts, give a sentence that is  
2 appropriate for the harm and the sadness and the despair and  
3 the trauma that he has caused all these victims. Thank you,  
4 Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Thank you very much.

6 Mr. Weeks, does that conclude the State's presentation at  
7 this time?

8 MR. WEEKS: It does at this time, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Mr. Riviere, did you hear -- with regards to  
10 the solicitor, did you hear the allegations that the State has  
11 -- has put forth?

12 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

13 THE COURT: How do you wish to plea to these three  
14 charges? Guilty or not guilty?

15 MR. WEEKS: I stand here, Your Honor, take responsibility  
16 for all the actions that brought me here and brought us all  
17 here today.

18 Apologize to the Crespos, my family, friends -- anybody  
19 else that's been impacted in any way.

20 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, Mr. Riviere. Just so  
21 the record is clear, with regards to these three charges,  
22 you're pleading guilty or not guilty?

23 THE DEFENDANT: Guilty.

24 THE COURT: I'll accept that plea. And I also find that  
25 it's been done so knowingly, intelligently, and with the

1 assistance of not just one, but two attorneys standing beside  
2 you, both of whom you stated you were satisfied with.

3 All right. And so I will hear from you, Mr. Griffin, or  
4 from --

5 MR. GRIFFIN: Yes, Your Honor. There are a number of  
6 people here who -- who showed up in support of Mr. Riviere.  
7 We've selected three as a sampling of those.

8 But I do want to ask everyone who's here in support of  
9 Rhett Riviere, please stand up so you can -- Court can see  
10 that you're present. And we appreciate that.

11 And Your Honor --

12 Y'all can sit down. Thank you so much.

13 We'd ask Melinda Courtland to come up front, please. Or  
14 you want to stand over here? Ms. Courtland, tell the Judge  
15 who you are, where you're from and you're -- you're -- and how  
16 you know Rhett Riviere.

17 MS. COURTLAND: Okay.

18 THE COURT: All right. Your name is Ms. Melinda --

19 MS. COURTLAND: Yes. And the --

20 THE COURT: And what's your last name?

21 MS. COURTLAND: Courtland, C-O-U-R-T-L-A-N-D.

22 THE COURT: Thank you.

23 THE BAILIFF: And just a minute.

24 MS. COURTLAND: Yes.

25 THE BAILIFF: The Court reporter needs her on that

1 microphone.

2 MS. COURTLAND: Just tell me where to go.

3 THE COURT: There's one right here behind our deputy.

4 MR. GRIFFIN: Testing, testing. So why don't you stand  
5 right here.

6 MS. COURTLAND: Wait a minute, I need my glasses. Okay.  
7 So my name's Melinda Courtland --

8 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

9 MS. COURTLAND: I live in Aiken, South Carolina. And I  
10 would -- first off, like to thank Judge Clyburn Pope for the  
11 consideration to listen to me for a moment.

12 THE COURT: Certainly.

13 MS. COURTLAND: And if I get a little scattered, I've  
14 never done this before.

15 THE COURT: It's okay.

16 MS. COURTLAND: Okay. But I first met Rhett Riviere --  
17 that we all have known as Tiger -- over 31 years ago at an  
18 equestrian event. And as life takes us on our journeys, I  
19 was not in the area for many years -- and grew up in  
20 Virginia.

21 And I went through a divorce about 12 years ago from a  
22 very abusive husband. And during that time, Tiger was a  
23 great support to me. He helped me out.

24 He allowed me to bring my nine horses and ponies to  
25 rent at his farm and to rent -- bring my horse trainer to

1 housing there. And he was very supportive and helped me  
2 throughout that really difficult time.

3 As a result of the divorce, I needed to sell a number  
4 of assets. And at the time, he wasn't able to purchase some  
5 of them. But on a handshake, he bought other things from me  
6 at fair market value. He was not trying to undermine me.

7 And surprisingly, two or three years later I got a  
8 couple big checks in the mail and I -- he didn't have to pay  
9 me. I didn't know if I'd ever get paid after three years.  
10 But he was always -- he's always been true to his word.

11 And so when I hear these other people speak, that's not  
12 the Tiger that I've known for all these years. And it's  
13 very sad to me as, now, a single person owning a farm in the  
14 historical district, he and another widow that I know before  
15 storms come, he'll call us and say, "There's a hurricane  
16 coming. Do you need any help?"

17 The hurricane goes through -- "Do you need my chainsaw?  
18 I'm coming over to help you clear out so you can get out of  
19 your house." There are some ice storm -- "Can I help you  
20 ladies? Because you're on your own."

21 Most of the other people -- my experience of Aiken, I  
22 haven't had people reach out to try to help me in the way he  
23 has. So he's done -- there's a lot of good to Tiger and  
24 I've only experienced the good that I've seen of Tiger.

25 Now, obviously, there are other issues here at hand,

1 but I can just speak to the Tiger I know and I see a broken  
2 man. I see a man who no longer has anything financially,  
3 family, everything else.

4 He has really -- he's a shadow of the man I've always  
5 known. At age 72, he's very frail. I would hope that the  
6 Judge and the judicial system would consider his health and  
7 his situation -- gosh, I weigh twice as much as Tiger these  
8 days -- as when you're figuring out what penalties or what  
9 to impose.

10 Just take into consideration his life has really been  
11 ruined for the past few years -- I'm sorry to say that,  
12 Tiger -- but just at this stage in the game, a 72-year-old  
13 man and his -- he probably doesn't want to admit that he has  
14 health issues, but I just look at him and see health issues.

15 So that's all I would say, please, you know, have a  
16 little bit of mercy with the person at that age. Thank you  
17 for the time.

18 THE COURT: Ms. Courtland, thank you for being here in  
19 support of Mr. Riviere.

20 MS. COURTLAND: Thank you.

21 MR. GRIFFIN: Your Honor, the next person is Ricky  
22 Gibson. He's another life -- a longtime resident of Aiken and  
23 he started out working at the Alley here.

24 MR. GIBSON: Your Honor, I'm Ricky Gibson. I met Tiger  
25 in the mid-80s working in the Alley at the salon -- him and

1 his mother. He's always been a very good man, as far as I  
2 know.

3 He's never done -- things done in my life, he's always  
4 helped me -- when my car got broke down. He made sure I had a  
5 way to go. I was in -- I've seen him where he's done terrible  
6 work for people to help them to get things back on their feet.

7 He's asked me that -- when I lost my partner years ago  
8 and -- from an accident. He asked me was I okay, did I need  
9 anything. The Tiger I know is not the Tiger that everybody  
10 else -- you know, my heart goes out to those people.

11 But Tiger has always been a good friend to me, and I've  
12 always respected him. He's respected me. I only wish that --  
13 I seen him lost everything. And I think he was a key -- well,  
14 I don't think, I know -- he was a good father to his kids.

15 I know he was a good place in the community. He raised  
16 -- help people get knee implants for knee surgery. He -- he's  
17 just -- I'm nervous though. But Tiger's always been there for  
18 other people to this -- in the tragedy of their life and  
19 stuff.

20 And -- but I know he's always been there for me -- my  
21 family. He's been a good friend. He's -- he's never -- I  
22 don't know how to put it, but he's just a really -- was a  
23 really nice guy. He still is.

24 And he's --he's lost everything. I wish that maybe the  
25 Court can see that he's very fragile. He's 72 years old, as

1 she was saying. I think that if he was -- you know, I'm  
2 nervous, so please forgive me.

3 But the -- I've been knowing him for almost 40 years  
4 and he's never -- what I know of, it's not the same. I  
5 mean, he's been a very good friend.

6 THE COURT: I understand.

7 MR. GIBSON: Thank you.

8 MR. GRIFFIN: Thank you, sir.

9 THE COURT: Thank you so much. And thank you for being  
10 here, Mr. Gibson.

11 MR. GRIFFIN: Your Honor, the third person, Erin  
12 Triguero. Did I pronounce that right?

13 MS. TRIGUERO: You did.

14 MR. GRIFFIN: It's T-R-I-G-U-E-R-O.

15 THE COURT: T-R-I-G --

16 MR. GRIFFIN: T-R-I-G-U-E-R-O.

17 THE COURT: All right. We've got that for our Court  
18 reporter.

19 Mr. [Verbatim] Triguero --

20 MS. TRIGUERO: Triguero.

21 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

22 MS. TRIGUERO: Okay. I've known Rhett Riviere for about  
23 four and a half years, and that came through my husband. And  
24 since I've met this man, he's become a father figure to me. I  
25 was sexually abused my whole life.

1           He never once made me feel uncomfortable. And I'm  
2 uncomfortable around a lot of people. I've seen him pick  
3 people up, dust them off. I've known that. And he's done it  
4 to me a couple of times, quite a few times actually.

5           He'll talk to me in the middle of the night just because  
6 I need a friend or I need fatherly advice. I just -- I just  
7 can't see him in any other light but a father. I got my  
8 grandkids around him. I -- I put my whole faith in him.

9           And I just ask the Court, again, at his age -- but he has  
10 lost everything. And he still picks people up, even though he  
11 would probably be, you know, having problems picking himself  
12 up.

13           But he still there for us every minute of every day. So  
14 I just ask the Court (Indiscernible).

15           THE COURT: All right. Very good. Thank you so much.  
16 Thank you for being here as well.

17           MR. GRIFFIN: And -- and Your Honor, Ms. Patina  
18 Repplehouse (ph), if you could stand up for me. Your Honor,  
19 she came prepared to speak, but she also had a letter that she  
20 was going to speak from, and we didn't have it when we met  
21 earlier. So I'd just like to hand that up to --

22           THE COURT: Certainly.

23           MR. GRIFFIN: -- Your Honor to review --

24           THE COURT: Certainly.

25           MR. GRIFFIN: If you don't mind.

1 THE COURT: Has the State seen --

2 MR. GRIFFIN: You can sit down. Thank you.

3 THE COURT: -- the correspondence?

4 MR. WEEKS: I don't believe so. We just got it.

5 THE COURT: Okay. All right.

6 I'm going to -- can you give this to the State just so  
7 that he has an opportunity to review that letter as well.

8 That letter is noted for the record. Thank you very  
9 much.

10 THE CLERK: He finishes reading that. Would you like to  
11 make that a Court Exhibit?

12 THE COURT: Yeah, we can -- we can make it a Court  
13 Exhibit -- Court Exhibit 1. Thank you.

14 Mr. Clerk?

15 THE CLERK: Yes?

16 THE COURT: I also have here a packet of statements that  
17 were provided by the defense that I had the opportunity to  
18 read -- because we're going to make that Exhibit 1, can you  
19 make this Court's Exhibit 2 so that they're all together?

20 THE CLERK: All right. Yes, Your Honor.

21 (Court's Exhibit No. 1 and 2 marked and received into  
22 evidence)

23 THE COURT: Thank you.

24 All right. Mr. McCulloch?

25 MR. WEEKS: Thank you, Your Honor. Your Honor, I'll try

1 to be brief.

2 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

3 MR. WEEKS: We provided you, Your Honor, with a number of  
4 -- I guess we call them character references -- the thoughts  
5 and ruminations of the people that know this gentleman best.  
6 They are this community.

7 The errors to which Mr. Riviere admits and enters this  
8 plea of guilty are serious and in some ways unforgivable in a  
9 sense -- and the victim's impact. We -- at one point, I think  
10 he has been faulted for never apologizing, for never coming  
11 forward. And I hope Your Honor understands, as I know you do  
12 as a lawyer -- before being a Judge -- Mr. Riviere has  
13 followed his attorney's advice.

14 These -- this has been a case of some years. The delays  
15 are not solely the responsibility of Mr. Riviere. This case  
16 has been marked by multiple lawsuits. And to the extent that  
17 Mr. Riviere at one point was what people would call well to do  
18 -- moneyed, that's all gone.

19 And much of it is gone because he sought to address these  
20 issues by reaching financial settlements. Sadly, we were not  
21 able to do that with Mr. And Ms. Crespo, that may in future  
22 occur.

23 But you have before you a man who is, I believe, truly  
24 contrite today and has been for some time. But that's lawyers  
25 advice. That's what lawyers do -- make decisions for our

1 clients.

2 And we hope that our Judges sitting in judgment will not  
3 hold that against this man. Your Honor, you have heard from  
4 the victims. You have heard -- you have the benefit of  
5 actually presiding over the previous civil proceeding, which  
6 gave you another window into this matter, I guess, in a sort.

7 You have the information from these many people who know  
8 him best; who have spoken to his family's contributions to  
9 this community; to his personal contributions, both  
10 philanthropic and as a member of this community; actions that  
11 are wholly inconsistent with the -- with the things that you  
12 are now having to make and render a judgment about.

13 Everyone makes mistakes. These are difficult mistakes.  
14 These are hard mistakes. They're hard facts. And they, I  
15 know, will be a challenge to you to fashion a sentence that is  
16 fair, just, and, we hope, reasonable, Your Honor.

17 You've heard from, at least, one of these folks -- but I  
18 can tell you that Mr. Riviere -- as one witness has said -- is  
19 72 years of age. And I think it does not take a medical  
20 degree to see that he is not in good health.

21 That is not in and of itself a reason to show any  
22 leniency. I'm reminded of an old Judge who gave someone in a  
23 murder case life in prison. And the fellow said, "Well, Your  
24 Honor, I can't do life. I'm, you know, whatever -- I am 70  
25 years old." And the Judge said, "You do the best you can."

1           We ask Your Honor to take into consideration the people  
2 that you've heard, the things they've said. This man's past,  
3 the fact that he does not have prior convictions. He does not  
4 have a history of abuse and bad acts.

5           He has made mistakes. And I'll ask him again to speak at  
6 the very end once more to you, Your Honor. But the -- we ask  
7 you -- as you always do, I hope, in these sentencings -- that  
8 you consider the total man, and you consider the good and the  
9 bad, and you weigh carefully -- as I know you do -- what  
10 judgment, what sentence is appropriate that will serve the  
11 needs that we all are trained in law school and thereafter.

12           That are the points of this: to punish, to rehabilitate.  
13 I would say, Your Honor, that there is virtually zero chance  
14 of recidivism here. I would also say, Your Honor, that the --  
15 the things available to you are to impose the maximum penalty,  
16 to impose something in the nature of active incarceration.

17           We would ask you to consider -- if active incarceration  
18 is -- you determine something that is needed here, that it be  
19 followed with a period of home confinement or house arrest, as  
20 it is called -- reference has been made to registration that  
21 follows this plea.

22           It's something he understands that that registration is  
23 not, I don't think, even within your discretion at this stage  
24 of the process. So, Your Honor, we appreciate, very much,  
25 your time, your careful attention to the things we presented

1 to you that are now a date of record -- part of the record --  
2 these multiple statements, as well as what you've heard today.

3 And I will say, to conclude this phase, Mr. Griffin may  
4 have something additionally -- and then, as I've mentioned,  
5 Mr. Riviere, I believe, wants to speak again. But we place  
6 his faith in your even hands. Thank you.

7 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

8 MR. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Your Honor, I will reiterate  
9 what Mr. McCulloch said about Mr. Riviere following our  
10 advice. He has steadfastly followed our advice. It has  
11 carried out longer than any of us had wished or expected or  
12 anticipated.

13 And the -- you've heard twice today, people -- two or  
14 three stood up here and told you he was a broken man. And he  
15 is, in more ways than one. His health is broken. His -- his  
16 financial house is destroyed.

17 As Your Honor knows, as a Court-ordered receiver that has  
18 all of his assets and -- what's left -- and he has a judgment  
19 against him of some astronomical amount. We were able to  
20 resolve the Foster lawsuit to Ms. Foster's satisfaction.

21 We had hoped we could have done the same with the  
22 Crespos, but we were not able to do so. And we ended up  
23 litigating that. Mr. Riviere stood on his constitutional  
24 rights at our instruction, and he has paid handsomely for it  
25 by way of judgment.

1           But -- but that -- that doesn't take precedent over this.  
2 This is the most serious consequence he will face. I will  
3 tell Your Honor, he appreciates that. And -- and he respects  
4 this Court. He respects the system, and -- as do Mr.  
5 McCulloch and I.

6           No one in this Courtroom hasn't fallen short at some  
7 period of time, for sure. And we just ask that you show,  
8 along with the measure of justice, some mercy to Mr. Riviere  
9 and consider the good deeds that he has done in this community  
10 over his lifetime as well.

11           THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Griffin.

12           Mr. Riviere. I'll hear from you, sir. I'll hear from  
13 you, sir.

14           THE DEFENDANT: Oh, thank you. Just wanted to state once  
15 again that I want to take responsibility for the actions  
16 before us here; that I do apologize to Crespos, Ms. Foster as  
17 well. And assure that there's never been any dissemination of  
18 any material, photo, or video of anybody.

19           And again, apologies to friends, family for any  
20 collateral damage to them -- to our relationships.

21           THE COURT: All right. Thank you, sir.

22           Mr. McCulloch, anything further at this time?

23           MR. MCCULLOCH: Believe not, Your Honor.

24           THE COURT: Mr. Griffin?

25           MR. GRIFFIN: No, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: All right.

2 Mr. Riviere, just a few more things that I have to ask  
3 you. You understand that when you plead guilty, you give up  
4 your right to a jury trial before your peers?

5 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

6 THE COURT: All right. And further, you have a right to  
7 appeal this plea for any reason. You must do so by contacting  
8 either one of your attorneys. But you only have 10 days to do  
9 that. Do you understand that, sir?

10 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

11 THE COURT: All right.

12 Did we determine if there was any credit?

13 MR. MCCULLOCH: Your Honor, I don't think there is any  
14 measurable credit to be given him.

15 MR. GRIFFIN: On this chart -- when you were arrested,  
16 you stay overnight?

17 MR. MCCULLOCH: So Your Honor, he -- there were two  
18 separate bond settings, these were staggered charges. I think  
19 each time he spent the night in jail --

20 THE COURT: All right.

21 MR. MCCULLOCH: -- as quite instructive to -- doesn't  
22 bear a great deal of credit today.

23 THE COURT: And so I believe that that's going to merit  
24 two days' time served, one for each instance. And if there's  
25 an issue with that, I'll certainly hear from the State on

1 that.

2 THE COURT: Taking all things into consideration,  
3 including the statements from the victims and their attorneys,  
4 but also inclusive of the many character -- reference --  
5 witness statements that you have -- or I should say character  
6 reference statements that you have -- as well as the three  
7 individuals who spoke on your behalf.

8 Taking all things into consideration, including no past  
9 criminal offenses, but also weighing the seriousness and the  
10 violation that occurred for these offenses. It is quite  
11 possible for someone to have these wonderful personality  
12 traits and good character but also be guilty of these alleged  
13 crimes.

14 And you've pled guilty and told the Court that you take  
15 responsibility for that. So all of those things taken into  
16 consideration, I believe that this sentence is appropriate.  
17 And so with regards to Indictment No. 2025-GS-02-00249, I'm  
18 sentencing you to the South Carolina Department of Corrections  
19 for a term of three years.

20 That will run concurrent to Indictment No.  
21 2025-GS-02-00250. Those two charges are -- will run  
22 concurrent to each other. You will receive credit for the  
23 amount of time of two days.

24 With regards to the last indictment, which is  
25 2025-GS-02-00251, I'm sentencing you to three years in the

1 South Carolina Department of Corrections that will be  
2 suspended to a probationary period in the amount of three  
3 years. This sentence will run consecutive.

4 That means after, to the two charges that will run  
5 concurrent to each other. While you're on probation, you will  
6 be randomly drug tested -- drug and alcohol tested -- and you  
7 are to have no contact with the victims.

8 There is also restitution due to the Crespos in the  
9 amount of 4,444 -- excuse me -- \$4,445. And that is to be  
10 paid by the end of your probationary period.

11 Mr. Riviere, I wish you luck, and I am hopeful that this  
12 will allow everyone involved as some amount of closure to move  
13 forward. But again, good luck to you, Mr. Riviere.

14 MR. GRIFFIN: Your Honor, we have one request.

15 THE COURT: Absolutely.

16 MR. GRIFFIN: He is still gathering information for the  
17 receiver, and I don't know if Your Honor would consider a  
18 delayed reporting -- allow him to complete that work.

19 THE COURT: Certainly. And I do understand that there is  
20 some documentation that needs to be turned in to a receiver.  
21 And so for that reason -- today's date is February 17th --  
22 we'll have -- go to March -- we'll have Mr. Riviere report --  
23 and he needs to report no later than 9 a.m. on March the 2nd.

24 So that is approximately two weeks --

25 MR. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: -- in order to gather that --

2 MR. MCCULLOCH: That be to the county jail or the  
3 Department of Corrections? I don't know the answer --

4 THE COURT: I believe the County is the -- is the  
5 transporter and that's the appropriate -- but we will get  
6 verification so that we make sure that he is -- is not in  
7 violation by accident in terms of that -- at middle day, yes,  
8 sir.

9 And so I appreciate the attorneys, as well as the  
10 solicitor and the victim's attorney's ability to work together  
11 with regards to this -- this matter.

12 Thank you all.

13 MR. GRIFFIN: Thank you.

14 (Off the record)

15 (Back on record)

16 THE COURT: All right, Mr. Riviere, I want you to come up  
17 -- we -- we need to go back --

18 I'm not sure I can get him on a GPS while putting the  
19 house arrest -- all right. All right.

20 And so, Mr. Weeks, it was brought to my attention that  
21 there is some -- some valid concern with regards to the period  
22 from today until March the 2nd -- Mr. Riviere's report date to  
23 Aiken County Detention Center.

24 Let me ask you a few questions, Mr. Weeks. I can  
25 certainly put Mr. Riviere on house arrest. I don't have any

1 issue with doing that. My question is the ability to place a  
2 GPS monitor on him today -- in the near future, within that  
3 two-week period.

4 MR. WEEKS: Probably tomorrow. Probation --

5 THE COURT: All right. And so we do have --

6 MR. MCCULLOCH: Your Honor, this may -- there really are  
7 only two places this gentleman needs to go in the next two  
8 weeks. He lives at Aiken --

9 THE COURT: Okay.

10 MR. MCCULLOCH: And he needs to move as per the orders of  
11 the receiver from to -- by the new --

12 THE COURT: Okay.

13 MR. MCCULLOCH: So beyond traveling --

14 MR. WEEKS: Probation is here. They're coming.

15 THE COURT: All right. Very good, thank you.

16 MR. MCCULLOCH: Beyond traveling between those two  
17 places, I think we would certainly offer house arrest. And  
18 there's a very direct route having to provide the probation  
19 officer with that route that he would take.

20 In fact, he would give them notice. But he -- he needs  
21 to be driving back and forth delivering furniture because he  
22 can't afford to pay somebody to do that. But in and of  
23 itself, placing a monitor on him has an initial cost that he  
24 can't bear -- doesn't have the finances to do that.

25 And it will just be a logistical nightmare trying to get

1 a receiver in Columbia to figure all that out so.

2 THE COURT: Let me ask probation a few questions.

3 PROBATION: Yes, ma'am.

4 THE COURT: The first question is, what is the ability to  
5 place an ankle monitor -- what is the timeline on -- on that?

6 PROBATION: We've been dealing with that lately in our  
7 office because we've recently had several have the ankle  
8 monitor ordered. There is an office in Columbia, but it's  
9 unclear --

10 THE COURT: All right. And so it's not something that we  
11 can have done, like, tomorrow. That is something that will  
12 take a few days. Is that what you're telling me?

13 PROBATION: It will take some time to arrange unless it  
14 is -- there's a company called Paladin (ph) out of Atlanta  
15 that frequently will use the ankle monitors -- apply them and  
16 manage them. I'm not sure --

17 THE COURT: All right. So let me ask you this -- there's  
18 an initial cost of the ankle monitor --

19 PROBATION: Paladin (ph) is expensive.

20 THE COURT: All right.

21 MS. BARBIER: Your Honor, as we said on the bench, we --  
22 we withdraw our requests for ankle monitoring or home  
23 detention during that time period.

24 THE COURT: All right.

25 Well, what I -- what I am going to do during that

1 two-week time period is you certainly need to handle those  
2 affairs with the receiver. And I will allow you the  
3 opportunity to go back and forth between the two residences  
4 and any -- any legal visits that you need or any medical  
5 visits that you may have that are -- that may be necessary for  
6 you.

7 But other than that, I would -- I think it is best that  
8 he -- he be confined to home detention during that time.

9 MR. MCCULLOCH: All right, Your Honor.

10 MR. WEEKS: I'm really not a big fan of home detention  
11 for credit he gets. But, yeah, I'm not a big fan of home  
12 detention because they can go anywhere they want.

13 THE COURT: On home detention?

14 MR. MCCULLOCH: Well, it's unsupervised home detention --  
15 we had instantaneous free --

16 THE COURT: Well, we'll put the parameters around that.  
17 And you've mentioned that he needs to go back and forth  
18 between those two residences. I've gone ahead and put the  
19 stipulation that -- and so we'll -- instead of home -- and so  
20 through the home detention program, we'll just -- we'll just  
21 put him on -- on a house arrest. I'm not going to require the  
22 GPS.

23 MR. MCCULLOCH: I will make clear to him that if he  
24 violates that provision of this Court's order, he is subject  
25 to your contempt powers. And you can add some more time, up

1 to a year, I believe.

2 THE COURT: Yes, sir. Yes, sir. And so we will limit  
3 his -- his travel to what's necessary to fulfill the  
4 receiver's orders. That -- that order regarding the receiver,  
5 as well as any medical appointments. And those have to be  
6 documented.

7 All right. And any -- any meeting with you all that he  
8 needs to have prior to March the 2nd.

9 MR. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Your Honor.

10 MR. WEEKS: Thank you.

11 MR. MCCULLOCH: Thank you, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: All right. Very good.

13 Thank you, Mr. Weeks.

14 Thank you, gentlemen, again.

15 MR. GRIFFIN: Thank you.

16 All right. We'll go off the record.

17 (Proceedings adjourned at 3:40 p.m.)

18

19

20

**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER**

21

CASE NAME/NUMBER: STATE VS RIVIERE

22

2025-GS-02-00249

23

2025-GS-02-00250

24

2025-GS-02-00251

25

DATE OF HEARING: FEBRUARY 17, 2026

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

COURT REPORTER/MONITOR: RENEE STANDERA

\*\*\*\*\*

I, LORAIN VICTORIA EDWARDS, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and correct record of the recorded proceedings; that said proceedings were transcribed to the best of my ability from the audio recording and supporting information, and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this case, and I have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome.



LORAIN VICTORIA EDWARDS, CER, CET Certified Transcriber

Date Submitted: FEBRUARY 25, 2026

**NOTE: PURSUANT TO RULE 607(h) (1) (b), SCACR, "A COURT REPORTER SHALL RECEIVE THE FEE OF \$1.00 PER PAGE FOR FURNISHING A COPY OF A PREVIOUSLY PREPARED TRANSCRIPT." ALL REQUESTS FOR COPIES OF THE ATTACHED TRANSCRIPT (FORM 800) FROM OPPOSING PARTY OR NON-PARTIES MUST BE SENT TO THIS REPORTER AT EMAIL.**