

For immediate release

Fourth Judicial District provides update on plans for media access to trial in State of Minnesota v Derek Chauvin

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 16, 2021 – The trial in the case *State of Minnesota v Derek Chauvin*, court file number 27-CR-20-12646, is scheduled for Monday, March 8, 2021, at the [Hennepin County Government Center](#).

In preparation for the trial, the Fourth Judicial District is announcing its basic plans for media access to the trial and requesting information from media outlets interested in covering the trial in-person.

This trial may be recorded, broadcast and livestreamed in audio and video subject to the conditions outlined in [this judicial order](#). Three stationary video cameras will be installed in the trial courtroom and will be operated by a single pool producer, Court TV. The pool producer will provide on-site access to feeds to media outlets for recording, broadcasting, and livestreaming. It's likely there will be remote access options for recording, broadcasting, and livestreaming those feeds; however, those details are still being finalized.

A comprehensive Media Guidance Document will be shared by the Court prior to the trial. The purpose of this document will be to provide important detailed information for working reporters and court personnel to address and/or resolve logistical questions regarding media coverage of the trial.

Courtroom access

There will be two seats available in the trial courtroom, C-1856, for members of the media. These seats will be allocated on a rotating, pool basis. One seat will be designated for the Print pool reporter, and the other seat will be designated for the TV pool reporter. There is no seating available in the courtroom for a pool still photographer or a pool sketch artist.

Any outlet wishing to participate in the pool rotation should [contact Public Affairs](#) by **February 23, 2021**. All participating outlets will need to provide a point person for scheduling coordination and the dates of requested attendance. After the submission deadline, the Court will contact the members of the pool and request that they create a schedule, based on the estimated 3 weeks of jury selection starting March 8 and 2-4 weeks of trial starting March 29. Pool reporting shifts will be for one full trial day.

Pool reporters will be required to communicate updates with all members of the pool, in whatever method the pool agrees to. Pool reporters will not be able to use their electronic devices in the courtroom. Only members of the pool will be able to access these updates from the pool reporter. Pool

reporters are not obligated to share these updates with outlets that are not part of the pool. Pool reporters must follow the forthcoming code of conduct judicial order as well as Hennepin County building use guidelines.

Media Business Center

There will be a Media Business Center available in the auditorium of the 625 Building, located at 625 South Fourth Avenue, across South Fourth Avenue from the Hennepin County Government Center. The three live camera feeds and switch feed from the pool producer will be projected for viewing in the Media Business Center.

Advanced registration will be required for access to the Media Business Center, and spaces will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. There is limited seating available, so advanced registration does not guarantee a spot. Individual members of the media will not be allowed to store equipment in the Media Business Center overnight, nor over the weekends. The Court and Hennepin County will not be liable for lost, damaged, or stolen equipment left in the space.

All individuals are required to wear face coverings at all times, maintain minimum six-foot physical distancing from others, and otherwise comply with COVID-19 protocols of the Fourth Judicial District. All individuals who enter the 625 Building must also comply with Hennepin County's COVID-19 protocols and any other building use guidelines for the facility.

Media members seated in the Media Business Center will be able to use their electronic devices, including smartphones and laptops. They will be allowed to post social media updates, but they will not be allowed to take photos or record video or audio from the Media Business Center, including the livestream coverage.

The Media Business Center is also where outlets will be able to access the feeds from the pool producer for purposes of recording, broadcasting and livestreaming.

Requests for Information

In order to prepare for the trial, the Court requests that media outlets interested in covering the trial in-person provide the following information by [contacting Public Affairs](#):

- Courtroom media pool
 - Outlets interested in participating in the courtroom media pool should follow the instructions outlined above and any relevant court orders.
- Media Business Center – reporting/projected livestream viewing only
 - Seats in this area must be reserved, with one seat allocated per outlet. Outlets that reserve a seat will be notified they have secured a seat, and reporters wanting to access

the workspace will need to present an employer-provided credential for access. No uncredentialed persons will be allowed access to the Media Business Center or the 625 Building.

- Outlets wanting to reserve a seat in the Media Business Center should request access by [contacting Public Affairs](#) no later than **February 23, 2021**. Outlets should provide the names and email addresses of up to five reporters who will be accessing the space during the duration of the trial.
- Seats will be reserved for outlets according to the following categories:
 - 4 seats for Local TV – MN
 - KARE 11, KSTP, FOX 9, WCCO-TV
 - 1 seat for Local Radio – MN
 - MPR News
 - 2 seats for Local Writer – MN (newspaper)
 - Star Tribune, Pioneer Press
 - 2 seats for Wire Services
 - Associated Press
 - 4 seats for National Writer (newspaper)
 - 4 seats for National TV
 - 1 seat for National Radio
 - 4 seats for International Writer (non-U.S.-based newspaper)
 - 4 seats for International (non-U.S.-based) TV
 - 4 seats for Local Writer – MN (blog or website)
 - 4 seats for National Writer (blog or website)
- Media Business Center – access to livestream feed
 - Each of the three courtroom cameras will have its own feed. Court TV will provide feeds from each isolated camera as well as a single switched feed of all three cameras. Media organizations have a choice of taking the isolated feeds or the switched feed.
 - Outlets wanting to access the feeds from the pool producer in the Media Business Center should request access by [contacting Public Affairs](#) no later than **February 23, 2021**. **The video feed will be HD-SDI 1080i with embedded audio on BNC connectors.**
 - Outlets interested in taking the feed or feeds must bring their own BNC connection cables, recording device, and enough BNC cable to make the run from wherever they are located to the pool box location.