

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
MANATEE COUNTY, STATE OF FLORIDA**

STATE OF FLORIDA  
Plaintiff,

vs.

NICHOLAS KOONTZ.  
Defendant.

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CASE NO: 21-CF-002797

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**ORDER DETERMINING CONFIDENTIALITY OF COURT RECORDS**

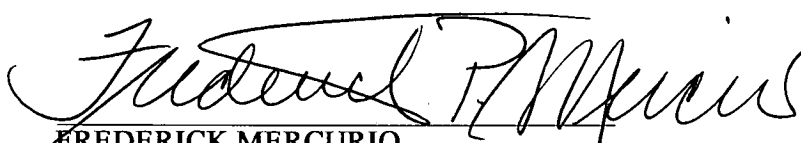
THIS CAUSE having been brought before the Court and agreed to by all parties, and the Court being fully advised in the premises, finds as follows pursuant to Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.420(e)(3):

1. This case is a criminal case in which the Defendant is charged by Information with Count I - Murder in the Second Degree with a Firearm.
2. The grounds under (c) for finding the requested document, two Notices of Deposition on August 1, 2022 and August 3, 2022, confidential are that confidentiality is required to prevent a serious and imminent threat to the fair, impartial, and orderly administration of justice, and to avoid substantial injury to innocent third parties.
3. One witness name is determined to be confidential and the pseudonym to be used is Murder Witness #2
4. The documents in question are presently the only documents being ruled upon and is found to be confidential.
5. The inadvertently revealed names of the one witness is determined to be confidential.
6. The attorney of record for the Defendant and the State Attorney and the agents of both attorneys are permitted to view this record.
7. The Court finds that the degree, duration, and manner of confidentiality ordered below by the Court are no broader than necessary to protect the interests set forth and that no less restrictive measures are available to protect those interests.

WHEREFORE it is hereby ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the Notice of Deposition for Depositions on August 4, 2022 filed and August 18, 2022 filed on May 4, 2022 is DETERMINED TO BE CONFIDENTIAL.

The Court further directs the Clerk of Court to publish the order in accordance with Fla. R. Gen. Pro. & Jud. Admin. 2.420(e)(1).

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, Manatee County, Bradenton, Florida this 12 day of SEPT- 20

  
FREDERICK MERCURIO  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

Copies to:

Roger Futerman, Attorney for the Defendant

Rebecca Louise Freel, Assistant State Attorney

Clerk of the Circuit Court

14