

IN THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS OF TENNESSEE
AT KNOXVILLE

FILED 08/26/2025 Clerk of the Appellate Courts
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STATE OF TENNESSEE v. JAMES ROBERT HOWELL

**Criminal Court for Knox County
No. 121034**

No. E2024-00961-CCA-R3-CD

ORDER

Before the court is counsel for the Appellant’s motion to exclude the September 23, 2025 oral argument in this matter from publication to the internet. For cause, the Appellant asserts that that live-streaming or posting the oral argument to the internet “would expose [to the public] private and embarrassing information” concerning the victims. Counsel asserts that counsel for the State does not oppose this request.

The court observes that this appeal arises from convictions of four counts of sexual battery by an authority figure involving two victims. Because a discussion of the facts supporting the convictions necessarily involves a discussion of protected information, *see* Tennessee Code Annotated section § 10-7-504(q)(1), the parties filed redacted and unredacted versions of their briefs. The court observes that parties are generally able to protect the confidentiality of a victim’s identity by referring to a victim only by their initials while presenting argument; the court admonishes the parties to do so at the argument in this case.

Nevertheless, the court finds good cause to exclude the oral argument from being live-streamed; however, the oral argument will be recorded. Following the oral argument, the court will determine whether the recording may be posted on the website of the Administrative Office of the Courts or its YouTube page. In the interim, any recording of oral argument in this case, both audio and video, shall be excluded from online publication. In the interest of maintaining open courts, however, the courtroom will remain open to the public during this oral argument. Counsel for the State shall ensure that the victims are notified concerning the entry of this order through communication with the Knox County District Attorney General’s Victim Witness Assistance Program.

PER CURIAM
(Dyer, Ayers, Wilson, JJ.)