

IN THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS OF TENNESSEE
AT KNOXVILLE

FILED

02/24/2026

Clerk of the
Appellate Courts

STATE OF TENNESSEE v. JOSEPH MCDOWELL

Criminal Court for Hamilton County
No. 314222

No. E2024-01932-CCA-R3-CD

ORDER

Before the court is counsel for the Appellant's motion to exclude the March 25, 2026 oral argument in this matter from publication to the internet either by posting a recording of the argument to the court's website or by livestreaming the argument on YouTube. For cause, the Appellant asserts that the "arguments will contain sensitive information regarding the minor victim" with reference to sealed information contained in the appellate record. Counsel asserts that counsel for the State joins in this motion.

The court observes that this appeal arises from convictions of two counts of sexual battery by an authority figure. The facts supporting the convictions necessarily involve a discussion of protected information. *See* Tennessee Code Annotated § 10-7-504(q)(1). Thus far, the parties have protected the confidentiality of the victim's identity by referring to the victim only by their initials in their briefs and pleadings. The court advises the parties to continue to do the same at argument.

That said, the court finds good cause to exclude the oral argument from being live-streamed; however, the oral argument will be recorded. At the conclusion of the oral argument, the court will determine whether the recording may be posted on the website of the Administrative Office of the Courts or on the appellate courts' 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 Hamilton County District Attorney General Office's Victim/Witness Services Unit or any other appropriate contact.

PER CURIAM
(Easter, Dyer, Greenholtz, JJ.)