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August 20, 2026
VIA EMAIL ONLY

The Hon. Debra R. McCaslin
dmccaslin@sccourts.org

In re: State v. Richard Alexander Murdaugh
Indictment Nos. 2022-GS-15-00592, -593, -594, and -595

Dear Judge McCaslin,

In last Friday's motions hearing the State argued their motion in limine to exclude any mention of a polygraph in the trial. During the hearing, your Honor ruled in the State's favor.

In my argument against the State's motion, I represented to the Court the State's witness and Mr. Murdaugh's co-defendant Curtis "Eddie" Smith was administered a polygraph pursuant to a proffer agreement and failed the polygraph when asked if he had killed Maggie and Paul Murdaugh. The State concedes this is true.

However I went further to state that Mr. Murdaugh was administered a polygraph by the same examiner and passed "with flying colors". I realize I mistakenly conflated several facts and my statement was incorrect.

Since the Court ruled no mention of a polygraph would be allowed in the trial, I assume my statement had no impact on the Court's disposition of this motion.

I am not permitted to disclose any further details regarding any polygraph testing related to Mr. Murdaugh.

AUG 20 2026 AM 10:15
COLLETON CO GS. GARY HALE

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I want to offer my apology to both the Court and the State for any confusion I may have caused.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Harpoonian

RAH:hm

cc: Creighton Waters, Deputy Attorney General
Gary Hale, Colleton County Clerk of Court

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