



South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

P.O. Box 21398
Columbia, South Carolina
29221-1398

Henry D. McMaster, Governor

Mark A. Keel, Chief

Tel: (803) 737-9000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 16, 2021

Contact: Tommy Crosby
tcrosby@sled.sc.gov
(803) 896-8396

SLED ARRESTS ALEX MURDAUGH FOR INSURANCE FRAUD AND OTHER CRIMES

Agents of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division Thursday arrested Richard Alexander “Alex” Murdaugh, 53, in connection to the shooting incident on Sept. 4 in which he conspired with Curtis Edward Smith to assist him in committing suicide for the explicit purpose of allowing a beneficiary to collect life insurance.

Murdaugh was charged with insurance fraud, conspiracy to commit insurance fraud, along with filing a false police report.

“I can assure you that SLED agents will continue working to bring justice to anyone involved with any criminal act associated with these ongoing investigations,” said SLED Chief Mark Keel. “The arrests in this case are only the first step in that process.”

This SLED investigation was requested by the Hampton County Sheriff’s Office.

Murdaugh was booked at the Hampton County Detention Center.

The case will be prosecuted by the Attorney General’s Office.

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www.sled.sc.gov

Warrants attached

ARREST WARRANT

2021A2510100204

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
County/ Municipality of

THE STATE

Richard Alexander Murdaugh

Address:

Islandton, SC 29929-

Phone:

Sex: M Race: W Height: 6 3 Weight: 225

DL State: SC DL #: 1968

DOB: Agency ORI #: SCLIED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: Jeffrey A Croft - 500154

Offense: Insurance / False statement, misrep., or assisting, abetting, soliciting, or conspiring - 1st offense.

Offense Code: 3553

Code/Ordinance Sec: 38-55-0540(A)

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the County/ Municipality of

is to be arrested and brought before me to be dealt with according to the law. The accused

Signature of Judge

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to defendant RICHARD A. MURDAUGH on 9.14.21

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
1 Courthouse Square Elm St
P O Box 7
Hampton, SC 29924

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
County/ Municipality of

AFFIDAVIT

ORIGINAL

From Approved By
S.C. Attorney General
April 21, 2003
SCCA 518

Personally appeared before me the affiant Jeffrey A Croft who being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Richard Alexander Murdaugh did within this county and state on or about 9/4/2021 violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of County Municipality of in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Insurance / False statement, misrep., or assisting, abetting, soliciting, or conspiring - 1st offense. \$50,000 or more

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts: See Attached

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
County/ Municipality of

County/ Municipality of

Affiant's Address P. O. Box 21398

Affiant's Telephone Columbia, SC 29221- (843)782-3822

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that on or about 9/4/2021 defendant Richard Alexander Murdaugh did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of County/ Municipality of) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Insurance / False statement, misrep., or assisting, abetting, soliciting, or conspiring - 1st offense. \$50,000 or more.

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as soon thereafter as is practicable. Sworn to and subscribed before me on 9/14/2021

Signature of Issuing Judge P. O. Box 1299
Judge's Address
Vannville, SC 29944-
Judge's Telephone (843)217-3809

Signature of Treasurer Judge
Tonja P. Alexander Issuing Court: Magistrate Municipal Circuit
Judge Code: 7387

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HAMPTON

AFFIDAVIT

SLED CASE# 31-21-0092

Personally appeared before me, a Magistrate of Hampton County, one SENIOR SPECIAL AGENT JEFF CROFT who first being duly sworn, deposes and says that

RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH
(DOB: [REDACTED] 968, Race: White, Gender: Male)

Did within this County and State on or about September 4, 2021, violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE
INSURANCE FRAUD
38-55-540

The affiant states there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime(s) set forth, and that such probable cause is based upon the following facts:

That on or around September 4, 2021, while in the area of 15385 Old Salkehatchie Road, located in the town of Varnville, County of Hampton, State of South Carolina, one Richard Alexander Murdaugh did commit the offense of **INSURANCE FRAUD**, in violation of section 38-55-540 of the South Carolina Code of Laws of 1976, as amended.

That on September 4, 2021, Richard Alexander Murdaugh conspired with co-defendant Curtis Edward Smith in the area of Old Salkehatchie Road, for the purpose of Mr. Smith assisting Mr. Murdaugh to commit suicide. In that Mr. Murdaugh provided Mr. Smith with a firearm and directed Mr. Smith to shoot him in the head for the purpose of causing Mr. Murdaugh's death and allowing for the payment of a stated death benefit to a beneficiary of the insured, Mr. Murdaugh.

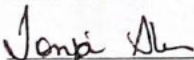
That on September 4, 2021, Mr. Smith followed Mr. Murdaugh to Old Salkehatchie Road and shot Mr. Murdaugh as he stood in the roadway. After shooting Mr. Murdaugh in the head, Mr. Smith drove to an unknown location where he disposed of the firearm. Mr. Murdaugh survived the shooting and was transported to the hospital for treatment.

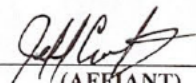
On September 13, 2021, Mr. Murdaugh provided a statement to SLED admitting to the scheme of having Mr. Smith murder him for the purpose of his son collecting a life insurance policy valued at approximately ten million dollars. On September 14, 2021, Mr. Smith admitted to being present during the shooting of Mr. Murdaugh and to disposing of the firearm afterwards.

That it is unlawful for a person to knowingly make false statements or misrepresentation, and any other person knowingly, with an intent to injure, defraud or deceive or who assists, abets, solicits, or conspires with a person to make false statement or misrepresentation for an economic advantage or benefit in connection to an insurance transaction.

The above information is true and accurate and was obtained through witness and suspect statements and the investigation of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.

Sworn to and subscribed before me
This 14 day of September
2021.


SIGNATURE OF JUDGE


(AFFIANT)
SS/A JEFF CROFT
104 Simmons Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
(843) 782-3822

ARREST WARRANT

2021A2510100207

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/ Municipality of

THE STATE 31-21-0092

Richard Alexander Murdaugh

against

Address: Islandton, SC 29929-

Phone: SSN: [REDACTED]

Sex: M Race: W Height: 6 3 Weight: 225

DL State: SC DL #: [REDACTED] Agency ORI #: SCLEDD0000

DOB: 1968

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: Jeffrey A Croft - S00154

Offense: Report / Filing a false police report of a Felony violation

Offense Code: 2597

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-17-0722(B)

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the

County/ Municipality of

is to be arrested and brought before me to be dealt with according to the law. The accused (L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to defendant RICHARD A. MURDAUGH on 9.16.21

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
1 Courthouse Square Elm St
P O Box 7
Hampton, SC 29924

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
 County/ Municipality of)

AFFIDAVIT

ORIGINAL

Form Approved by
S.C. Attorney General
April 21, 2003
SCCA 518

Personally appeared before me the affiant Jeffrey A Croft

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Richard Alexander Murdaugh

did within this county and state on or about 9/4/2021 violate the criminal laws of the

State of South Carolina (or ordinance of County/ Municipality of

in the following particulars: DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Report / Filing a false police report of a Felony violation

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:
Sec Attached

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
 County/ Municipality of)

Affiant's Address

P. O. Box 21398

Columbia, SC 29221-

Affiant's Telephone

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 9/4/2021

defendant Richard Alexander Murdaugh

did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of County/ Municipality of) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Report / Filing a false police report of a Felony violation

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as soon thereafter as is practicable
Sworn to and subscribed before me on 9/16/2021

Signature of Issuing Judge

Tonja P. Alexander

Judge Code: 7387

(L.S.)

Judge's Address

P. O. Box 1299
Vainville, SC 29944

Signature of Issuing Judge

Tonja P. Alexander

Judge's Telephone

(843)217-3809

Issuing Court: Magistrate Municipal Circuit

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HAMPTON

AFFIDAVIT

SLED CASE# 31-21-0092

Personally appeared before me, a Magistrate of Hampton County, one SENIOR SPECIAL AGENT JEFF CROFT who first being duly sworn, deposes and says that

RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH
(DOB: [REDACTED] 968, Race: White, Gender: Male)

Did within this County and State on or about September 4, 2021, violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE
FILING OF FALSE POLICE REPORT
16-17-722

The affiant states there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime(s) set forth, and that such probable cause is based upon the following facts:

That on or around September 4, 2021, while in the area of 15385 Old Salkehatchie Road, located in the town of Varnville, County of Hampton, State of South Carolina, one Richard Alexander Murdaugh did commit the offense of **FILING OF FALSE POLICE REPORT**, in violation of section 16-17-722 of the South Carolina Code of Laws of 1976, as amended.

That on September 4, 2021, Richard Alexander Murdaugh did report to Hampton County 911 and subsequently to the Hampton County Sheriff's Office, Hampton County EMS, and SLED that he was shot in the head by an unknown assailant while attempting to change a flat tire on Old Salkehatchie Road. Mr. Murdaugh survived the shooting and was transported to the hospital for treatment.

On September 13, 2021, Mr. Murdaugh provided a statement to SLED admitting to providing false information during his previous statements to law enforcement and first responders. Mr. Murdaugh admitted to conspiring with a person known to him, Curtis Edward Smith, by having Mr. Smith murder him for the purpose of Murdaugh's son collecting a life insurance policy. Mr. Murdaugh admitted to providing Mr. Smith with the firearm used, and also to deflating his own tire with a knife.

On September 14, 2021, Mr. Smith admitted to being present during the shooting of Mr. Murdaugh and to disposing of the firearm afterwards.

That it is unlawful for a person to falsely report a felony. That on September 4, 2021, Mr. Murdaugh did knowingly, willfully, and unlawfully make a false police report to the Hampton County Sheriff's Office (Case# SO-21005172), and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (Case# 31-21-0092), as to the circumstances originally reported to investigating law enforcement authorities.

The above information is true and accurate and was obtained through witness and suspect statements and the investigation of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.

Sworn to and subscribed before me
This 16 day of September
2021.

[Signature]
SIGNATURE OF JUDGE

[Signature]
(AFFIANT)
SS/A JEFF CROFT
104 Simmons Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
(843) 782-3822

ARREST WARRANT

2021A2510100206

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
 County/ Municipality of

THE STATE 31-21-0092

Richard Alexander Murdaugh
against

Address: Islandton, SC 29929-

Phone: [redacted] SSN: [redacted]

Sex: M Race: W Height: 6 3 Weight: 225

DL State: SC DL #: [redacted] Agency ORI #: SCLEDD0000

DOB: [redacted] 1968

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: Jeffrey A Croft - S00154

Offense: Conspiracy / Criminal Conspiracy, Common Law conspiracy defined

Offense Code: 0049

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-17-0410

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the
 County/ Municipality of

is to be arrested and brought before me to be
dealt with according to the law. The accused

(L.S)

Signature of Judge

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to
defendant Richard A. Murdaugh
on 9/14/21

[Signature]
Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
1 Courthouse Square Elm St
P O Box 7
Hampton, SC 29924

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
 County/ Municipality of

AFFIDAVIT

ORIGINAL

Form Approved by
S.C. Attorney General
April 21, 2003
SCCA 518

Personally appeared before me the affiant Jeffery A Croft

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Richard Alexander Murdaugh
did within this county and state on or about 9/4/2021 violate the criminal laws of the
State of South Carolina (or ordinance of County/ Municipality of
in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Conspiracy / Criminal Conspiracy, Common Law conspiracy defined

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit
the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:
See Attached

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
 County/ Municipality of

Affiant's Address P. O. Box 21398
Columbia, SC 29221-
Affiant's Telephone (843)782-3822

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

it appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that
on or about 9/4/2021 defendant Richard Alexander Murdaugh
did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Conspiracy / Criminal Conspiracy, Common Law conspiracy defined

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or
her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as
soon thereafter as is practicable
Sworn to and subscribed before me
on 9/14/2021

[Signature]
Signature of Issuing Judge
Judge Code: 7387
Judge's Address P. O. Box 1299
Yamville, SC 29944-
Judge's Telephone (843)217-3809

Torja P. Alexander
Issuing Court: Magistrate Municipal Circuit

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HAMPTON

AFFIDAVIT

SLED CASE# 31-21-0092

Personally appeared before me, a Magistrate of Hampton County, one SENIOR SPECIAL AGENT JEFF CROFT who first being duly sworn, deposes and says that

RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH
(DOB: [REDACTED] 1968, Race: White, Gender: Male)

Did within this County and State on or about September 4, 2021, violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE
CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT INSURANCE FRAUD
16-17-410

The affiant states there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime(s) set forth, and that such probable cause is based upon the following facts:

That on or around September 4, 2021, while in the area of 15385 Old Salkehatchie Road, located in the town of Varnville, County of Hampton, State of South Carolina, one Richard Alexander Murdaugh did commit the offense of **CONSPIRACY** in violation of section 16-17-410 of the South Carolina Code of Laws of 1976, as amended.

That on September 4, 2021, Richard Alexander Murdaugh conspired with co-defendant Curtis Edward Smith in the area of Old Salkehatchie Road, for the purpose of Mr. Smith assisting Mr. Murdaugh to commit suicide. In that Mr. Murdaugh provided Mr. Smith with a firearm and directed Mr. Smith to shoot him in the head for the purpose of causing Mr. Murdaugh's death and allowing for the payment of a stated death benefit to a beneficiary of the insured, Mr. Murdaugh.

That on September 4, 2021, Mr. Smith followed Mr. Murdaugh to Old Salkehatchie Road and shot Mr. Murdaugh as he stood in the roadway. After shooting Mr. Murdaugh in the head, Mr. Smith drove to an unknown location where he disposed of the firearm. Mr. Murdaugh survived the shooting and was transported to the hospital for treatment.

On September 13, 2021, Mr. Murdaugh provided a statement to SLED admitting to the scheme of having Mr. Smith murder him for the purpose of his son collecting a life insurance policy valued at approximately ten million dollars. On September 14, 2021, Mr. Smith admitted to being present during the shooting of Mr. Murdaugh and to disposing of the firearm afterwards.

A person commits the offense of Conspiracy when they act in a combination with each other for the purpose of accomplishing an unlawful object or lawful object by unlawful means. That it is unlawful for a person to knowingly make false statements or misrepresentation, and any other person knowingly, with an intent to injure, defraud or deceive or who assists, abets, solicits, or conspires with a person to make false statement or misrepresentation for an economic advantage or benefit in connection to an insurance transaction.

The above information is true and accurate and was obtained through witness and suspect statements and the investigation of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.

Sworn to and subscribed before me
This 14 day of September
2021.

Janice D...
SIGNATURE OF JUDGE

Jeff Croft
(AFFIANT)
SS/A JEFF CROFT
104 Simmons Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
(843) 782-3822