

CIRCUIT COURT OF POLK COUNTY

State of Tilly

v.

Jay Kuang,

Defendant.

Case No. CV 23-24601

Judge Ashley Addison

Pretrial Order

Upon reviewing the motions by both the Prosecution and the Defense concerning defendant Jay Kuang's participation in the witness protection program, and Sheriff Blaine Nickson's discovery of confidential files at the Sarwin City police station;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. **Relevance of Sheriff Nickson's Testimony.** The testimony concerning Sheriff Blaine Nickson's discovery at the Sarwin City police station is deemed relevant. This testimony sheds light on certain events and circumstances related to the case. Notwithstanding this provision and other orders, parties are still permitted to raise objections on grounds other than relevance.
2. **Breach of Confidentiality & Document Admissibility.** Sheriff Blaine Nickson's access to confidential documents, though unauthorized, does not render the testimony or the documents automatically excludable. Objections based solely on the unauthorized manner of the documents' discovery are overruled. Both parties may address the circumstances of this access during the trial, subject to the rules of evidence. This ruling does not bar the parties from raising objections on other grounds during the trial.
3. **Witness Protection Program and Prior Identity.** Given its probative value in this case, testimony or evidence related to Jay Kuang's participation in the witness protection program is not automatically excludable. Nonetheless, the Court is mindful of the risk of undue prejudice or the potential for improper character inferences as it relates to Jay Kuang's involvement with the Ashlock Crime Family. Therefore, when presenting or referencing this information, parties must be cautious to avoid suggesting any improper character, propensity, or otherwise unfairly prejudicial inferences.
4. **Use of Former Names Prohibited.** All parties and witnesses are expressly prohibited from referencing or using the former first and middle names of Jay Kuang. References to the "Ashlock" family surname, without the attachment of Jay Kuang's former first and middle names, are permissible.