

USA v. Salman: Media Information and FAQ

Updated January 24, 2018

The following is a “plain-English” guide to media policies and accommodations for the USA v. Salman trial, which is scheduled to commence on Thursday, March 1, 2018. All information is subject to change, and any updated versions of this document will be posted on the Middle District of Florida’s website: www.flmd.uscourts.gov under the Notable Cases page, and the “United States of America v. Noor Zahi Salman Information” section.

I. What resources should you be familiar with?

Please familiarize yourself with the following resources:

- a) **Judge Byron’s Amended Order and Information Regarding Hearings and Trial (For Members of the Press):** This order provides guidelines to the media, including access to the Courthouse, the main and overflow Courtrooms, and use of electronics inside the Courthouse.
- b) **Notable Cases Page.** This page on our website contains information about USA v. Salman, including public access and security information, the most recent version of this document, and docket entries for many (but not all) pleadings and orders that have not been filed under seal.
- c) **PACER.** Most case docket entries will also be available via PACER, the federal judiciary’s document access service. To learn more, or to open an account, visit www.pacer.gov.
- d) **Media Relations Liaison.** Questions about this case and/or courthouse operations should be sent to media@flmd.uscourts.gov, or you may call 407-835-5985. Under no circumstances should any inquiries be made to Judge Byron’s chambers directly.

II. How will media registration work?

- a) **Media registration is required**, and journalists must wear court-issued badges to receive special media access privileges, such as access to the press room, and the use of electronics (cell phones, laptops, tablets) in the press room. The registration application is online, and can be found under the media tab for USA v. Salman, under the Notable Cases page. <http://www.flmd.uscourts.gov/notableCases/Salman/Salman.html>
- b) **Badge pickup:** An email/text alert will confirm when badge pickup is ready to start. Currently, plans are for pickup to begin in the Clerk’s office of the federal courthouse two days before trial commences (on or about February 27, 2018).
- c) **Registration timetable:** To ensure receipt of a badge by the first day of trial, March 1, 2018, members of the media are strongly encouraged to complete their online registration process by February 26, 2018. Although registration will continue, and badges will be

produced, for the duration of the trial, members of the media who register on or after February 26, 2018 may see a slight delay in receiving their badge.

III. What rules are mandatory?

The following rules are mandatory. Failure to follow them will result in court-imposed sanctions, including the loss of media privileges and removal from the courtroom and/or courthouse.

- a) Electronic recording of any sort is prohibited anywhere inside the Courthouse at all times. This includes any audio and/or video recordings by cell phone or smart watch.
- b) United States Marshals, Court Security Officers, and other safety personnel must be obeyed.
- c) The Amended Order and Information Regarding Hearings and Trials (For Members of the Press), and all other Court directives, must be followed.
- d) Journalists are reminded to abstain for any contact with jurors or potential jurors
- e) Journalists are also reminded to abstain from all interviews inside the courthouse and to respect the privacy of the victims and their family members.
- f) Entry paths to the Courthouse or Court property may not be blocked.

IV. Media access and other privileges: Essential information

- a) **Courthouse hours:** The Courthouse opens to the public and to the media at 7:30 a.m., and will remain open until 5:30 p.m. All persons must exit the Courthouse by 5:30 p.m., or 30 minutes after the conclusion of a court proceeding lasting past normal business hours, whichever is later.
- b) **Media access to the Main Courtroom:** Seating in Courtroom 4B is extremely limited. There will only be 12 seats designated for members of the media in Courtroom 4B. Day passes will be distributed for these 12 seats on a first come, first served basis the morning of each day of trial. Members of the media are encouraged to work together to assign these 12 seats amongst themselves. No electronic devices of any kind will be permitted in Courtroom 4B and there will be secondary screening outside the courtroom to ensure compliance.
- c) **Media Overflow Courtroom hours:** Courtroom 3A is the only overflow courtroom that may be used for members of the media. Unless otherwise ordered, access to Courtroom 3A will begin one hour before the start of trial each day, and remain open until 5:00 p.m., or 30 minutes after the conclusion of a court proceeding lasting past normal business hours, whichever is later.
- d) **Courtroom 3B:** There will be an overflow courtroom for victims, victims' family members, and the general public. Under no circumstances shall any member of the media use Courtroom 3B, nor shall any member of the media conduct, or attempt to conduct any

interviews with any victims or victims' family members while inside Courtroom 3B or any other part of the Courthouse.

- e) **Media Press Room:** Room 4420 has been designated as work space for Journalists, where members of the media may blog, use social media, and prepare and submit stories. No interviews may take place in the Press Room. The Press Room has free wifi, a small kitchen area, restrooms, and lockers. Unless otherwise ordered, Room 4420 will open one hour before the start of trial each day, and will close by 5:00 p.m., or 30 minutes after the conclusion of a court proceeding lasting past normal business hours, whichever is later. All personal belongings, food, electronic equipment, notes, etc., must be removed from the Press Room and from all lockers at the end of each day of trial. Any materials left in the Press Room, including the lockers, after it is closed for the day will be disposed of.
- f) **Electronic Equipment:** Members of the media with court-issued media badges may bring laptops, tablets, and cellphones through security lines at the main entrance to the Courthouse. However, once inside the Courthouse, members of the media with such badges may use these devices only in the Media Press Room and subject to these conditions:
 - a. Recording functions (audio, video, and photo) of any portion of the trial is prohibited at all times.
 - b. Journalists may use their cellphones in the Press Room and in the secured hallway immediately outside of the Press Room only.
 - c. A wifi internet connection will be provided in the Press Room, however journalists are encouraged to also bring their own mifi or personal hot spot devices.
 - d. Sketch artists may bring their renderings into the Press Room, and members of the media may bring electronic scanning equipment into the Press Room only for the purposes of scanning and transmitting copies of the sketches.
 - e. All available electrical sockets in the Press Room may be utilized.
- g) **Food inside the courthouse:** Members of the media with court-issued media badges may bring food through security lines subject to these conditions:
 - a. To assist visual security inspection, food should be sealed in a transparent plastic bag or clear container.
 - b. Food may be eaten in the Press Room only.
 - c. All leftovers, spills, etc., must be cleaned up immediately.
 - d. There are no vending machines or snack shops in the Courthouse for use by the media or general public.
 - e. Important note: these food rules are an exception to normal court policy, and may be revoked if the guidelines are not observed.
- h) **Electronic interviews and broadcasts:** Members of the media are prohibited at all times from conducting any interviews inside any Courtroom or inside any section of the Courthouse. Persons found to be violating this directive will be subject to immediate sanctions, up to and including removal from the Courthouse. Interviews may be conducted outside the Courthouse at a designated area to be determined by the United States Marshals Service. Cameras are also allowed on the sidewalk area adjoining the Courthouse near the intersection of West Central Boulevard and Division Street. Camera crews and other

members of the press are not to block the main entryway or the steps, and all interviews should be conducted at a reasonable location from the steps so as to not interfere with normal ingress and egress. These procedures may be adjusted at the discretion of the U.S. Marshals Service.

- i) **Trial Schedule:** The “normal” trial schedule will be Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Email/text advisories will be sent, and a notice posted online, regarding any significant changes to the schedule.
- j) **Sketch Artists:** Sketch artists will be permitted in the main courtroom (Courtroom 4B) and the media overflow courtroom (Courtroom 3A). Sketch artists may bring their renderings into the Press Room, and members of the media may bring electronic scanning equipment into the Press Room only for the purposes of scanning and transmitting copies of the sketches. Sketch artists are reminded that they are never to sketch any juror.

V. How will the closed-circuit television work?

Closed-circuit video and audio will be available in the Media Overflow Courtroom (Courtroom 3A). The Court will use a multi-camera system that permits close-up views of the judge and witness stand, and a frontal view of the lecturn and defense table. In addition, exhibits presented electronically will be shown on the closed-circuit screen. Jurors will not be visible via the closed-circuit system.

VI. Rules for Media Overflow Courtroom

All members of the media may observe the trial in the Media Overflow Courtroom (Courtroom 3A) subject to the following rules:

- a) Journalists may sit in all available seats in the gallery area only (the benches behind the court well).
- b) All members of the media must comply with all rules and directives contained in this document, as well as in Judge Byron’s Amended Order and Information Regarding Hearings and Trial (For Members of the Press).
- c) Food and drink are not permitted in Courtroom 3A.
- d) As a reminder, it is illegal to record federal proceedings, including any closed-circuit video or audio transmissions. Therefore, under no circumstances will any electronic equipment (cellphones, laptops, tablets, smart watches, etc.) be allowed into Courtroom 3A. Court Security Officers will be conducting secondary screening at the entryway of Courtroom 3A to ensure compliance. A Court Security Officer will also remain in Courtroom 3A to ensure compliance with all court rules and directives.
- e) Media credentials may be revoked for violations of any court rules and directives.

VII. Courtroom 3B

Courtroom 3B has been designated as an overflow room for victims, victims' family members, and members of the public. Members of the media are not permitted access to Courtroom 3B, and journalists are reminded of the absolute prohibition against any interviews inside the Courthouse.

VIII. Viewing of exhibits

- a) All inquiries concerning viewing or copying the United States' exhibits that are admitted into evidence during the trial shall be directed to the United States Attorney's Office's Media Relations Department. The department can be reached at 813-274-6388. Or you can email Will Daniels at wdaniels@usa.doj.gov or Amy Filjones at afiljones@usa.doj.gov.
- b) All inquiries concerning viewing or copying the Defendant's exhibits that are admitted into evidence during the trial shall be directed to Attorney Fritz Scheller, who may be reached at: 407-492-1285 or fscheller@flusalaw.com.
- c) There may be a slight delay in the viewing and/or copying of exhibits that require redaction.
- d) These are the only two ways that exhibits will be made accessible to the media. Members of the media should not contact the Clerk's office or Judge Byron's chambers concerning access to exhibits. Any questions that cannot be addressed by the above contacts should be directed to the Court's Media Relations Liaison.

IX. Transcripts

- a) Members of the media may order copies of trial transcripts directly from the court reporter. E-mail or call the court reporter to request an estimate for the price of the transcript you are requesting. Transcript preparation and delivery times will begin when payment has been satisfied with the court reporter.
- b) For each proceeding held before a judge, "minutes" are filed on the Court's electronic docketing system, CM/ECF, for this case. The docket is also accessible via PACER. On the CM/ECF docket sheet, click on the link to the minutes for the proceeding to download and review the minutes and to determine the correct date of the proceeding. All proceedings before a United States District Judge will be attended by a court reporter. If a court reporter was present, the minutes should reflect the court reporter's name and contact information. If the minutes do not reflect the court reporter's information, or if you are requesting a transcript of an audio recording, contact the Media Relations Liaison at media@flmd.uscourts.gov or 407-835-5985.
- c) Transcripts of proceedings conducted under seal may only be released by order of the court.

X. Media alerts and inquiries

- a) All members of the media, at the time of registration online, may request updates via email, text or both.
- b) Media alerts will be sent to advise registered members of schedule changes. Additional media alerts will be sent as warranted.
- c) The Court will endeavor to provide the media with 30 minutes advance notice before a verdict is published.

XI. Outdoor rules

- a) During Courthouse hours, electronic recording and live broadcasting will be confined to the sidewalk area adjoining the Courthouse near the intersection of West Central Boulevard and Division Street, as well as an area to be designated by the United States Marshals Service. The sidewalk areas are available 24 hours a day. The designated area will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., or until 30 minutes after the conclusion of the court proceedings for the day, if they last beyond normal business hours, whichever is later.
- b) Journalists may not block any Courthouse doors or gate entrances and are reminded to stay off of the stairs and raised platform areas.
- c) Security responsibility outside the Courthouse and surrounding sidewalks and streets will be shared among the Federal Protective Service, U.S. Marshals Service, Court Security Officers, and the Orlando Police Department.

XII. Media vehicles and parking

- a) Parking for broadcast satellite vehicles in lots and on streets adjacent to the Courthouse is extremely limited. The Orlando Police Department will provide officers on hearing and trial days to direct trucks as needed. OPD will designate areas for media satellite truck parking during trial. If parking is not available, please contact the United States Marshals Service Public Information Officer, David Charles (407-473-2977).