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## IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF ADA

STATE OF IDAHO,

**CASE NUMBER CR01-24-31665** 

Plaintiff,

BRYAN C. KOHBERGER,

DEFENDANT'S OBJECTION TO STATE'S MOTION IN LIMINE

V.

RE: ADMISSIBILITY OF DEMONSTRATIVE EXHIBITS AND MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

Defendant.

COMES NOW, Bryan C. Kohberger, by and through his attorneys of record, and hereby objects to the State's Motion in Limine RE: Admissibility of Demonstrative Exhibits and Memorandum in Support to allow a 3-D demonstrative aid.

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The demonstrative aid the State seeks permission to use is a "not to scale" replica of the

house where the killings took place. This is not a demonstrative aid like a graph or chart or

enlarged photograph – this is a model built from examination and analysis of the house.

Upon learning that the State intended to have a model of the crime scene built for

demonstrative purposes in October 2023, the defense requested specific discovery. (Objection to

State's MIL: Demonstrative Exhibit 1 and 1a, 11th Supplemental Discovery Request, attached

exhibit J, #241; and State's Response, attached exhibit 1 #241.) None had ever been produced

other than a single police report discussing the intent to build a model, until over 226 GB of

discovery was delivered to Mr. Kohberger on March 14, 2025.

After the discovery deadline, the State sought a stipulation to this exhibit. Mr. Kohberger

declined. (Objection to State's MIL: Demonstrative Exhibit 2, email chain.) The State disclosed

a drawing, alleging it is a drawing of a model that will be built. It was only three days ago that the

disclosed who is building the model, the credentials of those who are building the model, and the

data underlying the model. The State's expert disclosures did not discuss the use of a model.

In order to ensure this is a fair and accurate model, the defense would need to hire its own

expert to evaluate the model once it is done, conduct independent investigation into the underlying

data, potentially develop more or different evidence, and then litigate the admissibility and

specifics of the model based on that investigation. The State has delayed this for so long, despite

specific requests for discovery and knowledge of the upcoming trial date, that it prejudices Mr.

Kohberger's ability to investigate and challenge the model and it should therefore be excluded.

On Friday March 14, 2025, the State produced a discovery file regarding this

"demonstrative aid". (Objection to State's MIL: Demonstrative Aid, Exhibit 3.) The discovery

file is massive and contains materials that require an expert to open and read them; these are the

3-D scans Mr. Kohberger asked for over a year ago. The new discovery contains documents that

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indicate the State has been working on this since late 2023<sup>1</sup>. The State's extremely late disclosure,

of what Mr. Kohberger requested at the time of learning about the State's plan, violates Mr.

Kohberger's Right to a fair trial, effective assistance of counsel and due process. This discovery

is more than 6 months past the State's discovery deadline, 3 months past expert disclosures and a

little over 4 months until trial. The State must not be allowed to violate Mr. Kohberger's rights,

ignore Idaho Criminal Rule 16 and disregard this Court's scheduling order.

The State cites the Court to State v. Weigle 165 Idaho 482, 447 P.3d 930 (2019) in support

of its request to allow the demonstrative aid. Weigle is about whether the jury should have a

demonstrative aid during deliberations. It is noteworthy that the demonstrative aid in that case

was a PowerPoint presentation to illustrate expert testimony and used by that expert during

testimony and further subject to cross-examination and the adversarial process.

The State cites the Court to Masters v. Dewey, 109 Idaho 576, 709 P.2d 149 (1985) in

support of its request to allow the demonstrative aid to be used with witnesses to illustrate

testimony. That case was a civil damages case. The demonstrative aid was a similar vehicle seat

(same model vehicle, different year) and the purpose was for the jury to understand a material

issue in the case – how the injury was sustained. The Court of Appeals stated that "Exhibits are

inadmissible for demonstrative purposes 'when they do not illustrate or make clearer some issues

in the case – that is where they are irrelevant or immaterial – or where they are of such a character

as to prejudice the jury." Id. (citing Workman v. McIntyre construction Co. 617 P.2d 1281, 1291

(Mont. 1980).

The State properly acknowledges the requested demonstrative evidence must be subject to

Idaho Rule of Evidence 403. First, relevance must be established.

<sup>1</sup> The extent of the disclosure has not been fully investigated by Mr. Kohberger due to the late disclosure.

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Idaho Rule of Evidence 401 states that relevant evidence is evidence that has a tendency to

make the existence of a fact of consequence to the determination of the action more probable or

less probable than it would be without the evidence. The State outlines its purpose of depicting

where people and objects were located. The description is general and the variety of potential

witnesses that this aid is sought for is not defined. Relevance is further complicated by the State's

claim that this is not a to scale model; however, it is built from measurements taken by special

agents. Idaho Rule of Evidence 403 requires a balancing test of the probative versus prejudicial

value of the requested evidence. The State does not grapple with that issue.

The demonstrative aid – a model house constructed in an undisclosed way is not relevant

and even if it was relevant, it is unfairly prejudicial, cumulative, confusing and is misleading to

The State has thousands of photographs of the house, 3-D imagery, and multiple

witnesses that have been inside the house. Evidence produced in that manner allow a jury to

evaluate it using their own common sense and experience. They are seeing something they are

familiar with, or in the case of 3-D modeling – the jury can view the depiction and hear testimony

and cross examination of that depiction. That is not the case if the State utilizes a model that is

not to scale. Placement of walls, doors and other structural objects may or may not be accurate.

Lines of sight may or may not be accurate. There is real danger of the jury relying on a depiction

that is not factually true.

Nothing in the law the State relies on supports disregarding Mr. Kohberger's rights,

discovery rules and the Court's Order. Nothing in the March 14, 2025 discovery disclosure

provides good cause for delay, for example, the photo log from the pictures taken is dated in

November, 2023. They State had a duty to disclose discovery and did not. Mr. Kohberger will

not have an opportunity to examine the model and its supporting data. Instead, the State produced

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no 3-D imaging, no measurements, no photographs, no information until well after deadlines passed.

Mr. Kohberger does not have the opportunity to confront this evidence through prepared counsel and informed experts. Allowing such evidence violates Mr. Kohberger's rights guaranteed under the United States Constitution, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Amendments and the Idaho Constitution Article 1 Section 13. As such, he respectfully requests the Court deny the State's motion.

DATED this \_\_\_\_17\_\_\_ day of March, 2025.

BY:

ANNE C. TAYLOR ANNE TAYLOR LAW, PLLC

## **CERTIFICATE OF DELIVERY**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was personally served as indicated below on the \_\_\_17\_\_\_ day of March, 2025 addressed to:

Latah County Prosecuting Attorney –via Email: paservice@latahcountyid.gov

Elisa Massoth – via Email: <u>legalassistant@kmrs.net</u>

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