STATE OF MAINE
SUPERIOR COURT
DISTRICT COURT

STANDING ORDER IMPOUNDING CERTAIN PRIVATE IMAGES

Effective September 29, 2020

Whereas, the Legislature has made it a crime for a person, without permission and with the intent to harass, torment or threaten the depicted person, to knowingly disseminate, display or publish a photograph, videotape, film or digital recording of another person in a state of nudity or engaged in a sexual act or sexual contact in a manner in which there is no public or newsworthy purpose; and

Whereas, a person who believes that he or she is the victim of this crime may file a complaint for protection from abuse against the alleged perpetrator; and

Whereas, in the course of a resulting criminal or the protection from abuse proceeding it may become necessary for the sensitive image to be introduced into the court record;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is ORDERED as follows:

In the following court proceedings:

A. Any criminal proceeding involving an allegation of unauthorized dissemination of certain private images, 17-A M.R.S. § 511-A; and

B. Any protection from abuse or protection from harassment proceeding that includes unauthorized dissemination of certain private images, 17-A M.R.S. § 511-A,

Any image (including a photograph, videotape, film, or digital recording) or written information describing and directly pertaining to the images contained in the court records submitted to the court as part of a filing or as an exhibit shall be placed under seal by the Court Clerk. The named defendant or defendant's attorney may make arrangements to view the sealed image at the courthouse.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: 09/ 29 /2020

/s/
Robert E. Mullen, Chief Justice
Maine Superior Court

/s/
Jed J. French, Chief Judge
Maine District Court