4/18/2025 8:19:34 PM 1 LAURA CONOVER BY: DARLA G. WANDELL /s/ PIMA COUNTY ATTORNEY **DEPUTY** Case No. CR20251454 HON. D. DOUGLAS METCALF 2 Rachel Stiles **Deputy County Attorney** 3 Rachel.Stiles@pcao.pima.gov State Bar No. 024783/PAN 66478 4 32 North Stone, Suite 1400 Tucson, AZ 85701 5 Law Firm No. 69000 Telephone: (520) 724-5600 6 Attorney for the State 7 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA 8 IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF PIMA 9 STATE OF ARIZONA, Case No. CR20251454-001 10 Plaintiff, RESPONSE TO DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO DISMISS COUNT SIX, 11 STALKING, AS MULTIPLICITOUS VS. TO ALREADY CHARGED 12 LANE JEFFERY MYERS **OFFENSE IN CR20251060-001** (520) 724-5600 13 Defendant. Honorable D. Douglas Metcalf Division 16 14 COMES NOW the State of Arizona, by and through the Pima County Attorney, 15 LAURA CONOVER, and her Deputy, RACHEL STILES, and hereby requests this Court 16 deny Defendant's Motion to Dismiss Count Six, Stalking, as Multiplicitous to Already 17 Charged Offense in CR20251060-001, for the reasons set forth in the following 18 Memorandum of Points and Authorities. 19 20 21

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CLERK, SUPERIOR COURT

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### MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

# **FACTS**:

On September 12, 2024, Lane Jeffery Myers ("Defendant") began contacting Shannon Walker ("Victim") regarding her husband's employment. Defendant called the victim's work phone at 8:11 a.m., and asked for her assistance in helping her husband not be a "crooked ass prosecutor," among other things. From September 12, 2024, to February 22, 2025, Defendant posted multiple videos about the victim to his YouTube channel, alleging she was to blame for his wife being fired from her job, and displaying her name, photo, place of employment, work email address, and office phone number. Defendant also asked viewers to call and email the victim with the contact information he provided. The victim has stated that she does not know Defendant's wife or where she works, nor was she involved in the termination of his wife's employment. As a result of Defendant's videos, the victim received a multitude of threatening and harassing phone calls, voicemails, and emails from Defendant and his YouTube viewers between September 12, 2024 to February 22, 2025.

On October 17, 2024, Defendant was served with an injunction against harassment. The injunction prohibited Defendant from having any contact with the victim, prohibited Defendant from going to her place of employment, and prohibited Defendant from posting any messages or content regarding her on any social media platform. Despite the injunction, Defendant continued to post videos about the victim on his YouTube channel.

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On February 22, 2025, Defendant posted a video to his YouTube channel showing the victim's work biography and her work phone number and email address. He did not post any further videos until March 16, 2025.

On March 7, 2025, the grand jury indicted Defendant on six counts of Aggravated Harassment; seven counts of misdemeanor Harassment; and one count of Stalking, in relation to the offenses committed between September 12, 2024 to February 22, 2025, cause number CR20251060. On March 13, 2025, Defendant was served with the summons for CR20251060, in which Ms. Walker is the named victim. That same day, Defendant sent an email with the victim copied on it.

On March 16, 2025, Defendant posted a video to his YouTube channel displaying the victim's work address and discussing documents relating to her. On March 17, 2025, Defendant posted a subsequent video showing her work biography, work phone number, and work email address. He also showed a photo of the victim with her husband and children.

Since March 17, 2025, the victim received at least 58 harassing emails and 17 harassing voice messages to her work email and work phone number. The messages range from calling the victim derogatory names and calling for her termination, to wishing harm, rape, and death upon her and her husband. The messages also reference information Defendant discusses in his YouTube videos. Defendant was aware that his viewers previously contacted the victim and left her threatening messages before he posted her contact information in the videos on March 16 and 17. The victim expressed this has caused her significant emotional distress and she is concerned for her safety, as

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well as that of her family, due to the ongoing threats and harassment from Defendant and his YouTube viewers.

On March 25, 2028, the grand jury indicted Defendant on two counts of Aggravated Harassment; one count of Interfering with Judicial Proceedings, two counts of Electronic Harassment; and one count of Stalking, in relation to the offenses committed between March 13, 2025 to March 28, 2025, cause number CR20251454.

# **LAW AND ARGUMENT:**

I. THE **STALKING CHARGES ARE** BECAUSE STALKING IS A VICTIM-DIRECTED CRIME, THUS, THERE CAN BE MULTIPLE CHARGES FOR MULTIPLE ACTS, EVEN WITHIN AN OTHERWISE DEFINABLE PERIOD OF TIME.

A charge in an indictment is multiplicatous when it charges a single offense in multiple counts, thereby raising the potential for multiple punishments of a single act. State v. Scott, 243 Ariz. 183, ¶ 9 (App. 2017). For event-directed cases, cases with the primary purpose of protecting broad societal interests, a single charge arises from multiple incidents within a single course of conduct. State v. Rios, 252 Ariz. 316, ¶22 (App. 2022) (citing State v. Jurden, 239 Ariz. 526, ¶7 (2016); State v. Powers, 200 Ariz. 123, ¶3 (App. 2001)). However, "victim-directed" cases, cases meant to protect individual victims, can have multiple charges for multiple acts even within an otherwise "definable period of time." *Rios*, 252 Ariz. at ¶22.

Stalking occurs when a person "intentionally or knowingly engages in a course of conduct that is directed toward another person," and that conduct causes that the victim to suffer emotional distress or reasonably fear that themselves, their family member, or a

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person with whom they have a romantic relationship with will be physically harmed. A.R.S. § 13-2923(A)(1)(b).

Here, stalking is a victim-directed crime, thus Defendant can be charged with multiple charges for multiple acts, even within an otherwise definable period of time. Stalking is a victim-directed crime because it necessarily requires the conduct to be directed at a specific person, resulting in the victim experiencing reasonable fear or emotional distress. The purpose of the Stalking statute is to protect victims from such conduct. Like the court in Rios explained, Defendant can be charged with multiple counts of Stalking because it is a victim-directed crime-even if the conduct occurred during an otherwise identifiable period of time.

Therefore, the Stalking charges are not multiplicatous because Stalking is a victimdirected crime, and multiple charges may arise from multiple acts for such crimes—even within an otherwise definable period of time.

### II. THE ADDITIONAL STALKING CHARGE IN CR20251454 IS NOT ULTIPLICITOUS BECAUSE IT DOES NOT INVOLVE THE SAME COURSE OF CONDUCT CHARGED IN CR20151060.

The term "course of conduct" is defined in the stalking statute as directly or indirectly, in person or through one or more third persons, communicating on more than one occasion words, images, or language by electronic mail or an electronic communication, directed at a specific person without authorization and without legitimate purpose. A.R.S. § 13-2923(D)(1)(a)(iii).

Whether an act or course of conduct is a single offense depends on a statute's "allowable unit of prosecution." State v. Moninger, 258 Ariz. 18, ¶ 1 (2024). If the 1

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relevant unit of prosecution is a course of conduct, "a series of acts may only expose a defendant to multiple punishments if the acts, considered together, constitute multiple courses of conduct." *Id.* To determine whether a series of acts can be divided into multiple courses of conduct, Arizona courts have adopted a totality of the circumstances approach. Id. at ¶ 24-25. Courts look to non-exhaustive factors such as time, location, and intervening events or occurrences to make this determination. *Id.* at  $\P$  27.

Here, the Stalking charges are not multiplications because each charge is based on a separate and distinct course of conduct. Defendant's first course of conduct occurred from September 12, 2024 to February 22, 2025. Defendant's stalking behaviors during this time stemmed from his belief that the victim was responsible for the termination of his wife's employment, and his request that she help her husband not to be a "crooked ass prosecutor." This stalking behavior stopped on February 22, 2025, and Defendant did not post any videos about her or contact her for 19 days. Defendant's second course of conduct began on March 13, 2025, when he copied the victim on an email—the same day he was served with the summons for CR20251060, in which Ms. Walker is a named victim. He then posted two YouTube videos about the victim which resulted in her receiving 58 threatening emails and 17 harassing voice messages. It is clear that this intervening event-receipt of the summons- triggered Defendant to restart his stalking behaviors. Given the totality of the circumstances, Defendant's actions from March 13, 2025 to March 28, 2025, constitute a separate course of conduct and can be charged as a separate count of Stalking.

	1	Therefore, the additional count of Stalking in CR20251454 is not multiplicatous
	2	because it constitutes a different course of conduct from that charged in CR20251060.
	3	<u>CONCLUSION</u> :
	4	For the foregoing reasons, the State respectfully requests this Court deny
	5	Defendant's Motion to Dismiss Count Six, Stalking, as Multiplicitous to Already
	6	Charged Offense in CR2025-1060-001.
	7	RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 18th day of April, 2025.
	8	
	9	LAURA CONOVER PIMA COUNTY ATTORNEY
	10	/s/ Rachel Stiles
	11	Rachel Stiles Deputy County Attorney
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85701 (520) 724-5600	12	Deputy County Titlerine,
	13	ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed with the Clerk of the Court
JN, ARI. 520) 72	14	this 18 <sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025.
) )	15	COPY of the foregoing delivered this 18th day of April, 2025, to:
	16	Honorable D. Douglas Metcalf
	17	Division 16 Pima County Superior Court
	18	William J. Parven, Esq.
	19	177 N. Church Ave. Ste. 200 Tucson, Arizona 85701 Attorney for Defendent
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