

# Alex Jones Ordered to Pay \$45 Million in Sandy Hook Case

written by GEG | August 11, 2022



Alex Jones is involved in three Sandy Hook lawsuits, was refused trials by jury and lost his cases by default because he failed to produce data and evidence required during the trial. The cases set a precedent for default judgements. The question of whether Jones' comments were protected as free speech and freedom of the press were never argued or resolved. The legacy of these cases is expected to have a chilling effect on independent media dealing with freedom-of-speech issues.

Summary by JW Williams

Deseret News reported:

*"Three lawsuits were filed against Alex Jones and his companies by parents of Sandy Hook victims in 2018, some claiming they have suffered "a severe degree of mental stress and anguish" due to the narratives spread by Jones and his media company alleging the Sandy Hook shooting was a hoax, according to one of the **original petitions**.*

*The cases took a surprising turn when the judge **granted motions** for default judgment, an exceedingly rare ruling, stating Jones' team "have shown a deliberate, contumacious, and unwarranted disregard for (the) Court's authority."*

*Because Jones did not cooperate with court authorities, the judge ruled that he and his media companies are legally liable for damages caused to the families."*

Alex Jones never received a jury trial on the evidence because the judge ruled that he was in default for failing to provide materials requested in discovery and during the trial.

The court ordered Jones to pay \$4.1 million for economic damages and \$45.2 million in punitive damages in the latest Sandy Hook case. Legal experts say it is likely he will not pay the full amount because Texas law limits how much defendants have to pay in punitive damages to twice the “economic damages” plus up to \$750,000.



Link for video: <https://www.bitchute.com/video/GI4oDrignGoM/>

David Knight, a former reporter who was terminated from Alex Jones’ InfoWars, analyzed the case and said that Jones “hid” the information that plaintiff’s lawyers sought as part of the trial and he lost his cases after multiple judges ruled he was in default for not participating in the trials. Knight said that as a result, it was not made clear in the trial where the line is drawn between defamation versus the First Amendment and freedom of the press.

Jones’ lawyers accidentally sent phone records to opposing counsel, Mark Bankston, who accused Alex Jones, while he was on the stand testifying, of lying about not having the phone data. Bankston also claimed that Jones’ attorney, Federico Andino Reynal did not try to protect the information.

However, an email shows that the issue was raised by Bankston, who told Jones’ attorneys that the files contained “confidential information.” Bankston wrote: “My assumption is now that you did not intend to send us this? Let me know if I’m correct,” he enquired.

Bankston was told by Jones’ attorney Federico Andino Reynal to “disregard the link.”

But Bankston used documents he acknowledged defendants “did not intend to send.”

Andino Reynal’s request for a mistrial was rejected.

Knight said that when Jones took the stand, he got caught in a perjury trap due to the incompetence of his lawyer, Reynal.

In addition, Knight says that Jones inadvertently told the truth when he said on his show, “I’ve been sitting there, the final witness in the trial, where I’m already found guilty by the judge for not giving stuff over.”

Economist Bernard Pettingill testified that Jones and his company were worth up to \$270 million. He said that Jones withdrew \$62 million from the firm in 2021, when default

judgements were issued in the current case and two other Sandy Hook defamation suits.

Several months ago, an anonymous donor gave Alex Jones \$8-million in Bitcoin. Knight asked who is giving Jones the money, and what are they buying?

Knight said that he thinks that Alex Jones made fraudulent bankruptcy claims, which would violate federal law.

**Jim Fetzer**, who was also sued by a Sandy Hook parent and lost his case on procedural grounds, said that he offered evidence that the Sandy Hook shooting was staged to Alex Jones' attorneys many times, yet they refused it. Fetzer also offered his evidence to Remington Arms after the gun manufacturer lost its case and was ordered to pay \$73 million.

The Daily Bell commented that Alex Jones is the bellwether: whatever happens to him will subsequently befall a broader swathe of the anti-establishment/ independent press. They warned that default judgments for independent media outlets that do the wrong kind of reporting will become the "new normal."

Sources:

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